Singapore Bible College Nano Lim

27-03-2021 Message 1 of 2

2 Kings 8:1-15 (NIV) 15 Minutes

**The Lord’s Rule**

***2 Kings 8:1-15 (NIV)***

*Cyclical Inductive*

**Topic:** Government

**Subject:** How is God ruling over the nations?

**Complement:** God is in control of every political situation.

**Purpose:** The listeners will understand that God rules over every political situation.

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| **Intro:**  1: Arouse interest | Donald Trump was the former President of the USA. When he was elected, so many people did not like him. Even some actors and actress said they wanted to change their nationality—that was how much they hated him! And maybe some of you here also did not like him. But do you think God chose him as the President of the USA at that time?  Recently we know how hard is the situation in Myanmar, it is so sad, so many people had been killed during the military aggression and I believe we have been praying for the situation in Myanmar. Through this situation, do you think God chose the military in Myanmar to rule the nation? |
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| 2: Raise Need | We have been seen a lot of things happen through the political situation in every country. The nations are fighting, bombing, the authorities abuse their positions, they are corrupted, etc. Do you believe God rules over the nations? |
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| 3: Subject  Restated | If you believe, then *how do we know God rules over the political situations?* How is the Lord bigger than politics? |
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| 4: Bkgrd | In 2 Kings 7, there was a great famine in the city of Samaria when the king of Aram, Ben-Hadad siege the city but God then used the siege to provide food for the nation as Elisha prophesied. Elisha was a powerful prophet used by God to show his sovereignty. His power was recognized by the king of Israel and even the pagan king admitted Elisha as superior to other pagan prophets. |
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| 5: Preview | Continuing the story of Elisha, today’s passage shows us *two ways God rules over the nations, over the political situations*. |
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| 6: Text | The passage is from 2 Kings 8:1-15. I am not going to read this whole passage because I don’t want to sprain my tongue reading a lot of English words. |
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| T, **MPI**  SP “A” | In the story of the Shunammite woman, we can see the first way God rules the nations. **God cares for us through political leaders. In other words, he provides through the authorities.** God shows us the way out of difficulties in the nations. |
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| 1-2 | “1 Now Elisha had said to the woman whose son he had restored to life, "Go away with your family and stay for a while wherever you can, because the LORD has decreed a famine in the land that will last seven years."  2 The woman proceeded to do as the man of God said. She and her family went away and stayed in the land of the Philistines seven years.” |
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| Explained | In verse 1-2, Elisha told the Shunamite woman to leave the country with her family and stay in the land of the Philistines because in Samaria will have a great famine for seven years. She then spent seven years in Philistia, during this time she was spared from the famine. In these two verses, we once see again God’s care for the poor, the widow, and the orphan. When there was a difficulty, he provided a way out of that problem through Elisha. |
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| T, SP “B” | God gives protection through the authorities |
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| 3-6 | “3 At the end of the seven years she came back from the land of the Philistines and went to appeal to the king for her house and land.  4 The king was talking to Gehazi, the servant of the man of God, and had said, "Tell me about all the great things Elisha has done."  5 Just as Gehazi was telling the king how Elisha had restored the dead to life, the woman whose son Elisha had brought back to life came to appeal to the king for her house and land. Gehazi said, "This is the woman, my lord the king, and this is her son whom Elisha restored to life."  6 The king asked the woman about it, and she told him. Then he assigned an official to her case and said to him, "Give back everything that belonged to her, including all the income from her land from the day she left the country until now.” |
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| Explained | After seven years of famine, the Shunammite came back to Samaria and went to the king of Israel, who at that time was king Jehu, to claim her land because when she left the nations she left all her possessions. In a happy act of God’s sovereign timing, when she came to the king, the king was talking to Gehazi, the servant of Elisha. So Gehazi told the king that what Elisha had done to the Shunammite woman which restored her son’s life. When the king heard about it, he commanded his officials to give back everything that belonged to the woman including all the income from her land because during her absence her land had become crown property.  From this, we can see how God gives the people protection through the nations. Elisha did not even have to appear to help her but the king returned everything to her even including all the income. |
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| ILL  (Tsunami in Aceh) | In 2004, it was a tsunami in Aceh and it was pretty bad. It killed around 200,000 people. Aceh is the biggest Muslim province in Indonesia, where 99% of the population is Islamic. That is why they called that province “Serambi Mekkah” which means the terrace of Mekkah. Some years before this disaster happened, there was a group of people called “Gerakan Aceh Merdeka” which is “the Aceh Independence Movement”. This group of people protested the government because they did not want to become a part of Indonesia anymore, as they wanted to separate from Indonesia and become a Moslem country. They caused a lot of problems. They burnt houses, government offices, and influenced society to join them. The government suffered several years to deal with this group of people.  When the tsunami hit, who helped them? I suspect many leaders might not send any help to them, saying, “You are free now, go and help yourself”.  But the government helped the people there, they sent the army to evacuate the victims, they provided medical care, food, etc. The whole nation prayed for them and even other countries came and helped the people in Aceh. |
