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YouTube Prayer Link

Look to God in the midst of difficulty:

2 Kings 24

2 Kings 24 describes the reign of Jehoiachin, the last king of Judah. During his reign, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon laid siege to Jerusalem and eventually captured it, capturing Jehoiachin, his family, and many other prominent figures to Babylon. After only three months of Jehoiachin's reign, Nebuchadnezzar arrived in Jerusalem and brought him and his mother, along with other officials and craftsmen, to Babylon. Jehoiachin's uncle Mataniah was made king of Judah by Nebuchadnezzar, and he changed his name to Zedekiah.

Despite being appointed by the Babylonians, Zedekiah rebelled against Nebuchadnezzar, causing Jerusalem to be besieged once again. The chapter concludes with Nebuchadnezzar taking more people from Jerusalem, including all the remaining artisans and skilled workers, with 'all the people of Jerusalem' (v.14) referring to the upper classes and 'carpenters and blacksmiths' (v.16) referring to skilled workers. The purpose of the Babylonian captivity was to ensure that Judah would no longer be able to rebel or have the skilled personnel to build fortifications, and to put these "carpenters, blacksmiths, and warriors" in the service of Babylon.

This exile resulted in the loss of all the elite, including the prophets Ezekiel (Ezekiel 1:1-2) and Mordecai (Ez. 2:6). Jeremiah uses the phrase "good figs" (Jeremiah 24:5) as a metaphor for the exiled elite of Judah.

(v.13) 'He destroyed all the gold vessels of Jehovah's house built by Solomon king of Israel', probably by scraping away all the gold from the outside of the gold-filled vessels, so that all the vessels were destroyed, leaving only the poorest of the people in the land.

(v.17) The king of Babylon made Mattaniah, the uncle of Jehoiachin, king in his place, and renamed Mattaniah Zedekiah, but the king of Babylon changed his name and lost his own name, and if God's people refused to make God king, they would end up as slaves to Egypt or Babylon, with no freedom at all. Today, many people turn away from God and the church on the pretext that they don't like to be bound, and instead of freedom, they are bound by the world and sin: "Do you not know that you offer yourselves as slaves, and to whom you obey you will be slaves, or slaves to sin unto death, or obedient slaves unto righteousness" (Romans 6:16).

In the last history of Judah, all the kings did evil and did evil in the midst of curses, and God would never forgive, but in the midst of no forgiveness, God had the grace to exalt Jehoiachin the exile in Babylon, 25:27-30 to exalt him above the throne of the kings who were with him in Babylon, and to take him off his prison robe. He ate in the presence of the king of Babylon all his life. The king gave him the bread he needed, and gave him a portion every day, and so for the rest of his life. ┘◦ What God says must be done, and we are to listen to God's Word. God is also full of grace, so let's not harden our hearts, but turn back when we can, and look to God no matter what the circumstances are.

This chapter foreshadows the imminent destruction of the exiles in Judah and Babylon, which will be described in further detail in the following chapters. ┘

There are many passages in the Bible that encourage us to look to God and rely on Him no matter what the circumstances. Here are some related verses:

Isaiah 40:31

"But they that wait on the LORD will regain strength. They shall rise up like eagles with wings, and they will run without weariness, and walk without fainting. ┘

Psalm 121:1-2

"I will lift up my eyes to the mountains: where will my help come from? 』

Isaiah 41:10

"Do not be afraid, for I am with you, and do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, I will help you, and I will keep you with my righteousness. 』

Psalm 46:1-2

"God is our refuge, our strength, our ever-present help in times of trouble. wherefore though the earth is changed, and though the mountains are shaken to the heart of the sea,"

Proverbs 3:5-6

"Trust in Yahweh with all your heart, and not in your own wisdom, but acknowledge him in all thy ways, and he shall direct thy paths. 』

These verses are a reminder that no matter how great the difficulties and challenges we face, we can trust God to keep and guide us. Hopefully, these verses will help soothe irritability and turmoil and encourage us to look to God in times of difficulty.

