

KEY PASSAGE: 2 KINGS - CHAPTER 2

Series Review: “That’s in the Bible?” is to answer some common questions of what appear to be ‘unique’ passages and stories.

- Why did God put that in the Bible?
- Why did God do that?
- How does that apply to us today?

Elisha and the Two Bears

2 Kings 2:23–25 (NLT) — ²³ Elisha left Jericho and went up to Bethel. As he was walking along the road, a group of boys from the town began mocking and making fun of him. “Go away, baldy!” they chanted. “Go away, baldy!” ²⁴ Elisha turned around and looked at them, and he cursed them in the name of the LORD. Then two bears came out of the woods and mauled forty-two of them. ²⁵ From there Elisha went to Mount Carmel and finally returned to Samaria.

Study Note: To better understand the bible, we must practice proper **hermeneutics**: context, grammar, semantics (word meaning), syntax (how are words used), and historical and cultural background.

- Elisha: 3rd prophet of God after Samuel and Elijah
- Prophet / Man of God: one who speaks forth for God and/or speaks for God. All were chosen by God.
- Bethel (*House of God*): was a city that was doing evil in the sight of the Lord. *1 Kings - Chapters 12-13*
- Group of boys: the context and comparison with other verses place them as youth to young adult age.
- The mocking of Elisha was both person and professional.
- The two bears were not called by Elisha, but God’s response to the curse spoken by Elisha.
- Curse: for the purpose of punishment, being ‘cut off’, or judgement.
- 42 of them: there were more than 42 present.
- Mauled: could imply severely injured or killed.

LESSONS TO LEARN

Respond – don’t React

- Elisha’s response: what he didn’t do and what he did.
 - Didn’t: run, become fearful, seek revenge himself
 - Did: cursed the young men.

Psalm 118:6 (ESV) — ⁶ The LORD is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me?

Romans 12:19 (ESV) — ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.”

Deuteronomy 32:35 (NLT) — ³⁵ I will take revenge; I will pay them back. In due time their feet will slip. Their day of disaster will arrive, and their destiny will overtake them.’

Revere God

“What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.” – A.W. Tozer

- Seeing God in right perspective allows me to see myself in right perspective. This is a process as I come to know God more.
- Only then can I begin to see ourselves accurately and live out the life we are created for.

Proverbs 1:7 (ESV) — ⁷ The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Hebrews 12:28–29 (NLT) — ²⁸ Since we are receiving a Kingdom that is unshakable, let us be thankful and please God by worshiping him with holy fear and awe. ²⁹ For our God is a devouring fire.

Respect Authority

- Respect God's appointed authority/leaders – *Romans 13:1-7*

Hebrews 13:17 (ESV) — ¹⁷ Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

1 Chronicles 16:22 (ESV) — ²² saying, "Touch not my anointed ones, do my prophets no harm!"

- Respect your elders - Honor your father and mother –

1 Timothy 5:1–2 (NLT) — ¹ Never speak harshly to an older man, but appeal to him respectfully as you would to your own father. Talk to younger men as you would to your own brothers. ² Treat older women as you would your mother, and treat younger women with all purity as you would your own sisters.

Exodus 20:12 (ESV) — ¹² "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

APPLICATION:

1. Be prepared to RESPOND: believe that God is at work in you and around you in all situations.
 - o Realize there are three 'parts' being played out in all situations: God's Part – Your Part -Their Part
 - o Trust God to do His part, do your part to the best of your ability.
2. Be prepared to answer the question, 'What do you think about God?'
 - o During your time with God in the Word ask 'why' less and ask 'What are you showing me about....?', and "How can I apply _____ to my life?"
 - o Identify things that prevent you from pursuing a relationship to know God.
3. Assess how you think about, respond to, and pray for those in authority over you.
 - o BONUS TAKE AWAY
 - How would you like others to follow you?
 - Are you someone you would trust to follow?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- What did you learn about God in this week's sermon passage?
- What did you learn about yourself?
- What did you learn regarding how you represent God and your interaction with others?
- How can you apply lessons from this week's sermon in your daily life?



NEXT STEPS



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OVERTIME PODCAST