|  | After the disaster, we never heard about that movement again. I don’t know if they were dead or they realized that they need the Indonesian government. This is how God takes care of the people, he solved the problem in Aceh, he protected the people there through the authorities even though they are unbelievers. |
| T | So the first *way God is bigger than politicians* is God cares for us through political leaders. Now, for the second way God rules over politics, we can see from who that Elisha predicted to be the next king of Syria. |
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| MPII | **God decides the election of the authorities.**  **[He chooses the people to rule the nations.]** |
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| 7-15 | “ 7 Elisha went to Damascus, and Ben-Hadad king of Aram was ill. When the king was told, "The man of God has come all the way up here,"  8 he said to Hazael, "Take a gift with you and go to meet the man of God. Consult the LORD through him; ask him, 'Will I recover from this illness?'"  9 Hazael went to meet Elisha, taking with him as a gift forty camel-loads of all the finest wares of Damascus. He went in and stood before him, and said, "Your son Ben-Hadad king of Aram has sent me to ask, 'Will I recover from this illness?'"  10 Elisha answered, "Go and say to him, 'You will certainly recover.' Nevertheless, the LORD has revealed to me that he will in fact die."  11 He stared at him with a fixed gaze until Hazael was embarrassed. Then the man of God began to weep.  12 "Why is my lord weeping?" asked Hazael. "Because I know the harm you will do to the Israelites," he answered. "You will set fire to their fortified places, kill their young men with the sword, dash their little children to the ground, and rip open their pregnant women."  13 Hazael said, "How could your servant, a mere dog, accomplish such a feat?" "The LORD has shown me that you will become king of Aram," answered Elisha.  14 Then Hazael left Elisha and returned to his master. When Ben-Hadad asked, "What did Elisha say to you?" Hazael replied, "He told me that you would certainly recover."  15 But the next day he took a thick cloth, soaked it in water and spread it over the king's face, so that he died. Then Hazael succeeded him as king.” |
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| SP “A” | God can use an unbeliever to rule the nations. |
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| Explained | When Ben-Hadad king of Aram found out Elisha was in Damascus, he sent one of his lieutenants, Hazael to meet Elisha. Ben-Hadad was ill and he wanted to know whether he could recover from his illness or not. Elisha prophesied that Ben-Hadad will recover but he also found out that he will be killed by his lieutenant, Hazael and Hazael will become the next king of Aram. Through his vision, Elisha also sees that Hazael will bring a lot of harm to Israel. |
|  | In 1 Kings 19:15-18, Elijah told Elisha to go to Damascus and anoint Hazael to be the king of Syria. From the story of Israel, we know that so many times God let other pagan nations rule over the Israelites. God used Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, etc. to rule over them. Through all these pagan nations, God also delivered them many times. |
| ILL (Lee Kwan Yew) | Lee Kwan Yew, the founder of Singapore, was not Christian. He was Buddhist who made great history in Singapore and many people recognize his determination for Singapore. Some say Singapore could be this great because of him. We can see that God can use an unbeliever. God can use anyone he wants to rule the nations. So many countries from all over the world has a President or Prime Minister who are unbeliever and even in my home country of Indonesia we have never had a believing president. |
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| SP “B” | But God lets bad things happen in the nations to show us his sovereignty. |
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| Explanation | Elisha knew that Hazael would bring a lot of harm to Israel as he prophesied but he did not stop Hazael to be the next king of Syria because he knew that was God's will. God let His nation be ruled by other nations so that they can see God’s sovereignty. |
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| ILL (Ahok) | Ahok, or Basuki Tjahaja Purnama, former Governor of Jakarta, is a Christian. He became governor of Jakarta for three years after Jokowi became President. During his reign, he made a lot of changes in Jakarta to improve the traffic, flood control, cleanliness, provided flat houses for the poor, etc. His name has been praised in the pulpits many times for what he did. He had high integrity and determination, cleaning up the corruption. But that’s what other authorities did not like from him. Because during his reign, they couldn’t do corruption. He was accused of insulting Al-Quran which he did not and went to prison for two years.  If we watch a movie, usually a good guy will win but it does not happen all the time in real life. When Ahok went to prison, so many people were angry, sad, etc. because they had accused such a good authority which is difficult to find in Indonesia. But through him, he had raised a higher standard of the Governor of Jakarta. And also through him, we can see God’s sovereignty. We think goodness will rule over the nation but God does not always work that way. He can use all the bad things that happen in our nations to show us who God is. |
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| Big T | So, is God still ruling over the nations and governments? The answer is yes. This whole passage is essentially telling us this… |
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| MI & R | God is in control of every political situation. There is no country out of his loving care. |
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| MPI-II | Today we learned two ways God rules the nations: God cares for us through political leaders and he decides the election of the authorities. |
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| APP (Trust in God) | What you can do is **trust in God for the political situation in your country. God is in control.** We may not know if what happened in Myanmar is what God wants or not but we believe that God will take care of us over the bad situations that happen in our nations, because he is in control over the nations. |
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| APP (Obey and Respect your authorities) | And also obey and respect your authorities because they are also chosen by God to rule the nations. We may not like Donald Trump or Joe Biden. We may not like our President, Prime Minister, Governor, etc. However, they are the people that God uses to rule the nations. So as Christians, we obey the rules and show our respect to the authorities. |
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| Closing | **(I will be singing if I have time).** |