We pray together:

Dear Heavenly Father,

We are gathered before you to thank you for your life, strength, and wisdom. We give you our restlessness and turmoil, and give us peace and comfort. Let your peace fill our hearts and let your strength support us in facing life's challenges and difficulties.

Lord, You are our refuge and strength, and Your love and grace run boundless. Lead us on the path of justice and love, and let our lives be a testimony of your glory.

Please give us the confidence and courage to trust you knowing that you will provide us with everything we need. Let your peace fill our homes, jobs, and communities, and let us be each other's support and encouragement.

Thank you for hearing our prayers and for giving us your peace and strength. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray, Amen.

2 Kings 24

24:1 In the year of Jehoiakim Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon went up to Judah. Jehoiakim served him for three years and then rebelled against him.

24:2 And Jehohua sent the Chaldeans, and the Syrians, and the Moabs, and the armies of the Ammonites, against Jehoakim, and against Judah, and against Judah, as Jehohua had spoken by his servants the prophets.

24:3 Indeed, it was Jehovah's command that this evil should come upon the Jews to drive them out from his own presence, because of all the sins committed by Manasseh.

24:4 and because he had shed the blood of innocent men, and filled Jerusalem. Jehovah will never forgive him.

24:5 And the rest of Jehoiah remembered all that he did, and now they are not written in the book of the kings of Judah.

24:6 Jehoiakim slept with his fathers. And Jehoiachin his son succeeded him as king.

24:7 And the king of Egypt was no more out of other nations. For the king of Babylon took away all the land which the king had over from the river Egypt to the river Beth.

24:8 Jehoiachin was eighteen years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem for three months. His mother's name was Negotheus, the daughter of Elinathan of Jerusalem.

24:9 And Jehoiachin did all that was evil in the eyes of Jehovah, as his father had done.

24:10 At that time, the army of Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, went up to Jerusalem and besieged the city.

24:11 When his army besieged the city, Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, came on his own.

24:12 And Jehoiachin king of Judah went out of the city with his mother, and his servants, and princes, and the eunuchs, and surrendered to the king

of Babylon. And the king of Babylon took him. It was the eighth year of King Babylon.

24:13 And the king of Babylon took away all the treasures that were in the house of Jehohua and the palace of the king, and destroyed all the gold vessels which were made in the house of Solomon king of Israel, just as Jehovah had said.

24:14 And he took captive all the people of Jerusalem, and all the princes, and all the mighty men of the man, ten thousand in all, even all the carpenters and blacksmiths. There is nothing left except for the very poor in the country .

24:15 And they carried Jehoiachin and the queen mother, and the concubines, and the eunuchs, and all the princes of the land, from Jerusalem to Babylon.

24:16 And he took away captive to Babylon all seven thousand men and a thousand carpenters and blacksmiths, all men who were able to fight in battle.

24:17 And the king of Babylon made Mattaniah, the uncle of Joaachin, king in his place, and renamed Mattaniah Zedekiah.

24:18 Zedekiah was twenty-one years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem eleven years. His mother's name was Hamuth, the daughter of Jeremiah the Linapite.

24:19 Zedekiah did all the things that were evil in the eyes of Yahweh and the Chinese eye, according to all that Jehoiakim did.

24:20 Wherefore the wrath of Jehovah was at work in Jerusalem and Judah, so that he drove the people out of his presence.

2 Kings 24 describes the reign of Jehoiachin, the last king of Judah. During his reign, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon laid siege to Jerusalem and eventually captured it, capturing Jehoiachin, his family, and many other prominent figures to Babylon. After only three months of Jehoiachin's reign, Nebuchadnezzar arrived in Jerusalem and brought him and his mother, along with other officials and

craftsmen, to Babylon. Jehoiachin's uncle Mataniah was made king of Judah by Nebuchadnezzar, and he changed his name to Zedekiah.

