

0 (2s):

Welcome to the Bible teaching ministry of Dr. Ron Jones. Our prayer is that God will use his word to change your life and fill your heart with hope. And now here's Ryan

1 (16s):

Years ago, an organization called citizens against government

2 (19s):

Waste aired a thought-provoking television commercial with a kind of a futuristic theme to it. The year

1 (26s):

Is 2030, a D and the setting is a seminar in Beijing, China

2 (32s):

With a speaker and a large crowd. And the speaker begins by saying and asking, why do great nations fall?
The ancient Greeks,

1 (41s):

The Roman empire, the British empire and the United States of America. They all make the same mistakes.
He says, turning their back on the principles that made them great. America tried to spend and tax itself

2 (54s):

Out of a great recession,

1 (56s):

Enormous so-called stimulus spending massive changes to healthcare government takeover of private industries and crushing debt.

2 (1m 6s):

And then the speaker says, of course we own most of their debt. So they now work for us. And there's this audience laughter in the commercial, of course they're in Beijing, China, nobody in America is laughing, but we get the point. Don't wait.

1 (1m 24s):

And we get the point of the powerful question. Why

2 (1m 27s):

Do great nations fall? Whatever

1 (1m 31s):

The reason for the precipitous fall, a powerful regimes in human history. One thing is true. No nation or empire lasts forever. That's just true in history and keep this in mind. As we continue on our journey on the ultimate road trip through the Bible, because we've now come to the book of second Kings we're right in the midst of the old Testament historical books. And we've been saying along the way, if we don't learn the spiritual lessons, the lessons of spiritual history, then we are doomed to repeat those mistakes

2 (2m 4s):

That even old Testament Israel made.

1 (2m 6s):

Now it's difficult to read the old Testament book of second Kings without considering the words written by the apostle Paul centuries later, Galatians chapter six and verse seven warns do not be deceived.

2 (2m 19s):

God is not mocked for whatever one sows that will. He also reap. We call it the principle of sowing and reaping and it applies to

1 (2m 29s):

Nations as much as it does individuals. We should never confuse God's patience and long suffering with his indifference to sin. Eventually a nation reaps. What it sows. Let me say that again because that's the big idea and the big takeaway from the book of second Kings, eventually a nation reaps, what it sows the wages of national sin, our decline and captivity without repentance and a turning to God. There is a payday someday, and this applies for nations as much as it does individuals. History is replete with examples of this. And we have examples of it in the book of second Kings, as it relates to now the divided kingdom.

1 (3m 15s):

Remember once Israel was a United monarchy. Now by this time in their history, their, a divided kingdom, the Northern kingdom, which is known as Israel and the Southern

2 (3m 27s):

Kingdom with Jerusalem as its capital known as Judah. Yeah. Second Kings describes the time when they fell. Despite the warnings of many prophets sent by God, the Northern kingdom, Israel

1 (3m 41s):

Fell to the Assyrians in 731 BC and the Babylonians besieged, the Southern kingdom, which was Judah in 586, BC. This is all in the history book

2 (3m 54s):

And it's all in the old Testament, history, abalone

1 (3m 58s):

Ans ransacked, Jerusalem, and deported the best of Hebrew use, including Daniel and his three friends. Are you beginning to connect some of the historical dots in the old Testament, the Northern kingdom, after the Assyrians took them captive, never recovered. They never came back together as a nation or returned to power. However, after 70 years of Babylonian captivity, a remnant of the Southern kingdom returned from exile to rebuild the broken walls of Jerusalem led by reforms, initiated by Ezra, the priest and Nehemiah. And we'll get to the books of Ezra and Nehemiah a little bit later in our second

2 (4m 37s):

Road trip here through the old Testament historical books, despite the unfaithfulness and the Wiki, goodness

1 (4m 46s):

Of God's chosen people, God remained faithful to the covenant that he made to Abraham, to Isaac, to Jacob, and indeed doing so even preserved the messianic line

2 (4m 57s):

Through the Davidic dynasty. I've gotten ahead of him self a little bit, and

1 (5m 2s):

There's a lot of historical ground for us to cover before we get to the exiles

2 (5m 5s):

Brought on by the Assyrians and later the Babylonians.

