

“Fast Forward to the End”  
1 Kings 15  
(Preached at Trinity, July 10, 2022)

I’m supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord’s Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

**Disclaimer:** These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I’ll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. As **Chapter 14** came to an end the author recorded the death of Jeroboam II. His reign had lasted forty-one years. Like the many before him, his reign was characterized by the common refrain:  
**2 Kings 14:24 NAU** - "He did evil in the sight of the LORD; he did not depart from all the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, which he made Israel sin."  
While his reign was evil, he did enjoy a degree of success. Israel enjoyed stability during his reign. God remembered the promise He had given Jehu of a four-generation dynasty. Jeroboam marked the fourth in the line of Jehu kings.
2. Now as we proceed into **Chapter 15** it’s like the author is fast forwarding to the end, skipping over many of the details. It reminds me of the podcast I listen to in the mornings as I do my elliptical workout. The last five minutes of each episode is filled with ministry updates, offers, and requests for support. I usually fast-forward through this so I can begin the next episode. Such is the case here. After the death of Jeroboam, the author fast-forwards through thirty years and five kings in order to bring us to the invasion of the Assyrians and the end of the Northern Kingdom.
3. As I’ve pointed out, the Old Testament is a tapestry upon which God’s eternal purpose is revealed. It progressively unfolds, displaying the terrible sinfulness of man before an infinitely holy God, holiness that demands His righteous judgment. Humanity has forfeited life. Justice demands God’s condemnation upon all.
  - A. It is with the backdrop of this corruption that God has revealed His amazing grace. Instead of destroying all mankind, God has chosen to show mercy unto a remnant of fallen human beings—the election of grace.
  - B. God raised up Israel as a picture of His electing love. He chose them from among the nations simply because He chose to display His sovereign mercy upon them.  
**Deuteronomy 7:6-8 NAU** - "For you are a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for His own possession out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. <sup>7</sup> "The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any of the peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples, <sup>8</sup> but because the LORD loved you"
4. God’s interaction with man has come by way of covenant.
  - A. Our Confession states: (LBC 7 – Of God’s Covenant) “The distance between God and the creature is so great, that although reasonable creatures do owe obedience to Him as their creator, yet they could never have attained the reward of life but by some voluntary condescension on God’s part, which He hath been please to express by way of covenant.”

- B. God raised up Israel by way of Covenant promise and continued progressively revealing His redemptive purpose by way of a series of covenants. These covenants would find their fulfillment in Christ.
- C. God made a covenant with Abraham promising him a great posterity and a land. God promised Abraham that through his chosen seed all the nations of the earth would be blessed. God promised Abraham that He would make him a great nation and that through his seed all the nations of the earth would be blessed. God pledged His love upon His covenant people. God was true to His covenant and did indeed raise up a great nation and blessed them above measure.  
**Leviticus 26:11-12 NAU** - "I will make My dwelling among you, and My soul will not reject you. <sup>12</sup> I will also walk among you and be your God, and you shall be My people."  
**2 Samuel 7:23-24 NAU** - "And what one nation on the earth is like Your people Israel, whom God went to redeem for Himself as a people and to make a name for Himself, and to do a great thing for You and awesome things for Your land, before Your people whom You have redeemed for Yourself from Egypt, *from* nations and their gods? <sup>24</sup> "For You have established for Yourself Your people Israel as Your own people forever, and You, O LORD, have become their God."
- D. God then made the Mosaic Covenant on Mount Sinai laying down the duties of the Covenant.  
**Deuteronomy 26:18-19 NAU** - "The LORD has today declared you to be His people, a treasured possession, as He promised you, and that you should keep all His commandments; <sup>19</sup> and that He will set you high above all nations which He has made, for praise, fame, and honor; and that you shall be a consecrated people to the LORD your God, as He has spoken."  
**Deuteronomy 28:1-2 NAU** - "Now it shall be, if you diligently obey the LORD your God, being careful to do all His commandments which I command you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth. <sup>2</sup> "All these blessings will come upon you and overtake you if you obey the LORD your God:"
- E. God further promised an everlasting Kingdom through His covenant with David.  
**2 Samuel 7:11-13 NAU** - "The LORD also declares to you that the LORD will make a house for you. <sup>12</sup> "When your days are complete and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your descendant after you, who will come forth from you, and I will establish his kingdom. <sup>13</sup> "He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever."
- F. But each of David's descendants were unfaithful. The kings of Israel brought wickedness to a whole new level, turning away from God and worshipping other gods. Four times we read in this chapter regarding each successive king:  
**2 Kings 15:9 NAU** - "He did evil in the sight of the LORD, as his fathers had done; he did not depart from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, " It had been over 200 years since Jeroboam set up the bull idols and Israel had not departed from it.

