

**"The Fulfillment of the Word of God"**

**2 Kings 9:1-10**

**Introduction:** Since the beginning of creation there have always been those who are critics of the Word of God. There are always those who laugh at prophecy and go on living as though things are going to get better and refuse to believe that God would bring a judgment upon the world. Peter wrote about those in his day who refused to believe in the coming Tribulation.

**2 Peter 3:3-8**

<sup>3</sup> *Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,*

<sup>4</sup> *And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.*

<sup>5</sup> *For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water:*

<sup>6</sup> *Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:*

<sup>7</sup> *But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.*

<sup>8</sup> *But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.*

The critics believe all things continue as they were since the beginning of creation and this is simply not true. The world was drastically changed when sin entered in and during the flood of Noah's day.

In the Old Testament people despised the prophets for the messages which they carried. Notice what Jesus said to Jerusalem concerning the prophets.

**Matthew 23:37**

<sup>37</sup> *O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!*

The prophets which God sent were often stoned or killed because the people did not want to hear their message. So, because they loved their sin and hated the message of warning from the prophets they killed them. I suppose that they believed if the prophet was dead

then so would be the message. I suppose they believed by killing the prophet this would stop the judgment. Let me just say that their hatred toward the prophets was really a hatred toward God. They could not get to God however and so they attacked His messengers. Let me show you what God said to Samuel.

**1 Samuel 8:4-7**

<sup>4</sup> *Then all the elders of Israel gathered themselves together, and came to Samuel unto Ramah,*

<sup>5</sup> *And said unto him, Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now make us a king to judge us like all the nations.*

<sup>6</sup> *But the thing displeased Samuel, when they said, Give us a king to judge us. And Samuel prayed unto the LORD.*

<sup>7</sup> *And the LORD said unto Samuel, Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them.*

The rejection of God's messengers is really a rejection of God. This is what we are seeing today. The unsaved world is fighting against God but they cannot get to God, so they turn upon believers. There are those today who absolutely despise the warning of a coming judgment. They live in hopes of the world getting better and it will but not until after it gets much worse. So, the critics live their lives rejecting the promises and the prophecies of the Bible.

But we who are saved we live in anticipation of the promises and the prophecies but there are times when we wonder what is going on and why have we not seen God do something. We wonder why God seems to set back and do nothing while evil increases every day.

Tonight's message will remind us that when God makes a promise He will be faithful to His promises. We are coming to the end of our study of Elisha's life. Next week we will look at his death and then our study will be complete. But before his death we are given another passage in which Elisha is involved in serving God.

**I. The Commission**

**Notice 2 Kings 9:1-3**

Elisha now chooses one of his disciples to go to Ramoth-gilead to anoint Jehu as the king of Israel. Now, the question which comes to my mind is, "Why did Elisha hand this service over to one of his disciples?" Some say it was too dangerous for him to carry this out but what we have studied in the past does not align with that teaching. Elisha faced some very

dangerous situations and he never shrunk from the responsibility. Remember when the king sent the executioner to kill him? Even then he did not flinch and in the face of that situation he announced that the famine and the siege would end in twenty-four hours. Remember how he led the Syrian army into Samaria with no fear? I am also reminded of how he called the curse upon the children in Bethel and the bears killed forty-two of them.

So, to say it was too dangerous does not harmonize with his previous works. He faced many dangerous situations. Elisha did not fear dangerous situations because he had faith in God.

So, why did he send the disciple to Ramoth-gilead? Most likely Elisha knew his ministry was coming to an end and he saw the need for others to "carry the torch". He knew others needed to learn to serve the Lord for it was his desire that his ministry would carry on after he was gone just as he carried on the ministry of Elijah. In sending the disciple to anoint Jehu he was "thinking forward". In other words, he was training this disciple to serve the Lord and not to be timid in service.

**Application:**

There are churches that exist today in which the Pastor trusts very little to others. He basically does everything. This is so unfair because if he dies suddenly then he has failed to train others to carry on the ministry. When he dies they have no idea what to do. I remember when I served as a deacon at Bedford Bible Church that Pastor Ritchie handed over responsibilities that were very uncomfortable. It was not because he wanted to get out of his responsibilities, but it was because he knew his ministry was coming to an end and the deacons needed to learn to on their own with the Lord.

Too many times the church leans upon the Pastor as a crutch and that is not a healthy body. Can you imagine a person who refused to go through therapy, so they could walk on their own but instead they chose to live on crutches all their lives? That would not be healthy, and neither is it healthy for a church.

I can say that when I was at Bedford we had come to lean upon the Pastor as a crutch and when he became sick it was God removing the crutch so that we would learn to serve the Lord in leadership which prepared me for being the Pastor here at Claysburg. God often removes crutches which we have come to trust in so that we can learn to trust Him and to serve Him in faith.

Now let us get back to our text. The anointing of Jehu as king of Israel was a fulfillment of God's Word. Let me take you back to the close of Elijah's ministry.