1 (5m 8s):

But overall first and second king things records nearly 400 years of a divided kingdom led mostly by evil Kings. And what we read about in the annals of the Kings while we witnessed the painful decline, the division and the captivity of a nation, but not before God sends prophet after prophet into the Northern kingdom and even into the Southern kingdom to woo his people back to him with regard to the Northern kingdom, the wickedest of the kingdoms, the Southern kingdom was a little bit better, but the Northern kingdom was most wicked.

1 (5m 51s):

God sends two prophets into the Northern kingdom, Elijah and Elisha. We met Elijah in the book first Kings beginning in chapter 17, and the powerful ministry of Elijah continues on through the end of first Kings and spills over into second Kings and tell in chapter two, in verse 11, it says that Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. What a fascinating scene that is other than Enoch that we read about in Genesis chapter five, Elijah is the only person in the Bible who exited this world without experiencing death. And perhaps he went

that way because God was not done with Elijah.

1 (6m 31s):

We hear of Elijah from that point forward. Elijah appears for example, with Moses on a mountain top with Jesus, when the savior puts his glory on display before Peter James and John do remember the Mount of transfiguration. You can read about that

2 (6m 46s):

In Matthew's gospel chapter 17.

1 (6m 48s):

There's also a mysterious link written about in the scriptures between the ministry of Elijah and John. The Baptist many during John's ministry were asking him, are you a Elijah? Are you Elijah? I remember in seminary, I had to write a paper is Alijah John the Baptist. It was a real head-scratcher,

2 (7m 9s):

But it was, it was an important question in scripture,

1 (7m 12s):

Go on a little bit further to the book of revelation in revelation, chapter 11, it describes the ministry of two witnesses with miraculous powers who help accomplish God's work during a future time in Bible prophecy, known as the tribulation. And if you go to chapter 11 of revelation and you read the descriptions of these two witnesses, they sound a lot like Moses

3 (7m 33s):

And Elijah appearing. At the end of the age,

1 (7m 36s):

Both of these men didn't did miracles on this earth during their earthly ministries, but

2 (7m 42s):

It appears they do so again, at the end of the age. And according to James,

1 (7m 53s):

Elijah is just an ordinary man with a nature like ours. You know, you read this, the story of Elijah, the prophet from first Kings 17 on second Kings two, and you get the

2 (8m 5s):

Sense, wow, Elijah's in the league, all of his

1 (8m 7s):

Own, but no, James, the new Testament writer says he had a nature just like ours. He's an ordinary man through whom God did or extra ordinary things. And James highlights the prayer ministry of Elijah. And he says the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man accomplishes much. And we should be inspired

2 (8m 28s):

To pray same way. When we studied the life of Elijah case. In point I woke up this morning or last night our power went out. There were some storms coming through

1 (8m 38s):

The area and about nine, 10 o'clock at night, boom power's out. We had our phones charged

2 (8m 43s):

Up. So we did a little research online, found out there was a lightning bolt

1 (8m 47s):

That hit a transformer nearby and put the power out. They estimated it. Wouldn't come back on until 8:00 AM. And I'm thinking, no, wait a minute. I get up at five o'clock on Sunday morning. I need my coffee. I need a hot shower. I need all of this stuff, but I fell asleep. My phone was charged. My alarm went off at five o'clock and I'm stumbling through the house in the dark with my flashlight on. And I'm trying to get some things together. I take things out to the car and I'm thinking, okay, here comes the cold shower. But before I went back to take the shower, I sat down in the den for a word of prayer. Now mind you, when the power is out, the coffee maker doesn't work. All right. So my routine is all messed up.

1 (9m 28s):

I'm mumbling these words to the Lord, Lord, thank you for the day. Thank you for the night's rest and for the opportunities of ministry and Lord, the power is out and you know, it'd be a great story. If I could tell you the power came on right then. Right. Well, it did at that very moment. I mean, the words were just that far out of my mouth, the power comes on. I was so excited. Praising the Lord. I did something that no man should ever do. I went and woke up my wife 5:00 AM. So do you know what just happened?

