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(Peter Lok)駱沅祺

lokpeter@outlook.com

Bibleao.com

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God's time is just right

2 Kings chapter 8 continues the story of the prophet Elisha and his interactions with the kings of Israel and Judah.

The chapter begins with a woman from Shunem who had previously been to Elisha and returned to her homeland after seven years of exile. When she pleaded with the king of Israel to help her reclaim the land, the king happened to be talking to Elisha's servant Gehazi, who was telling the story of how Elisha raised her son from the dead. In the same story, the woman of Shunammeth came to the king and demanded her property. Coincidentally, Elisha's servant Gehazi was telling the story of how Elisha had previously resurrected her son, when the king asked to show Elisha's miracles. At that moment, the woman and her son appeared, further confirming God's faithfulness to His promises. This account reminds us that God is faithful to fulfill His Word, and that His timing is perfect.

In God's time, everything happens at the perfect time. Like the cycle of seasons in nature, God's arrangement is always just right and impeccable. In the journey of life, we often feel anxious, irritable, and distracted, but when we commit everything to God, He will open a door for us to show us the way at the right time. God's time is not limited to our timetable, and He is beyond our understanding.

Therefore, let us learn to trust Him in waiting, seek His help in difficult situations, and praise His grace in joy. May God's time be the rhythm of our lives, leading us to the wonderful future He has prepared . . . When we ask, "Where are you?" God's work is quietly unfolding. While we can't see or feel His presence, His work is silent. God is not limited by our time or our thinking, and His plan is far beyond our comprehension.

When we feel lonely and helpless, when we face difficulties and challenges, when our hearts are full of confusion and doubt, God is intervening in our lives in His wonderful ways. He may work silently through the words and deeds of others, through a book, through an experience, or directly in our hearts.

When we seek answers from God in faith, His work begins to be revealed. He may open the way for us, show us the way, and solve our problems in unexpected ways. As the scriptures say, "God hath prepared far more for them that wait on him than we have asked or imagined" (I Corinthians 2:9).

So when we ask God, "Where are you?" let us keep faith and wait for His work to begin and His promises will never fail.

Here are some passages in the Bible that teach us to wait quietly on Jehovah:

Psalm 27:14, "Wait for the Lord, be bold and strengthen your hearts, and I say again, wait for the Lord." ┘

Isaiah 40:31, "But they that wait on the LORD will renew their strength, and they shall rise up like eagles with wings, and they will run and not be weary, and they will not faint when they walk." ┘

Isaiah 30:18, "Therefore the LORD will wait to be gracious to you, and he will arise to have mercy on you." For the LORD is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for him. ┘

Psalm 37:7: "Wait silently for the Lord, for what he has appointed for him will come." ┘

These verses remind us that Jehovah's plan is perfect and that we need to wait quietly for His timing and guidance.

We pray

Lord, when we seek you, you promise, "You seek me, and if you seek with all your heart, you will find me." "We humbly kneel before you and come to your throne to seek your countenance and guidance. Lord, you are a loving God, and you promise, "Seek me, and you will find me, and if you seek me with all your heart, you will find me." Therefore, we seek you with all our hearts and souls at this time.

Pray that the Lord will give you wisdom and revelation so that we may know your heart and understand your ways. When we are lost in darkness, pray that the Lord will light our way and let your light shine on our path. When we sigh in the midst of our troubles, ask the Lord to exercise your power and reach out to us so that we can overcome all difficulties and trials.

Lord, as we seek you, show us your faithfulness and love. May your promises be our hope and comfort, and let us wait steadfast in faith for your answer. Lord, you are a faithful God, and your word will never fail. May your grace and lovingkindness be with us forever and forever. In Jesus' name, amen.

2 Kings 8

8:1 Elisha said to the woman whom she saved her son, "Arise and go to where you may dwell, and go to where you may live: for the Lord of Howard has come down here seven years of famine."

8:2 So the woman arose, and according to the word of the man of God, she took her whole family into the land of Philistin, and stayed seven years.

8:3 And it came to pass at the end of seven years, that the woman returned from the land of Philistine, and went out to mourn the king for her house and her land.

