It is Written: Week 1: 2 Kings 6:17

Introduction:

It is Written: A new series focusing on memorizing key scriptures

Week 1 – 2 Kings 6:17

We have a gift for you. It’s a cool little stand to put your scripture memory verses on. I fully believe when we hide God’s word in our hearts it bleeds out into all aspects of life. If you feel like Christianity doesn’t work, try putting Christianity into every part of your life.

Lectio:

1st and 2nd Kings – The History

* Under the favor of God, King David has unified the tribes into one mighty kingdom (2 Sam 7). 1st and 2nd Kings narrate how this mighty kingdom falls.
* The Kings narrative tell the stories of Elijah and Elisha, two prominent prophets who continually let the nations know why they are declining and what they need to do about it. King after king dismisses Godly insight and chooses to define right and wrong in his own eyes.
  + I can hear those “modern” kings dismissing their Godly advisors. “The Torah is old, dated, and doesn’t take into consideration what we are facing now.”
* It’s crazy how fast a favored kingdom can fall. The story of Kings begins with Solomon building the temple and ends with the exile and Babylon destroying Jerusalem. If you compare Deuteronomy 17 with 2 Kings 9-11 you will find even Solomon looking more like Pharoah. Slave labor, obsession with power, sexuality, hoarding and wealth.

2 Kings 6:17

Then Elisha prayed and said, “O LORD, please open his eyes that he may see.” So the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw, and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

* It’s the 9th century B.C. The king of Aram was at war with Israel. Every time he planned a military maneuver, the king of Israel seemed to know about it in advance. This was because Elisha, the prophet, was receiving divine revelations and warning the king of Israel. When the king of Aram learns that God is whispering his secret plans into the ear of this prophet he plans to raid and capture him. One morning when Elisha’s servant wakes up, he discovers the old prophet is surrounded by the enemy. The young man goes running in and wakes up Elisha. On hearing the horrid news Elisha responds with, "Do not be afraid, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them" (2 Kings 6:16). You can only imagine the young man thinking, “Are you nuts old man?!” “Then Elisha prayed and said, “O LORD, please open his eyes that he may see.” So the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw, and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha” (2 Kings 6:17).

When one of my kids was little they watched a show that scared them. That cartoon villain triggered a chain of long nights with a lot of tears and fear. Night after night it felt like no progress was being made. I remember my child saying to me, “Dad, I hate the nighttime. You can’t see things.” One night after putting that little kid to bed a handful of times, it hit me. They need to see the greater truth.

It was a clear night. So I took that 8-year-old, walked out into the backyard and said, “Look up. What do you see?” “Stars, daddy. Lots of them.” “Me too,” I replied and continued. “Think for a moment about how beautiful, big, and glorious the universe is.” After a while I drew attention to the sounds of the bugs and frogs and the eventual sunrise that would happen. “You realize the one with all the power to make these beautiful things sees and loves you? See, the enemy wants to steal your ability to see God clearly and wants to make fear grow unattested in your mind.” I brought with me a little piece of paper and a pen. I asked my child to draw the scary bad guy. Under the stars we lit that little piece of paper on fire and watched it all go up in smoke. I pulled my little one in close and asked, “100 years from now, how much power do these ashes and smoke have over the sunrise or those stars?” “None, daddy,” my child replied. “That’s right. If you choose to see the greater truth, you see what really has the power.”

The good news. My baby slept great that night.

* In both stories the only thing that changed was the ability to see the greater truth.
* We often want more power when things aren’t going our way. What God often gives isn’t personal power but greater understanding.
  + We think more power (wealth, health, prosperity, and even civil control) are the solution.

Final Thoughts:

* There is so much more going on than we can see. From the war in Russa and Ukraine, to the Gaza Strip to the sexual propaganda being pushed on the public schools. There is so much more going on in the spiritual realm.
* At a national level: All real stability will only come from trusting God. Trusting in human planning, cunning, power, and pleasure over trusting God is like choosing to trust the light from a flash of lightning to guide you over the consistency and reliability of the sun.
* At a personal level: What concern or fear could you, instead of praying for power, wealth, and influence as the fix, simply ask for Godly sight?

Actio:

* On the next steps card what concern or fear could you, instead of praying for power, wealth, and influence as the fix, simply ask for Godly sight?