3 (10m 2s):

And it was just a reminder of the power of prayer

1 (10m 7s):

That nary people, just like

2 (10m 9s):

You and me and just like Elijah. I dunno how fervent my prayer was. But the Lord, the Lord heard me there

1 (10m 21s):

Before Elijah was taken up to heaven. His disciple Elisha

2 (10m 25s):

Asked for a double portion of a spirit. By the way, I wish I had time to develop this first glimpse that we have into biblical discipleship, where Elijah disciples, we use the word mentor sometimes, but disciplined his successor, Elijah.

1 (10m 45s):

And just before Elijah was taken up in the whirlwind to heaven, Elisha his disciple asks for a double portion of his ministry. I love the bold request. Elijah, give me twice what the Lord has given to you.

2 (11m 1s):

And Elijah replied

1 (11m 4s):

Here. It is in second Kings chapter two verses nine and 10 Elisha said, please let there be a double portion of your spirit on me. And he said, you have asked hard thing yet. If you see me as I am being taken from you, it shall be so for you. But if you do not see me,

2 (11m 23s):

It shall not be. So in other words, Elijah, stay close to me. And if you, if you watch me go, the double portion will

1 (11m 30s):

Be here as well. Lasha watched as chariots of fire and horses of fire escorted his mentor to heaven. What a fabulous scene

2 (11m 40s):

In the book of second Kings

1 (11m 42s):

And the Bible tells us that immediately Elijah picked up Elijah's cloak that he had left behind and he struck the Jordan river with it, something that Elijah had done before. And it part of the Jordan river and dried up the ground while the water parted as before and Elijah walked across the dry ground, confirming the transfer of the prophetic office from Elijah to Elisha

2 (12m 2s):

Powerful scene. There men

1 (12m 5s):

From the school of prophets witnessed the miracle and they affirm a Lysa as the prophet of God. And soon thereafter, the Bible says that Elijah performed two more miracles once turning bad water into clean water. And then he also cursed a group of teenagers who mocked him for his baldness. Good for Elijah. You don't mock the bald man of God. Yeah. Elisha performed twice. The number of miracles

2 (12m 35s):

That Alicia did, he got his double portion.

1 (12m 38s):

Now neither Elisha nor Elijah were writers. They didn't write any books, but apparently people collected their stories and told and retold their stories. On one occasion, the king of Israel was talking with <inaudible> Elisha's servant and said, tell me all the great things that Alicia has done. What a great question. I love the King's enthusiasm there to know, and to learn about all the stirring stories and the things that God had done through this great man of God, Elijah, we should be just as enthusiastic

2 (13m 12s):

About a study of this profits life. Now,

1 (13m 16s):

As I mentioned earlier, there's this mysterious link between the ministries of Elijah, not Elijah, but Elijah and John, the Baptist, but there's, there's no such link. And we might assume there is, but there is no such link overtly between the ministry of Elijah and Jesus. However, the parallels between their two ministries are worth considering, for example, the name of Elisha means God is salvation. And the name Jesus means y'all way saves Elijah and Jesus both began their ministries at the Jordan river.

1 (13m 56s):

They both raised a woman's son from death to life. They both fed a multitude of people with a small quantity of food and then had leftovers. They both healed the blind. They both healed the lepers, but that's not all Eliza also multiplied a widow's oil and Jesus turned water into wine. They both had miracles related to liquid. Elijah made an iron ax head float in water. Jesus walked on water and he enabled Peter

2 (14m 26s):

To walk on water until Peter lost a little bit of faith and courage.

1 (14m 32s):

And then finally, and I think most compellingly Jesus's death and Elijah's death brought new life.

2 (14m 42s):

There's a story in

1 (14m 44s):

Second Kings chapter 13, that is really quite unusual ASP after Elijah's death. Some and Raiders hastily took a dead man's body and tossed it in a <inaudible> grave. And as soon as that man's body touched the bones of Elijah. The Bible says he revived and stood on his feet. Can you imagine being that dead man who wakes up in Elijah's grave next to Elijah's dead body, but even post-mortem Elisha's life and ministry had resurrection power. We might say, what's the connection to Jesus and what come on.

