

The Foundation of Hope

2 Kings 24-25

1. Intro → What is the source of your hope?
 - a. Me: Preparedness, packing for Indonesia, joking w/ the guys
 - b. You: Maybe you have a bunker. Ex: bushcraft website and questions I'd get
 - c. Seriously though, when life falls apart, when all seems hopeless, what is the source of your hope? What are you banking on for a secure future?
 - i. Finances saved, family, friends, parents, kids, job, skill set?
 - d. How about this: imagine that Friday you got terrible news... look back at the week → good week vs. bad week.
 - i. In times like that, what is the foundation of your hope? Your ability to be cool under pressure? As you pray, on what grounds are you asking? Good conduct?
 - e. Kings ends in a seemingly hopeless situation, but is there any hope? And if there is, on what is it founded?
2. *2 Kings 24-25 Summary*
 - a. Attack #1, Jehoiakim dies and his son, Jehoiachin, becomes king at 18 years old
 - b. Attack #2, 8 years later, Jehoiachin is captured and brought into Babylon along w/ all the best of the best. Only the poor are left there. His uncle (Zedekiah who is actually younger than him) becomes king
 - c. People don't think that Jerusalem will fall b/c Temple still stands. God's glory leaves the temple.
 - d. Attack #3, 9-11 years later, Zedekiah's sons are killed and then he is blinded and brought into captivity. Jerusalem destroyed, temple deconstructed.
 - e. Kings ends with Jehoiachin released from prison and eating at the king's table.
 - f. Is there hope? What is it?
3. Why would God end the story with hope? What's the purpose?
 - a. Josiah's faithfulness isn't enough to stop the Babylonians from coming in, destroying Judah and deporting the people
 - b. Guess what? Hezekiah's faithful trust wasn't enough to stop it either.
 - c. Neither was Jotham's trust in 2 Kings 15
 - d. Neither was Azariah, Amaziah, or Joash's faithfulness to God
 - e. Jehoshaphat's obedience to the Lord couldn't stop it
 - f. Asa's faithfulness didn't do it
 - g. Solomon's wavering faithfulness was lacking.
 - h. Even David's faithfulness wasn't enough.
 - i. Why? Because **No amount of faithfulness can ever make up for imperfection and perfection is what God demands.**
 - j. **Our hope is founded on God's faithfulness, not our own.**
4. How does this tie into the gospel? (**Gospel Centered**)

- a. When God was merciful for the sake of his servant David, he meant because of the promise he made to David that was ultimately fulfilled in the Faithful One, Jesus.
 - b. *2 Timothy 2:13, if we are faithless, he remains faithful, for he cannot deny himself.*
 - c. **Our hope is founded on God's faithfulness, not our own.**
 - i. When Adam and even sinned... seemed hopeless, but God is faithful...
 - ii. When Abraham had no kids... seemed hopeless... But God is faithful...
 - iii. When Joseph... seemed hopeless... But God is faithful...
 - iv. When Israel was captive... seemed hopeless... But God is faithful...
 - v. When Moses was afraid... seemed hopeless... But God is faithful...
 - vi. When the Red Sea was before them... seemed hopeless... But God is faithful...
 - vii. When the Israelites were too afraid to fight for their land... seemed hopeless... But God is faithful...
 - viii. When Goliath stood tall against the army... seemed hopeless... But God is faithful...
 - ix. When Elijah stood before the prophets of Baal... seemed hopeless... But God is faithful...
 - x. When Hezekiah looked over the wall at 185,000 soldiers... seemed hopeless... But God is faithful...
 - xi. When Jerusalem fell and Jehoiachin was in captivity in Babylon... seemed hopeless... But God is faithful...
 - xii. When Jesus came, lived a perfect life, died on a cross... seemed hopeless... But God is faithful... and he raised him from the dead
 - xiii. Our salvation is built upon a solid rock. It is reliable, secure, faithful.
 - d. The point is this: you don't earn your salvation. It is given based upon God's faithfulness.
 - i. *4 Now to the one who works, pay is not credited as a gift, but as something owed. 5 But to the one who does not work, but believes on him who declares the ungodly to be righteous, his faith is credited for righteousness. Romans 4:4-5*
 - ii. Illustration of a hardworking employee and a boss vs. a lazy employee and a boss.
 - 1. In one, we praise the employee. In the other, we praise the boss.
5. How does this impact our relationship with God? (**Connect w/ God**)
- a. **Eliminates self condemnation for those in Jesus**
 - i. What is the typical pattern of sin → shame → isolation → deprecation
 - ii. If you had a good week... if you had a bad week... when you come to God in prayer, when are you more "entitled" to pray and ask?
 - iii. God isn't faithful to you b/c you earned it... God is faithful to those who are in Jesus even though we are faithless

- iv. *2 Timothy 2:13, if we are faithless, he remains faithful, for he cannot deny himself.*
 - v. Frees us to live lives unburdened by guilt, shame, self-loathing, self-punishment, isolation, etc
 - vi. Frees us to boldly approach him
 - vii. Who has the audacity to wake up a king...
 - viii. **Our hope is founded on God's faithfulness, not our own.**
- b. Gives us hope in times of difficulty**
- i. What are you going through? Does it feel hopeless?
 - ii. God has made promises that have yet to unfold...
 - 1. Like your sanctification... your glorification... the security of your soul... his return... new heavens and new earth...
 - iii. Cling to his promises - to his future grace
 - iv. **Our hope is founded on God's faithfulness, not our own.**
 - 1. Our security, our ability to prep, our smooth sailing
6. How does this impact our relationship with one another? (**Connect w/ God's Family**)
- a. I'm not your messiah, but I can remind you who is → **Speak hope to each other**
 - i. We suffer because Christ suffered for sin, but we are also comforted w/ the same comfort. Why? That we may comfort one another w/ gospel truth
 - ii. What do we remind each other: **Our hope is founded on God's faithfulness, not our own.**
7. What does this mean for our mission? (**Connect w/ God's Mission**)
- a. There are billions of people out there, maybe in this room, who are still trying to root their hope in their own faithfulness and abilities
 - b. Religion... skills... intellect...
 - c. What do we need people to see and know?
 - d. There was a God who made a promise, was faithful to keep his promise and he is their hope
 - e. **Summary: As we draw to the end of 1 & 2 Kings, we see a hopeless situation. The Northern Kingdom has been destroyed. The Southern Kingdom is in ruins. The temple is a pile of stones, plundered of all its wealth and glory. But God's not done yet. God has made promises, and unlike mankind, God is always faithful to keep his word. Does the end of Kings feel like a hopeless situation filled with faithless people? Yes, but our hope is founded on God's faithfulness, not our own. So there is always hope.**
 - f. The foundation of your hope is not your competency... your hard work... your attendance... your prayer frequency... your scripture memory... your holiness...
 - g. You can't earn salvation, it's a gift.
 - h. Our hope is founded on God's faithfulness, not our own.**