



SERIES: MAY- JULY: THE MAIN THING

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Saturday, 5/14/22

Scripture: 2 Kings

TITLE: 2 Kings - Failing to Follow the Game Plan

I love sports. Specifically, I love football. I'm drawn to football as a coach because of the strategy, it's all about a good game plan. A coach can come up with a great game plan, but it's the players who execute it. But imagine if the players decided to ignore the game plan and did whatever they wanted instead. It would be chaos.

Needless to say, the coach wouldn't be happy with the players. The coach might warn them to follow the game plan, but eventually if they refused, he would have to bench them because players who ignore the coach's game plan can cause the whole team to lose

As we look at the book of 2 Kings, we find the continuation of the story of the line of kings of Israel. We begin to see a repeating pattern of a nation of people and their kings who refuse to listen to God and follow His covenant. Or, you might say, His game plan.

Things to know: Remember that 1 and 2 Kings were originally one continuous work, not separate, so we've got to read the stories together. Further, this book takes place between 560 and 536 B.C. The main people found in this book include Elijah, Josiah, and Jehoiakim.

Jesus can be seen in the book of 2 Kings through God's preservation of the continuing royal line of King David as He promised. Spoiler alert, Jesus is a descendant of King David, so we know that God continues to fulfill His promise to King David to extend his royal lineage.

One big takeaway from the book of 2 Kings should be the example of the Prophet Elisha. God sent prophets to His people to warn them, to call them to turn back to the Lord and to follow His ways. Elisha followed in the footsteps of Elijah calling the people of Israel back to the Lord. And under him, they experienced some revival. He also demonstrated God's power through miracles showing them that God can resurrect life from death. This may have been a sign of how God could resurrect His people even though they would experience judgment for their sin and rebellion.

At the end of 2 Kings, we find that God does bring judgment on His people because of their ignorance. In 2 Kings 17:22-23 (NIV),

“The Israelites persisted in all the sins of Jeroboam and did not turn away from them 23 until the Lord removed them from his presence, as he had warned through all his servants the prophets. So the people of Israel were taken from their homeland into exile in Assyria, and they are still there.”

Again, we see in this passage that God lovingly warned His people to turn back many times, but they ignored Him. Rather, they followed their own plans and it led them to being cast out of God's Promised Land, just like Adam and Eve were cast out of the garden. At the end of 2 Kings God's people are either dominated by the Assyrians or led into exile and captivity under the Babylonians. This book serves as an important reminder that though God is patient, He will eventually bring judgment for sin.

Our only hope is to listen to His voice, follow His game plan and turn back to Him.