1 (15m 26s):

That's an obvious one. Jesus died on the cross. They tossed his body

2 (15m 31s):

Into a rich man's grave. Three days later, he walks out with resurrection power and because he lives eternal life belongs to us by faith in him.

1 (15m 43s):

Now Elijah's bold ministry foreshadowed, John, the Baptist powerful preaching, which John, the Baptist ministry emphasized

2 (15m 53s):

Repentance and the judgment to come. John,

1 (15m 55s):

The Baptist lived in the wilderness. He wore camel skins. He ate locusts and honey, nobody would apply the words polished and sophisticated to John the Baptist. I mean, John was

2 (16m 7s):

A rather

1 (16m 8s):

Daring and resolute. He was an in your face kind of prophet of God liked the prophet Elijah. And then Elijah comes along and he's more like Jesus who was full of grace and truth and resurrection life and hope. Elijah could deliver a stern word if he needed to just as Jesus could, but both Elijah and Jesus knew how to speak the truth in love. And so you have these, these parallels to these new Testament ministries, certainly Alijah is a foreshadowing of John, the Baptist, but Elijah's ministry in a strange kind of way.

2 (16m 48s):

Certainly parallels the ministry of Jesus,

1 (16m 51s):

Jesus compared his generation. Do you remember this to a group of children in the marketplace calling out, saying, we played the pipe for you and you did not dance. We sang a dirge for you and you did not dance. And then he compared the impact of his ministry and John, the Baptist, he says for John came neither eating or drinking. And they say he has a demon. The son of man came eating and drinking and they say, here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners. But wisdom is proved right by her deeds. And you can make a similar comparison to the ministries of Elijah and Elisha. These were two different profets, two different ministry styles, two different personalities.

1 (17m 33s):

And God sent them into the Northern kingdom and their powerful ministries yield the same indifferent response from the Northern kingdom. And it begs the question, what's it going to take to, to reach you? We could sing and dance and put on a soft shoe up here and preach entertaining messages that make you feel good. I could do that all day or we could speak the truth and love the truth that you and I both need to hear at the end of the day and different heart. It doesn't matter.

1 (18m 14s):

The style, the personality

2 (18m 18s):

Takes a heart to receive it and respond

1 (18m 21s):

The Northern kingdom, despite these two powerful ministries and other profets that followed, never turned back to God. They followed in the evil ways of king Jeroboam, who led them into idolatry

2 (18m 39s):

And into wickedness. Wow, there was maybe one exception in the Northern kingdom and it was a king named Jay who, and we'll get to him in a moment, but in time God lost his patience with the Northern kingdom. He was patient and long suffering, but in time he sent the ruthless Assyrians who

1 (19m 1s):

Administered his justice

2 (19m 4s):

And took captive the Israelites. Now

1 (19m 7s):

Chapters one to 17 mentioned 11 Kings in the Northern kingdom. There are 19 in all,

2 (19m 15s):

If you go back to first Kings, but there are 11 in second Kings who mostly did what was evil in the eyes of the Lord. Jay, who,

1 (19m 23s):

Who had just mentioned rained for 28 years and was the king with the most promise. I say wahoo for Jay who in the Northern kingdom, say that with me, wahoo for Jay. Now you got to say it with enthusiasm. All right. Wahoo for Jay, who? I got it from an old Sunday school teacher years ago, when I came out of college, I was in Dallas, Texas and

2 (19m 44s):

Starting seminary. And I joined this church and the Sunday school teacher was part of the counseling group after

1 (19m 50s):

The service. And he was meeting

2 (19m 52s):

With me about, you know, becoming a member of the church. He stood about this tall, but I remember a Sunday school lesson. He taught, he titled it wahoo for Jay who, all right. He

1 (20m 1s):

Was also the guy, by the way, who said to me, after the little counseling session, I can pray for you for two weeks. I'll put you on my prayer list for two weeks, but then I got to move on and I thought, fine. I'll take two weeks. You know, whatever it is wahoo for Jay who say it with me again, wahoo for Jay who? Well, Elijah sent his student from one of the schools of prophets with a flask of oil and said, go to Jay who anoint him with oil and instruct him that his first Royal duty is to strike the house of Ahab. You remember a Hab, the wicked king in the north and has even more wicked queen Jezebel.

