

Who/What Can We Trust?

1 & 2 Kings

When you don't know what to do, where do you turn?

- Covid-19 has provided us with a great opportunity to discover for ourselves how we truly answer that question! Where did we turn?
- Possible answers - inward, the media, the president, CDC, the crowd

What do our answers reveal about who, or what, we place our trust in?

1 & 2 Kings are filled with examples of God's people turning to different things in their pursuit of answering the "What do we do" questions!

I believe there is much we can learn from their examples - both good & bad!

The book of 1 Kings starts out with Solomon asking God for understanding!
1 Kings 3:9-12. Solomon became the wisest man to ever walk this earth!

And yet **"the wisdom of this world is folly with God... For the Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile. So let no one boast in men."**
– **1 Corinthians 3:19-21**

This will be proven true in the lives of all the kings of Israel, even King Solomon!

- You can't trust your own understanding (even with Solomon's wisdom!)
 - **1 Kings 11:1-4** – Our hearts are deceptive & will lead us astray!
 - **Proverbs 3:5-7** – These are very sobering words from Solomon!
- You can't always trust people in positions of authority!
 - King Solomon with his 700 wives and 300 concubines!
 - King Rehoboam (Solomon's son) & his harsh reign - **1 Kings 12:1-11**
 - Almost every one of the kings, in both the northern & the southern kingdoms, did **"what was evil in the sight of the Lord!"**
 - **Even those in positions of religious authority can lead us astray!**
 - A prophet of God led a man of God to his death – **1 Kings 13:11-25**

- You can't even trust the religion of the day, no matter how popular it is!

- The 450 prophets of Baal to the 1 prophet of God - **1 Kings 18:20-39**

- **Matthew 7:13-14** – The pathway to life is narrow & less traveled!

- **You can't trust in earthly powers!** Kings & Kingdoms rise & fall! The period of 1 & 2 Kings spans 400 years and 38 different kings. And it ends with no king in Israel because they are a concurred people!

Might, in the moment, does not make right! What is "right" has far more staying power!

So, if we can't trust in our own understanding, and we can't always trust the people in positions of authority, and we can't trust what's popular – even the popular religious views of the day, and we can't trust in the kingdoms & powers of this world... then what can we trust in? Where can we turn?

- **The only trustworthy place to turn is to the Word of God!**

- The example of Josiah - **2 Kings 22:8-13, 2 Kings 23:1-3**

The Word of God, the Law – the Scriptures of the day, had been lost, forgotten about, concealed by the wicked kings of the past. But under Josiah's reign it was rediscovered & elevated again to its proper place in the lives of God's people!

I believe we are living in a similar time today – when the realization of the necessity of God's Word in our lives is being rediscovered!

God's Word may not answer all our questions about "what to do", but it does speak to every situation we find ourselves in & reveals "how we are to live!"

The Word of God didn't tell us whether to wear masks, social distance, get vaccinated, etc. But it did/does speak to us about how we are to live!

- Valuing human life, over being inconvenienced in our daily lives!
- Loving our neighbors even if/when we disagree with them!
- Honoring those in authority even if we don't like their decisions!
- Trusting God's goodness, provisions & purpose even amidst loss!

The only thing that can be absolutely trusted & be the place where we turn when we don't know what to do, is the Word of God! **2 Timothy 3:16-17**

And we have an example of someone who held the Word of God in its proper place & lived perfectly in response to it - **our 1 true king Jesus Christ!**

Who/What Can We Trust?

1 & 2 Kings

When you don't know what to do, where do you turn?

- Covid-19 has provided us with a great opportunity to discover for ourselves how we truly answer that question! Where did we turn?
- Possible answers - inward, the media, the president, CDC, the crowd

What do our answers reveal about who, or what, we place our _____?

1 & 2 Kings are filled with examples of God's people turning to different things in their pursuit of answering the "What do we do" questions!

I believe there is much we can learn from their examples - both good & bad!

The book of 1 Kings starts out with Solomon asking God for _____!
1 Kings 3:9-12. Solomon became the wisest man to ever walk this earth!

And yet *"the wisdom of this world is folly with God... For the Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile. So let no one boast in men."*
– **1 Corinthians 3:19-21**

This will be proven true in the lives of all the kings of Israel, even King Solomon!

- You can't trust your own understanding (even with Solomon's wisdom)!
 - **1 Kings 11:1-4** – Our hearts are _____ & will lead us astray!
 - **Proverbs 3:5-7** – These are very sobering words from Solomon!
- You can't always trust people in positions of _____!
 - King Solomon with his 700 wives and 300 concubines!
 - King Rehoboam (Solomon's son) & his harsh reign - **1 Kings 12:1-11**
 - Almost every one of the kings, in both the northern & the southern kingdoms, did *"what was evil in the sight of the Lord!"*
 - Even those in positions of _____ authority can lead us astray!
 - A prophet of God led a man of God to his death – **1 Kings 13:11-25**
- You can't even trust the religion of the day, no matter how _____ it is!

- The 450 prophets of Baal to the 1 prophet of God - **1 Kings 18:20-39**

- **Matthew 7:13-14** – The pathway to life is narrow & less traveled!

- You can't trust in _____! Kings & Kingdoms rise & fall! The period of 1 & 2 Kings spans 400 years and 38 different kings. And it ends with no king in Israel because they are a concurred people!

Might, in the moment, does not make right! What is "right" has far more staying power!

So, if we can't trust in our own understanding, and we can't always trust the people in positions of authority, and we can't trust what's popular – even the popular religious views of the day, and we can't trust in the kingdoms & powers of this world... then what can we trust in? Where can we turn?

- The only trustworthy place to turn is to _____!
 - The example of Josiah - **2 Kings 22:8-13, 2 Kings 23:1-3**

The Word of God, the Law – the Scriptures of the day, had been lost, forgotten about, concealed by the wicked kings of the past. But under Josiah's reign it was rediscovered & elevated again to its proper place in the lives of God's people!

I believe we are living in a similar time today – when the realization of the necessity of God's Word in our lives is being _____!

God's Word may not answer all our questions about "what to do", but it does speak to every situation we find ourselves in & reveals "how we are to live!"

The Word of God didn't tell us whether to wear masks, social distance, get vaccinated, etc. But it did/does speak to us about how we are _____!

- Valuing human life, over being inconvenienced in our daily lives!
- Loving our neighbors even if/when we disagree with them!
- Honoring those in authority even if we don't like their decisions!
- Trusting God's goodness, provisions & purpose even amidst loss!

The only thing that can be absolutely trusted & be the place where we turn when we don't know what to do, is the Word of God! **2 Timothy 3:16-17**

And we have an example of someone who held the Word of God in its proper place & lived perfectly in response to it - our 1 true King _____!