Despite being appointed by the Babylonians, Zedekiah rebelled against Nebuchadnezzar, causing Jerusalem to be besieged once again. The chapter concludes with Nebuchadnezzar taking more people from Jerusalem, including all the remaining artisans and skilled laborers, leaving only the poorest of the people in the land.

This chapter foreshadows the imminent destruction of the exiles in Judah and Babylon, which will be described in further detail in the following chapters.

The key verses in 2 Kings of the Christian Bible for 2 Kings are verses 10-16:

"At that time the officials of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon marched against Jerusalem and besieged Jerusalem, and Nebuchadnezzar himself came to the city, and his officials were besieging Jerusalem. Jehoiach, king of Judah, his mother, his attendants, nobles, and officials surrendered to him. In the eighth year of the reign of the king of Babylon, he took Jehoiachin captive. As Jehovah had declared, Nebuchadnezzar took the treasure out of the house and the king's house and chopped up the gold vessels that Solomon king of Israel had made for the house of the Lord. He took all of Jerusalem captive: all the officers and soldiers, all the skilled workers and craftsmen - a total of ten thousand people. Only the poorest people of the land remain. These verses describe Nebuchadnezzar's occupation of Jerusalem and the exile of the Jews to Babylon. It was a major event in Israel's history that had a lasting impact on the rest of the Old Testament. These verses also highlight the fulfillment of the prophecies of Jeremiah and other prophets who warned of the imminent judgment of the Israelites for disobedience to God.

In 2 Kings 24, we see the Babylonian account of the conquest of Judah and the exile. This chapter offers a few points to think about:

Consequences of Sin: This chapter describes the fall of Jerusalem and the exile of King Jehoiachin and many of Judah's leading citizens. This event marked the fulfillment of God's judgment on people's continued disobedience and idolatry. It is a reminder of the consequences of unrepentant sin and the gravity of disobedience

to God's commands. It prompts us to reflect on our lives, consider the potential consequences of our actions, and strive to be obedient and faithful to God.

God's Sovereignty and Prophecy: This chapter acknowledges that the events that took place in Judah were part of God's sovereign plan. Jeremiah's prophecy of exile and destruction was fulfilled. This highlights God's control over history and His faithfulness to His Word. It reminds us of the credibility of God's promises and the importance of heeding His warnings. It encourages us to anchor our faith to God's sovereignty, even in challenging circumstances.

Leadership and Responsibility: This chapter emphasizes the role of leadership in shaping the destiny of a nation. King Jehoiachin's reign was characterized by wickedness and rebellion against God, which led to the fall of Judah. This highlights the responsibilities that leaders take on and the potential impact of their choices and actions on the lives of those they lead. It motivates us to pray and support godly leaders and strive to be leaders who respect and follow God's commands.

Hope in Desolation: Despite destruction and exile, this chapter offers a silver lining. It mentions the appointment of a new king, Mattaniah, the uncle of Jehoiachin, whose name was changed to Zedekiah. While Zedekiah eventually fell into rebellion like his predecessors, this brief reference to the new leader implies the potential for restoration and renewal. It reminds us that even in the darkest of times, God's plan of salvation and restoration has not been thwarted. It encourages us to keep hope alive and seek God's guidance even in difficult circumstances.

Warning against rejecting God's Word: This chapter highlights the role of rejecting God's Word in Judah's downfall. It points out that Judah's rebellion against Jehovah was the result of not listening to the prophets. This highlights the importance of heeding God's Word and the danger of ignoring His warnings and instructions. It prompts us to prioritize the study and application of the Bible in our lives and to pay attention to the voice of God speaking to us through His Word.

Overall, 2 Kings 24 reflects on the consequences of sin, God's sovereignty and prophecy, leadership and responsibility, hope in desolation, and the warning not to reject God's Word. It calls us to consider the consequences of our actions, to trust in God's sovereignty and heed His warnings, to pray for godly leaders, to maintain hope in difficult times, and to prioritize God's Word in our lives.

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