1 (20m 43s):

Well, they were still around at this time, not in power, but still around. And their descendants were there. Well, Jay who received his anointing with great zeal carried out his Royal duties, including the brutal execution of the former queen Jezebel in fulfillment of a lie, just prophecy

2 (21m 3s):

In first Kings chapter, 19 number 17, God doesn't forget. And eventually justice came

1 (21m 11s):

And the Lord rewarded J who for his obedience by placing

2 (21m 14s):

His sons on the throne is real for four more generations. But they were as wicked as wicked could be

1 (21m 22s):

J who gets credit for getting rid of bail worship

2 (21m 25s):

In Israel, brought in by king Ahab and queen Jezebel.

1 (21m 31s):

But his reforms did not go far enough. Remember when Jeroboam came to the north and he built those pagan worship sites with golden calves and Bethel and Dan,

2 (21m 41s):

Well, Jay who left those in place and they proved troublesome for Israel. He left the door open for wickedness and generations. After that, that ran back to the ways of Jeroboam.

1 (22m 1s):

The Kings in the north are always compared to the standard of wickedness set by Jeroboam. The Kings in the south are always compared to the standard righteousness set

2 (22m 13s):

By king David. And that's an interesting study.

1 (22m 16s):

Eventually the Lord's patients ran out and he began handing Israel over to her

2 (22m 21s):

Enemies in the Northern. We came to them until eventually the Assyrians came in 731 BC. And that's the last you ever hear of the Northern kingdom. They're never brought back together again,

1 (22m 36s):

Nine separate Royal dynasties rise and fall

2 (22m 42s):

In Israel, the Northern kingdom, each one, securing

1 (22m 44s):

Power by killing off what remained of the form

2 (22m 49s):

Until there was nothing left in the Northern

1 (22m 51s):

Cape. The Southern kingdom lasted for more than a century longer. There's only one dynasty that held power in Judah with Jerusalem as the capital. You can guess which dynasty that is. That's the Davidic dynasty. And every king that reigned in the Southern kingdom in Judah was a descendant of David. It was God's way of preserving the messianic line and reminding us that he's not limited by human failure. You see, before the divided kingdom, when it was a United Kingdom, following Solomon's wickedness, the Davidic dynasty would have been threatened because they wiped out the former family that couldn't happen. And so the divided kingdom was in one sense, a measure of God's judgment and his discipline and his justice, but also a way of isolating the Davidic kingdom in the south and preserving the messianic

3 (23m 46s):

All the way to Bethlehem,

1 (23m 48s):

Which Matthew highlights in his genealogical record in Matthew chapter one. What a, what an amazing way that despite the unfaithfulness of God's people God's plan marches forward. And he isolates

2 (24m 2s):

The Davidic dynasty down here all the way to Bethlehem,

1 (24m 11s):

Even so only eight of David's 20 Royal

2 (24m 16s):

Descendants. And you have 20 Kings in the south. Only eight of them did what was right in the eyes of the Lord. Two of them led reforms that are worth noting. And you read about it in second. Kings king has a Kiah and king Josiah

1 (24m 34s):

Six years before the overthrow of Israel's capital in Samaria, a king becomes king of Judah in the south. And he was a good king. He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, led many positive spiritual reforms. He was a faith-filled person. And because of that, God spared Judah from the Assyrians in the north and prospered the Southern kingdom for a while. But Hezekiah's son was Manasseh and Manasseh reigned after Hezekiah. And he reigned for 55 years. That's a long reign and he rejected his father's faith and led the Southern kingdom Israel back into the idolatrous

2 (25m 14s):

Ways of her past and all of that contributed

1 (25m 18s):

Eventually to Judah's downfall and their captivity

2 (25m 21s):

Of the Babylonians were coming eventually

1 (25m 24s):

Two generations later after Manasseh king, Josiah sits on the throne and he assumes the throne at the age of eight. Josiah is a fabulous study. They had Regents that led the nation for him until he came of age. The best guess is probably in his late teens. He assumes power and Josiah sends a servant to kind of clean up the temple. And the servant discovers the law of God, brings it back to king. Josiah reads it in his presence and king Josiah tears, his clothes in repentance realizing just how far the nation has turned away from God and king Josiah leads reforms, a bright spot in the Southern kingdom, but it only lasted for a generation and then four more Kings follow and a period of a little bit more than a decade before divine judgment falls upon Judah in the form of three Babylonian deportations.