**1 Kings 19:15-16**

<sup>15</sup> And the LORD said unto him, Go, return on thy way to the wilderness of Damascus: and when thou comest, anoint Hazael to be king over Syria:

<sup>16</sup> And Jehu the son of Nimshi shalt thou anoint to be king over Israel: and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abelmeholah shalt thou anoint to be prophet in thy room.

Elijah was given three anointings to perform. He was to anoint Hazael to be king over Syria. We looked at Hazael last week and how he killed Benhadad to become the king. He was to anoint Elisha to be a prophet and we have been following his life as a prophet. He was also to anoint Jehu to be the king of Israel which is about to take place in our text, but there is more.

#### **Notice 1 Kings 21:17-29**

Here we see that God had a message of judgment for Ahab. Ahab would die, and his sons would die, and his wife Jezebel would die, and the dogs would eat her flesh. Ahab humbled himself at the news and so God explained to Elijah that the judgment would not come in his days but after he was dead, while his sons were alive the judgment would fall.

**Elijah lived until he was taken up in a whirlwind and Elisha began to carry the torch and there was no sign of this being fulfilled. Then we come to where we are today.**

#### **Notice 2 Kings 9:4-10**

Jehu would be the king who would carry out the judgment which God had foretold many years before. Let me show you how this was all fulfilled.

##### **1. The death of Jezebel.**

#### **Notice 2 Kings 9:30-37**

##### **2. The death of Ahab's seventy sons.**

###### **a. The challenge**

#### **Notice 2 Kings 10:1-4**

Jehu challenged the people of Samaria to stand behind the sons of Ahab. He challenged them to place the strongest on the throne and then fight for him. But they were terrified. In chapter 9 it is recorded that he killed Jehoram king of Israel and Ahaziah king of Judah. These people knew of his military accomplishments and there was no way they were going to fight against him. Jehu then sends a second letter.

###### **b. Terms of surrender.**

#### **Notice 2 Kings 10:5-8**

The nobles of the city executed the sons of Ahab and sent their heads in baskets and made two piles at the gate of the city.

All of this was the fulfillment of God's Word which was spoken to Elijah.

**Application:**

Let us learn from all of this that the wheels of heaven do not grind quickly but they do grind exceedingly fine. In other words when God says He is going to do something we can be sure that His promise will be carried out. It may appear at times as though He has forgotten but He will see that every promise will be fulfilled. Let me remind you of the Words of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount.

**Matthew 5:18**

*<sup>18</sup> For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.*

Let me remind you from an example in God's Word of how it often takes years before God's promises come to pass.

**Joseph**

**Genesis 37:2-10**

*<sup>2</sup> These are the generations of Jacob. Joseph, being seventeen years old, was feeding the flock with his brethren; and the lad was with the sons of Bilhah, and with the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives: and Joseph brought unto his father their evil report.*

*<sup>3</sup> Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age: and he made him a coat of many colours.*

*<sup>4</sup> And when his brethren saw that their father loved him more than all his brethren, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably unto him.*

*<sup>5</sup> And Joseph dreamed a dream, and he told it his brethren: and they hated him yet the more.*

*<sup>6</sup> And he said unto them, Hear, I pray you, this dream which I have dreamed:*

*<sup>7</sup> For, behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and, lo, my sheaf arose, and also stood upright; and, behold, your sheaves stood round about, and made obeisance to my sheaf.*

*<sup>8</sup> And his brethren said to him, Shalt thou indeed reign over us? or shalt thou indeed have dominion over us? And they hated him yet the more for his dreams, and for his words.*

<sup>9</sup> *And he dreamed yet another dream, and told it his brethren, and said, Behold, I have dreamed a dream more; and, behold, the sun and the moon and the eleven stars made obeisance to me.*

<sup>10</sup> *And he told it to his father, and to his brethren: and his father rebuked him, and said unto him, What is this dream that thou hast dreamed? Shall I and thy mother and thy brethren indeed come to bow down ourselves to thee to the earth?*

Joseph was given the dream when he was seventeen years old. Now let me show you his age when this was fulfilled.

**Genesis 46:41**

<sup>46</sup> *And Joseph was **thirty years** old when he stood before Pharaoh king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from the presence of Pharaoh, and went throughout all the land of Egypt.*

It took thirteen years of suffering and training before God's Word came to pass in the life of Joseph. There were times when Joseph could not see and understand what God was doing but he still trusted the Lord.

Conclusion:

Let me close this out with a few verses that encourage us to continue to press onward.

**Galatians 6:9-10**

<sup>9</sup> *And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.*

<sup>10</sup> *As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.*

**2 Thessalonians 3:13**

<sup>13</sup> *But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing.*

**Isaiah 40:10-11**

<sup>10</sup> *Behold, the Lord GOD will come with strong hand, and his arm shall rule for him: behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him.*

<sup>11</sup> *He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.*