# Study Questions (Step 1)

1 Now Elisha had said to the woman whose son he had restored to life, "Go away with your family and stay for a while wherever you can, because the LORD has decreed a famine in the land that will last seven years."

2 The woman proceeded to do as the man of God said. She and her family went away and stayed in the land of the Philistines seven years.

3 At the end of the seven years she came back from the land of the Philistines and went to appeal to the king for her house and land.

4 The king was talking to Gehazi, the servant of the man of God, and had said, "Tell me about all the great things Elisha has done."

5 Just as Gehazi was telling the king how Elisha had restored the dead to life, the woman whose son Elisha had brought back to life came to appeal to the king for her house and land. Gehazi said, "This is the woman, my lord the king, and this is her son whom Elisha restored to life."

6 The king asked the woman about it, and she told him. Then he assigned an official to her case and said to him, "Give back everything that belonged to her, including all the income from her land from the day she left the country until now."

7 Elisha went to Damascus, and Ben-Hadad king of Aram was ill. When the king was told, "The man of God has come all the way up here,"

8 he said to Hazael, "Take a gift with you and go to meet the man of God. Consult the LORD through him; ask him, 'Will I recover from this illness?'"

9 Hazael went to meet Elisha, taking with him as a gift forty camel-loads of all the finest wares of Damascus. He went in and stood before him, and said, "Your son Ben-Hadad king of Aram has sent me to ask, 'Will I recover from this illness?'"

10 Elisha answered, "Go and say to him, 'You will certainly recover.' Nevertheless, the LORD has revealed to me that he will in fact die."

11 He stared at him with a fixed gaze until Hazael was embarrassed. Then the man of God began to weep.

12 "Why is my lord weeping?" asked Hazael. "Because I know the harm you will do to the Israelites," he answered. "You will set fire to their fortified places, kill their young men with the sword, dash their little children to the ground, and rip open their pregnant women."

13 Hazael said, "How could your servant, a mere dog, accomplish such a feat?" "The LORD has shown me that you will become king of Aram," answered Elisha.

14 Then Hazael left Elisha and returned to his master. When Ben-Hadad asked, "What did Elisha say to you?" Hazael replied, "He told me that you would certainly recover."

15 But the next day he took a thick cloth, soaked it in water and spread it over the king's face, so that he died. Then Hazael succeeded him as king.

(2 Ki. 8:1-15 NIV)

# Context: What did the author record just prior to this passage?

### Elisha’s second promise comes to pass. The officer who doubted the prophet’s word is crushed to death by the hungry mob that pours out of the city gate. His death stands as a testimony of the truthfulness of God’s word through the prophet.

# Purpose: Why is this passage in the Bible?

### To show us that God rules the prophets, the people, the kings, and the political process, which clearly indicates his power and sovereignty.

# Background: What historical context helps us understand this passage?

### Elisha was a powerful prophet who is trusted by the King of Israel.

### A pagan king also recognized Elisha as superior to other pagan prophets.

# Sources Used

### The New American Commentary.

### Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries.

### Cornerstone Biblical Commentary.

# Questions & Answers (cf. p. 22 #1)

### Who was the Shunammite woman?

The woman as indicating that she may now have become a widow, after all, her husband had been described as “old” in 4:14.[[1]](#footnote-1)

### Why did the woman go to the king?

So she went to the king as the owner of all property taken over during her absence.[[2]](#footnote-2) She wanted to claim back what she had left in the country.

Since the king’s name did not mention in the text, some said it might be Jehu some said it might be Jehoram. But they concluded the king should be Jehu because Jehoram knew Elisha well (3:3).

### Did the king give back the woman’s land?

Yes, he did. When he verified that what Elisha did for the woman’s son at the very moment the king ordered an official to settle her case and restored whatever income may have been gleaned from it during the difficult years of her absence.