1 (26m 21s):

The last of which happened in 586 BC, when king Nebuchadnezzar came into Jerusalem, besieged Jerusalem, and destroyed the temple, grabbed Daniel and his three friends off to Babylon. They go for 70 years. There's no remnant left in the Northern kingdom, but after 70 years, there's a remnant that goes back

2 (26m 42s):

To Jerusalem under the leadership of Ezra, the priest Nehemiah the builder. We'll get to those books in a few weeks and they start rebuilding their broken lives. Take a deep breath. That's a lot of history, but here's the question. Why do great nations fall? For example,

1 (27m 5s):

Why did the mighty Roman empire fall ever studied that in history, historians differ on their assessment was Rome invaded by barbarian tribes. Did they overexpand over spend over tax? Their people did government

corruption and political instability contribute to Rome's notorious decline. Yeah, probably all of that is in the mix, but from God's perspective, great nations crumble from within because they do what is evil in his eyes.

2 (27m 36s):

And all of the rest of it is circumstance. I'm not the first to wonder is the United States of America in decline. It took Rome a hundred years to fall historians, you know, mark out about a hundred years of their decline.

1 (27m 56s):

The only, I hope for a nation in spiritual decline then and now, and even for us today

2 (28m 3s):

Is the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ,

1 (28m 7s):

Which is why I want to finish our study

2 (28m 10s):

Of second Kings by going to second Kings chapter five. And just reminding us of a story about a guy named Naomen the leper, I call it the gospel, according to leper gospel, according to Nam. And let me explain why

1 (28m 25s):

Nam was a commander of the army of the king of Syria. He was a pretty important guy and he did his job. Well. He was called a great man, a man of high favor, a mighty man of valor in the scriptures. But Naman Naman was a leper. He had been inflicted with this horrible flesh

2 (28m 47s):

Eating disease called leprosy. I keep in mind that leprosy in the Bible is a picture of our sin. All right. Just kind of mark that in the back of your mind, the king

1 (28m 60s):

Of Syria. And when he learned about Naaman's leprosy, the king of Syria writes a letter to the king of Israel

2 (29m 8s):

And send some gold and some silver along, probably some bride money just to warm up the king of Israel's heart.

1 (29m 13s):

And he says to the king of Israel, will you help my man Nam? And the leper will you heal him? And the king of Israel says, who am I? Who am I to heal this guy? I'm nobody. I'm just a king. Well, apparently Elijah

overheard or Alicia overheard the conversation. And Elijah says to the king of Israel, send them to me, send them to me. And through us servant Elijah servant, Elijah sends me we're through his servant

2 (29m 40s):

To Naomen. Here's what you need to do. Go down to the Jordan river,

1 (29m 45s):

Dip yourself in the river seven

2 (29m 47s):

Times. Not once, not twice, not three and a half times, but seven times. And you'll be cleaned of your leprosy. Well, Naomen again

1 (29m 58s):

An important guy in Syria. He was incensed. He was insulted that Elijah sent his servant to deliver the news. He says I'm Nam and the commander, at least the prophet can come and tell me this face to face. And besides all of that, why the dirty filthy Jordan river in Israel? Don't we have good rivers here in Syria, near Damascus and Nam and full of pride. And incense starts to leave still a leper. And that's when a couple of his servants pull him aside and said, listen and commander, I think, I think you need to think twice about what the prophet told you to do.

1 (30m 41s):

Just

3 (30m 41s):

Go down to the river and dip yourself. And they eman takes a deep breath.