8:4 Then the king was saying to Gehazi, the servant of God, "Tell me all the great things that Elisha has done."

8:5 And Gehazi told the king how Elisha had brought the dead back to life, and it happened that Elisha had saved her, and the woman of her sons had come to the king to mourn for her house and land. And Gehazi said, My lord the king, this is the woman, and this is her son, whom Elisha saved.

8:6 The king asked the woman, and she told the king about it. So the king sent a eunuch for her, saying, All that belonged to this woman shall be returned to

her, and the fruit of her land shall be restored to her from the time she left her land until this day.

8:7 Elisha came to Damascus, and Benhadad king of Syria was sick. And they told the king, "The man of God is here."

8:8 Then the king said to Hazer, "Take your gifts and go to the man of God, and ask him to ask Yahweh, whether I can be cured of this sickness."

8:9 So Hazael took forty camels and carried all kinds of good things of great horses as gifts, and went to Elisha. When he came to him, he stood before him, and said, Benhadad king of Syria has sent me to you, and he asks him, Can I be cured of this sickness?

8:10 And Elisha said unto Hazael, Go back and tell him, saying, This sickness shall be healed. But Yahweh told me that he was going to die.

8:11 The man of God looked at Hazer with fixed eyes, and he was ashamed. And the man of God wept.

8:12 Hazael said, Why do we weep Lord? Answered, Because I know that thou shalt afflict the Israelites, and burn their guards with fire, and slay their strong men with the sword, and slay their babies, and cut open their wives.

8:13 And Hazael said, What is thy servant, but a dog, and how can thou do such great things? Elisha answered and said, Jehohua has said unto me, Thou shalt be king of Syria.

8:14 Hazael departed from Elisha and returned to his master. And he said unto him, What saith Elisha unto thee? He replied that he told me that you would be well.

8:15 The next day Hazenah was immersed in water and covered the king's face, and the king died. So Hazer usurped his throne .

8:16 In the fifth year of Joram, the son of Ahab king of Israel, while Jehoshaphat king of Judah was still in his reign, Jehoram, the son of Jehoshaphat, became king of Judah.

8:17 Joram was Chinese New Year's Eve when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem for eight years.

8:18 He did the same as the kings of Israel, as Ahab did. For he took Ahab's daughters to wives, and did evil things in the sight of Yahweh and Hyal.

8:19 But because of his servant Mahavid, Yahweh would not destroy Judah, and give everlasting light to his children, as he had promised Mahavid.

8:20 In the year of Joram, the Edomites rebelled against Judah, and set themselves kings out of his authority.

8:21 And Joram took all his chariots to Zabe, and rose up by night to attack the Edomites and the captains of the chariots who were besieging him. So the soldiers of Judah fled, and went every man to his house.

8:22 So the Edomites rebelled against Judah and escaped from his authority to this day. Then the Denas also rebelled.

8:23 Now the rest of the acts of Joram, and all that he did, are they not written in the book of the kings of Judah.

8:24 Joram slept with his fathers and was buried in the graveyard of his fathers in the Acropolis. And Ahaziah his son succeeded him as king.

8:25 In the twelfth year of Joram the son of Ahab king of Israel, Ahaziah son of Joran king of Judah became king.

8:26 He was twenty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem for one year. His mother's name was Athaliah, the granddaughter of Omri, king of Israel.

8:27 And Ahazah did what was evil in the eyes of Ahab's house, just as Ahab's house was the son-in-law of Ahab's house.

8:28 He went with Joram, the son of Ahab, to Ramoth, Gilead, to fight against Hazael king of Syria. The Syrians wounded Joram,

8:29 King Joram returned to Jezreel to heal the wounds he had been wounded in the battle with Hazael king of Syria in Ramoth. And Ahaziah, the son of Joram king of Judah, went down to Jezreel to see him, because Joram the son of Ahab was sick.

