



What is God like?



Unexpected Success
2 KINGS 14:1-29

Unexpected Success

1. Israel Defeats Judah

- the “evil” king is wise and victorious, and the “good” king is proud, foolish and defeated
- foreshadows Judah’s future defeat and exile for its compromised worship

²³ In the fifteenth year of Amaziah the son of Joash king of Judah, Jeroboam the son of Joash king of Israel became king in Samaria, *and reigned* forty-one years. ²⁴ He did evil in the sight of the LORD; he did not depart from all the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, which he made Israel sin. ²⁵ He restored the border of Israel from the entrance of Hamath as far as the Sea of the Arabah, according to the word of the LORD, the God of Israel, which He spoke through His servant Jonah the son of Amittai, the prophet, who was of Gath-hepher. ²⁶ For the LORD saw the affliction of Israel, *which was* very bitter; for there was neither bond nor free, nor was there any helper for Israel. ²⁷ The LORD did not say that He would blot out the name of Israel from under heaven, but He saved them by the hand of Jeroboam the son of Joash.

²⁸ Now the rest of the acts of Jeroboam and all that he did and his might, how he fought and how he recovered for Israel, Damascus and Hamath, *which had belonged* to Judah, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel? ²⁹ And Jeroboam slept with his fathers, even with the kings of Israel, and Zechariah his son became king in his place.

(2 Kings 14:23-29)

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2. Israel Enjoys Prosperity

- though he did “evil” in the sight of the Lord, Jeroboam reigned forty-one years
- Jeroboam restored the ideal borders of Israel as existed under Solomon – *by God’s word*
- Jeroboam was Yahweh’s promised savior! (cf. 13:5)

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Q. Why this undeserved prosperity?

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➤ Principles (*What is God like?*)

1. God is full of compassion and delights to show mercy

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➤ Principles (*What is God like?*)

2. God is utterly free to show mercy to whom He desires, and His mercy is completely undeserved

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➤ Principles (*What is God like?*)

3. God is gracious and slow to anger, yet He will not leave the guilty unpunished

⁴ Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance? ⁵ But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God,

(Romans 2:4-5)