2 (30m 46s):

And the Bible says he went down to the Jordan river, just as the prophet told him to do through his servant and dipped himself once dipped himself twice. By the third time, I'm wondering if he's wondering, is this going to work as each time he comes up and he looks at his hands and the leprosy is still there, but the prophet said seven times 4, 5, 6, his heart is racing by now. He dips the seventh time. He comes up out of the water, looks at his hands.

4 (31m 17s):

He's clean. The leprosy is gone.

1 (31m 25s):

Why don't I, I call this the gospel according to Nam. And because it's a beautiful picture,

2 (31m 31s):

Not only of our sin condition, where all stricken was spiritual leprosy, all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. The Bible says, but do you want to be clean? You want to be healed. You want to be

1 (31m 46s):

Forgiven. Don't come with your pride and say, no, it has to be done this way. Lay aside your pride, humble yourself, and do what the Bible says. You do.

2 (32m 2s):

You come to the cross as a humble sinner in need of a savior.

1 (32m 8s):

I don't care if you're a king, a prime minister, a CEO executive. I don't care how important you are in

2 (32m 14s):

The eyes of the world. Everybody comes as a humble sinner in need of a savior. And you do exactly what Jesus says to do. He said, I'm the way the truth and the life. And no man comes to the father. But by me, you come and kneel as a humble sinner and ask for God's forgiveness,

1 (32m 37s):

Ask by faith for the free gift of eternal life that is made possible only

2 (32m 43s):

By the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. There's no other river to dip yourself in, but the river of the blood of Jesus

1 (32m 52s):

Christ that flows from Calvary, lay aside your pride and just humble yourself. Come as he invites you to come, you don't know better than him. You can go dip yourself

2 (33m 9s):

In your Damascus river. You can do it 70 times and you're still going to come up

4 (33m 14s):

A leper, but Naman was smart enough wise enough.

2 (33m 19s):

He calmed down enough to do what the prophet told him to do about six 15 this morning, on my way here, I

get a text message from a pastor friend of mine. He's been a great encouragement to me here in the area. And I hope I've reciprocated and been an encouragement to him, but he says, Ron, I, I woke up this morning and the Lord puts you on my heart. And I just want you to know I'm praying for you. He didn't know anything about power outages and a coffee maker that didn't work and stumbling around in the dark. And

1 (33m 58s):

I don't think the Lord was the least bit concerned.

2 (34m 2s):

Well, maybe a little bit about a warm shower for the pastor and coffee. Otherwise I might've been a little grouchy this morning and you know what happened to the pastor? No, I think the Lord's up to something else today. I think there's a soul to save maybe two or three or four or five. There are some names out there, here in person online. And today is the day of salvation. Today's the day you humble yourself. How many prophets

1 (34m 35s):

Does God need to send? How many messages do you need to hear? We can dance. We can entertain. We can say it to you straight. But at the end of the day, your indifferent prideful heart is getting in the way of just coming and doing what Jesus says to do what he has offered. So graciously to us, the free gift of eternal life, forgiveness,

3 (35m 1s):

Cleansing a home in heaven, but there's one way. There's one river

2 (35m 11s):

There. There's not three and a half dips. I am the way

1 (35m 17s):

The truth and the life. No man comes to the father, but by me,

2 (35m 22s):

Just humble yourself and calm and make this a day of salvation.

1 (35m 29s):

Why did great nations fall? Because the people in those nations, sometimes even

2 (35m 34s):

God's people do what is evil in the eyes of the Lord. And despite calls to repentance, they continue in their evil ways. How do we prevent great nations from falling? It happens one humble repentant soul. At a time

let's begin today. I'll make a deal with you. I'll pray this prayer. If you pray this prayer and mean it search me O God and know my heart, try me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any wicked way in me and lead me in the way everlasting.

2 (36m 15s):

And he will lead you to that everlasting way. He will lead you to the cross because the cross of Christ is the way to eternal life. The cross of Christ is the way to the sanctified life, to the abundant life. For the believer in Jesus starts at the cross and invite you to come today.

0 (36m 35s):

You've been listening to the Bible teaching ministry of Dr. Ron Jones for a complete list of resources available from Ron's ministry, visit [something good radio.org](http://somethinggoodradio.org).