2 Kings chapter 8 continues the story of the prophet Elisha and his interactions with the kings of Israel and Judah.

The chapter begins with a woman from Shunem who had previously been to Elisha and returned to her homeland after seven years of exile. When she pleaded with the king of Israel to help her reclaim the land, the king happened to be talking to Elisha's servant Gehazi, who was telling the story of how Elisha raised her son from the dead. In the same story, the woman of Shunammeth came to the king and demanded her property. Coincidentally, Elisha's servant Gehazi was telling the story of how Elisha had previously resurrected her son, when the king asked to show Elisha's miracles. At that moment, the woman and her son appeared, further confirming God's faithfulness to His promises. This account reminds us that God is faithful to fulfill His Word, and that His timing is perfect.

Chapter 8 recounts the reign of Jehoram, king of Judah, who did evil in the eyes of Yahweh, but was allowed to continue to rule because of God's covenant with David. During this time, Edom rebelled against Judah, and Joram's army was defeated. Jehoram turned to Jehoshaphat, king of Israel, for help, and they went to war against the Moabites. After a difficult journey through the desert, the allies had run out of water, but Elisha prophesied that they would have water the next day and that God would deliver the Moabites into their hands. The prophecy came true, and the Moabites were defeated. The chapter ends with the story of the death of Jehoram, king of Israel, who was assassinated by his own general, Jehu, who then became the next king of Israel. Overall, 2 Kings 8 depicts a mixture of triumph and tragedy, showing the power of prophecy and the consequences of disobedience to God.

In 2 Kings 8, some key passages include:

- "Elisha said to the woman, 'Get up and walk, you and your household, where you can stay; For the LORD has called famine, and it will come upon the land seven years. —2 Kings 8:1.
- "Then Hazeal said, 'But how can your servant, a dog, do such a great thing?' Elisha replied, 'The Lord has shown me that you will be king over Syria.' —2 Kings 8:13.

- "He [Joram] walked in the way of the kings of Israel, as the house of Ahab walked, for Ahab's daughter was his wife; He did evil before the LORD. —2 Kings 8:18.

These verses can be found in 2 Kings 8 of the Old Testament of the Christian Bible.

In 2 Kings 8, we encounter several significant events that reflect God's sovereignty, His faithfulness, and the consequences of human choice. Here are some thoughts from this chapter:

God's Foreknowledge and Sovereignty: This chapter ends with:

The Shunan woman that Elisha had prophesied earlier in chapter 4. Elisha warned her of the impending famine, and she followed his advice and left her land temporarily. After the famine ended, she returned and tried to reclaim her possessions. This account reflects God's foreknowledge and sovereignty. God knew about the impending famine and guided the women of Sunammet to safety, showing his concern and control over future events.

God's faithfulness to His promises: In the same story, the woman Shonammet came to the king and demanded her property. Coincidentally, Elisha's servant Gehazi was telling the story of how Elisha had previously resurrected her son, when the king asked to show Elisha's miracles. At that moment, the woman and her son appeared, further confirming God's faithfulness to His promises. This account reminds us that God is faithful to fulfill His Word, and that His timing is perfect.

Consequences of Human Choice: Later in this chapter, the focus shifts to the reign of King Ahaziah of Judah. He sought advice from his ailing ally, King Joram of Israel, and visited him as he recovered from his battle wounds. This decision proved disastrous, as it led to the death of Ahaziah and the fall of his reign. This narrative reflects the consequences of human choice. Ahaziah's decision to ally himself with an ungodly king eventually led to his downfall.

God's Justice and Judgment: After the death of Ahaziah, his mother Athaliah seized power and began the wicked reign of Judah. This chapter lays the groundwork for subsequent events that will occur in subsequent chapters. It emphasizes the importance of justice and warns of the consequences of ungodly leadership. It reminds us of God's justice and His final judgment on those who disobey His commands.

God's Providence and Redemption: While this chapter focuses primarily on the consequences of human choice, it also lays the groundwork for God's future acts of salvation. The events that took place laid the groundwork for the restoration of godly leadership and the fulfillment of God's promises in subsequent chapters.

Overall, 2 Kings 8 reflects on God's sovereignty, his faithfulness to promises, the consequences of human choice, God's justice and judgment, and the expectation of God's providence and redemption. It encourages us to trust in God's guidance, to be mindful of our choices, and to recognize the importance of justice and obedience to His commands.