

The Trajectory of Our Lives in a New Year

Lessons from the Kings of Israel and the Blessings of the King of Kings

Introduction

The beginning of a new year is an opportunity for us to remember something we often prefer to forget: the number of years set before us is finite. A year is not simply a marker on the calendar, it is a collection of choices, habits, and directions we take day after day. Over time, those choices form a path that we walk that tells the story of our lives. As we stand at the threshold of a new year, wisdom calls us not merely to count our days, but to consider where those days are leading us and who we are becoming along the way.

Main Point: Our lives have a _____ that will be significantly influenced by what we _____ and who it is that it is that we desire to _____.

Lessons from the Kings of Israel & Judah

- The descriptions of the lives of the kings remind us that our own lives will have a certain trajectory.

⇒ Many of them did not _____ the Lord with their lives.

Abijam— “...his heart was not wholly true to the Lord his God” (1 Kings 15:3)

Baasha— “He did what was evil in the sight of the Lord...” (1 Kings 15:33)

Ahaziah— “He did what was evil in the sight of the Lord...” (1 Kings 23:51)

⇒ Some of them _____ served the Lord with their lives.

Asa— “And Asa did what was right in the eyes of the Lord...” (1 Kings 15:11)

Jehoash— “And Jehoash did what was right in the eyes of the Lord all his days...” (2 Kings 12:2)

Jotham— “He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord...” (2 Kings 15:32)

- There were certain factors that impacted the trajectory of their lives.

⇒ They followed after the _____ of others for good or for evil.

Baasha— “He...walked in the way of his father Jeroboam and in his sin...” (1 Kings 15:33)

Ahaziah— “He...walked in the way of his father and in the way of his mother...” (1 Kings 23:51)

Asa— “And Asa did what was right...as his father David had done.” (1 Kings 15:11)

Jotham— “He did what was right...according to all his father Amaziah had done.” (2 Kings 15:32)

⇒ They either followed or disregarded the _____ of the Lord.

Jehu— “...Jehu was not careful to walk in the Law of the Lord, the God of Israel, with all his heart (2 Kings 10:31)

Jehoash— “And Jehoash did what was right...because Jehoiada the priest instructed him.” (2 Kings 12:2)

- Several of the kings evidence to complexity of walking with the Lord in a fallen world.

Solomon

1 Kings 3:7,9-10—⁷ And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in...⁹ Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?¹⁰ It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this.

1 Kings 11:6—So Solomon did what was evil in the sight of the Lord and did not wholly follow the Lord, as David his father had done.

Manasseh

2 Kings 21:2,6,9—² And he did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, according to the despicable practices of the nations whom the Lord drove out before the people of Israel...He did much evil in the sight of the Lord, provoking him to anger...and Manasseh led them astray to do more evil than the nations had done whom the Lord destroyed before the people of Israel.

2 Chron. 33:12-13—¹² And when he was in distress, he entreated the favor of the Lord his God and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers.¹³ He prayed to him, and God was moved by his entreaty and heard his plea and brought him again to Jerusalem into his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the Lord was God.

Key Point: Although our lives have a general trajectory, that trajectory can be _____.

By our _____!

By God's _____!

The Blessings of the King of Kings

- As New Testament believers, we are exhorted to consider the trajectory of our lives.

Eph. 4:1-3—¹I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ²with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

⇒ The _____ of our walk impacts the trajectory of our lives.

“humility”

“gentleness”

“patience”

“bearing with one another in love”

“eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace”

- The manner of our walk is impacted by understand God’s _____ for us in Christ (Eph. 1:3-8)

Eph. 1:3—Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places...

(1) We are _____ (1:4)

(2) We are _____ and _____ in our position before Him (1:4)

(3) We are _____ (1:5)

(4) We are _____ of His grace (1:6)

(5) We are _____ and _____ (1:7)

- The manner of our walk is impacted by our understanding of Christ’s _____ and _____.

Eph. 1:18-23—¹⁸having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might ²⁰that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. ²²And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

(1) His power is displayed _____ and _____ us (1:19)

(2) This is the same power by which He was _____ from the dead (1:20a)

(3) He is the _____ of all creation (1:20b-21)

(4) He is the _____ of the Church (1:22)

Key Point: Looking in _____ to Christ and appropriating His _____ to us will set the trajectory of our walk this year.

Questions to Consider

1. What would I say the general trajectory of my life is or has been?
2. How often do I reflect upon the blessings that I have in Christ?
3. Who is it that I want to serve with my life?

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Main Point: Our lives have a trajectory that will be significantly influenced by what we love and who it is that it is that we desire to serve.

Lessons from the Kings of Israel & Judah

- The descriptions of the lives of the kings remind us that our own lives will have a certain trajectory.

⇒ Many of them did not honor the Lord with their lives.

Abijam— “...his heart was not wholly true to the Lord his God” (1 Kings 15:3)

Baasha— “He did what was evil in the sight of the Lord...” (1 Kings 15:33)

Ahaziah— “He did what was evil in the sight of the Lord...” (1 Kings 23:51)

⇒ Some of them faithfully served the Lord with their lives.

Asa— “And Asa did what was right in the eyes of the Lord...” (1 Kings 15:11)

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Key Point: Although our lives have a general trajectory, that trajectory can be changed.

By our sin!

By God's grace!

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- As New Testament believers, we are exhorted to consider the trajectory of our lives.

Eph. 4:1-3—¹I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ²with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

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- The manner of our walk is impacted by understand God’s provisions for us in Christ (Eph. 1:3-8)

Eph. 1:3—Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places...

(1) We are chose (1:4)

(2) We are holy and blameless in our position before Him(1:4)

(3) We are adopted (1:5)

(4) We are recipients of His grace (1:6)

(5) We are redeemed and forgiven (1:7)

- The manner of our walk is impacted by our understanding of Christ’s power and authority.

Eph. 1:18-23—¹⁸having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might ²⁰that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. ²²And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

(1) His power is displayed in and through us.

(2) This is the same power by which He was raised from the dead.

(3) He is the King of all creation.

(4) He is the Head of the Church.

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