5. Israel's history was a history marked by unfaithfulness, of sin and idolatry. They were continual covenant breakers. Throughout their history of covenant unfaithfulness, God demonstrated His covenant faithfulness.
- God was about to bring His fierce judgment upon sinful Israel. With each king they moved closer to the end. God's judgment was not inconsistent with His covenant. In fact, He had promised His wrath if they turned away from Him.
- Leviticus 26:13-17 NAU** - "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt so that *you* would not be their slaves, and I broke the bars of your yoke and made you walk erect. <sup>14</sup> 'But if you do not obey Me and do not carry out all these commandments, <sup>15</sup> if, instead, you reject My statutes, and if your soul abhors My ordinances so as not to carry out all My commandments, *and* so break My covenant, <sup>16</sup> I, in turn, will do this to you: I will appoint over you a sudden terror, consumption and fever that will waste away the eyes and cause the soul to pine away; also, you will sow your seed uselessly, for your enemies will eat it up. <sup>17</sup> 'I will set My face against you so that you will be struck down before your enemies; and those who hate you will rule over you, and you will flee when no one is pursuing you."
6. But even in His wrath, God did not annihilate His people but maintained a remnant for Himself. He remained faithful to His covenant promises.
- Although the books of Samuel and Kings show us the sinfulness of the human condition, God's mercy prevails through the entire period. He remembers His covenants. History is a record of God's redemptive purpose in Jesus Christ.
- A right understanding of God's covenants is essential to a right understanding of the message of the Bible.
7. Now the author moves us quickly through the last of Israel's kings.
- It's like the author has become weary of writing about the wickedness of Israel's kings. In this chapter he covers the lives of five of Israel's kings in rapid succession. The fires of God's judgment were on the horizon. The author speeds us past the final 30 years of the northern kingdom and their destruction by the Assyrians. From this chapter to the end of 2 Kings that Assyrians are mentioned 48 times.
- And the Southern Kingdom isn't entirely clear. The Babylonians are mentioned 26 times in **Chapters 24-25**.
8. The end of the Northern Kingdom is described in **Chapter 17**
- 2 Kings 17:6-7 NAU** - "In the ninth year of Hoshea, the king of Assyria captured Samaria and carried Israel away into exile to Assyria, and settled them in Halah and Habor, *on* the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes. <sup>7</sup> Now *this* came about because the sons of Israel had sinned against the LORD their God, who had brought them up from the land of Egypt from under the hand of Pharaoh, king of Egypt, and they had feared other gods"
- Chapter 25 will record God's judgment upon the Southern Kingdom
- 2 Kings 25:8-10 NAU** - "Now on the seventh day of the fifth month, which was the nineteenth year of King Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard, a servant of the king of Babylon, came to Jerusalem. <sup>9</sup> He burned the house of the LORD, the king's house, and all the houses of Jerusalem; even every great house he burned with fire. <sup>10</sup> So all the army of the Chaldeans who *were with* the captain of the guard broke down the walls around Jerusalem."

9. What are some clear points of application for us?
1. God's covenant promises are still active. Each of God's Covenants pointed to a greater fulfillment.
- A. God's covenant with Abraham did not find its ultimate fulfillment with the birth of Isaac but with the birth of Christ.
- B. God's covenant with Moses established the moral requirements of the covenant and established the pattern of worship. But Israel could not keep the moral requirements and neither can we. But there would be One who would fulfill the demands of God's Law.  
And the atoning sacrifices of bulls and goats were never meant to be the ultimate solution for sin. They only pointed to the ultimate substitute – the Lord Jesus Christ.
- C. God's covenant with David of an everlasting Kingdom was not fulfilled through him or his sons but through the ultimate Son of David—Jesus Christ. Jesus is called the "Son of David" sixteen times in the Gospels.  
The Gospel of Matthew opens:  
**Matthew 1:1 NAU** - "The record of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham:"
2. God still threatens judgment against all who will not follow Him.  
**Romans 1:18 NAU** - "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,"
3. God's Covenant promises offer all men hope in Jesus Christ. The New Covenant is a covenant of forgiveness and reconciliation.  
**Jeremiah 31:31-34 NAU** - "Behold, days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, <sup>32</sup> not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them," declares the LORD. <sup>33</sup> "But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days," declares the LORD, "I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. <sup>34</sup> "They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them," declares the LORD, "for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."  
A. All who turn to Christ will be saved. This is by way of promise.  
**Romans 10:13 NAS** - "Whoever will call upon the name of the LORD will be saved."  
**Acts 16:31 NAU** - "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household."  
**Romans 10:9 NAU** - "that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved;"  
B. All who deny God's great promise of mercy will perish in their sin.

## Conclusion

1. In the midst of the terrible tragedy of human sin, we must keep our sights on the conclusion. The author wants to raise forth to the conclusion. Yes, Israel persisted in idolatry and unfaithfulness to God's covenant, but God's redemptive purpose never depended upon the faithfulness of man. He purposed to send forth His Son to fulfill all righteousness.
2. **2 Kings** is a terrible picture of sin but after we finish this book we're going to take a brief journey into the Book of Micah.
 

**Micah 5:2 NAU** - "But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, *Too little to be among the clans of Judah, From you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, From the days of eternity.*"

**Micah 5:4-5 NAU** - "And He will arise and shepherd *His flock* In the strength of the LORD, In the majesty of the name of the LORD His God. And they will remain, Because at that time He will be great To the ends of the earth. <sup>5</sup> This One will be *our* peace. When the Assyrian invades our land"

**Micah 7:18-20 NAU** - "Who is a God like You, who pardons iniquity And passes over the rebellious act of the remnant of His possession? He does not retain His anger forever, Because He delights in unchanging love. <sup>19</sup> He will again have compassion on us; He will tread our iniquities under foot. Yes, You will cast all their sins Into the depths of the sea. <sup>20</sup> You will give truth to Jacob *And* unchanging love to Abraham, Which You swore to our forefathers From the days of old."