### Why did Ben-Hadad king of Aram send his lieutenant to meet Elisha?

Because he was ill and he wanted to know that he might be recovered from his illness or not. He seemed aware that the Lord’s prophet is superior to any other prophetic competitors.[[3]](#footnote-3)

### What did Hazael do to king Ben-Hadad?

After meeting Elisha he told the king that he will recover but then he assassinated the king and became his successor.

Elisha told everything to Hazael about what will happen, the king will recover but he will be assassinated by Hazael and Hazael will rule the kingdom of Aram. Hazael, indeed in his heart has the intention to kill king Ben-Hadad whether he will recover or not. Elisha did not lie, either God, because the king would not die as the result of illness but Hazael was the one who did everything to King Ben-Hadad. Elisha knew full well what Hazael was about to do, both against his own master the king, as well as against Israel in the future.

**The Lord’s Rule**

***2 Kings 8:1-15 (NIV)***

**Exegetical Outline (Steps 2-3)**

# Exegetical Idea (CPT): The reason Elisha helped restore the land of the Shunammite woman and predicted Syria’s new king was because God gave him the power to do so.

# I. The reason Elisha helped restore the land of the Shunammite women was because God gave him the power to do so (1-6).

## Elisha told the woman to leave the land with her family (1-2).

## The king of Israel returned the women’s land including all the income after he knew what had Elisha did to her (3-6).

# II. The reason that Elisha predicted Syria’s new king was because God gave him the power to do so (7-15).

## Elisha’s fame made the king of Aram send Hazael to seek him because he knew Elisha was the man of God (7-8).

## Elisha told Hazael that the king of Aram would be assassinated by Hazael and he would be the next king (9-13).

## Elisha’s prophecy came true (14-15).

**Purpose or Desired Listener Response (Step 4)**

The listeners will understand that God rules over every political situation.

**Sermon Outline** (Cyclical inductive form)—Steps 5-6

# Introduction

### Interest: Do you think God chose Donald Trump to be the prior President of the USA? Or do you think God chose the military in Myanmar to rule the nation?

### Need: Do you believe God rules over the nations?

### Subject: How is God ruling over the nations?

### Background: In chapter 7 there was a great famine in the city of Sa maria when the king of Aram, Ben-Hadad siege the city but God then used the siege to provide food for the nation as Elisha prophesied.

### Preview: Today’s passage shows us two ways God rules over the nations.

### Text: In the story of 2 Kings 8:1-15, we will see how God used Elisha to interfere in the political issues in the nation.

(In the story of the Shunammite woman we can see the first way God rules over the nations.)

# I. God takes care of us through the political situation (1-6).

[God gives us providence through the authorities]

## God shows us the way out of difficulties in the nations (1-2).

## God gives us protection through the authorities (3-6).

## ILL: Tsunami in Aceh in 2004, when the disaster happened the government came to help the people and provide the way out of difficulties.

(And the second way God rules over the nation, we can see from who that Elisha predicted to be the next king of Syria)

# II. God is involved in the election of the authorities (7-15).

[God chooses the people to rule over the nations.]

## God can use the unbelievers to rule over the nations (7-8).

## God lets the bad things happen in the nations to show us his sovereignty (9-15).

## ILL: Lee Kwan Yew was an unbeliever but he made Singapore a great nation.

## ILL. Ahok or Basuki Tjahaja Purnama was accused to violate Al-Quran and being jailed for two years but he had raised the standard of the Governor of Jakarta.

(So, is God still ruling over the nations or governments? The answer is yes, ……..)

# Conclusion

### God is in control of every political situation (MI).

### Main Points:

#### God takes care of us through the political situation

#### God is involved in the election of the authorities

### Exhortation/Application

#### Trust in God for what is the political situation in your country, God is in control.

#### Obey and respect your authorities because they are also chosen by God to rule the nation.

1. Barnes, William H., [*1-2 Kings*](https://ref.ly/logosres/cstonecm11ki1?ref=Bible.2Ki8.1&off=507&ctx=s+direct+command+to+~the+woman+as+indicat)Vol. 4b. Cornerstone Biblical Commentary (IL: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 2012), 242. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Wiseman, Donald J., [*1 and 2 Kings: an introduction and commentary*](https://ref.ly/logosres/totc09kius?ref=Bible.2Ki8.3&off=82&ctx=nure+(cf.1+Kgs+21)%2c+~so+she+went+to+the+k) Vol. 9. Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries (IL: InterVarsity Press, 1993), 226. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. House, Paul R.,[*1, 2 Kings*](https://ref.ly/logosres/nac08?ref=Bible.2Ki8.7-8&off=457&ctx=ah+in+2+Kgs+1%3a1%E2%80%9318%2c+~Syria%E2%80%99s+king+seems+a) Vol. 8. The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1995), 283. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)