E/E Daring Dudes #18 Pastor Rick Baker

September 19 2021

**God, Governance, and Grace:**

The Carnage of Unrestrained Evil

2 Kings 6:24-7:20

*Standing between humanity and unthinkable wickedness is the restraining grace of God. Governments are stand-in stewards of divine restraint...****until they aren’t****!*

4 God-given levels of restraint of evil—*Where there is no “vision”, people cast off restraint (Prov. 29:18)...but blessed is the one who heeds wisdom’s instruction.*

* Conscience—Rom. 2:15 (personal)
* Family—Deut. 6:1f (relational)
* Government—Rom. 13:4 (civil)
* True Church—2 Cor. 5:17; 2 Thes. 2:6,7; 1 Tim. 3:15 (spiritual)

*WHAT MUST GOD DO TO FINALLY GRAB YOUR ATTENTION?* In a famine God can bring plenty from the most unlikely to the most unworthy.

* **Beware of engaging in all show religion while two-timing God.**

Ritual hypocrisy at the top invites the disciplinary hand of the Lord

*“...the people looked and there, underneath, he (the king) had sackcloth on his body.” (6:30)*

* Grace without reform is nice, but it isn’t righteous (6:23/6:24)
* Relief is promised for genuine repentance (cf. 2 Chron 7:14)...a broken and contrite heart the Lord will not despise (Ps. 51:17)
* Consequential curses play out for covenantal unfaithfulness (cf. Deut. 28:53-57)
* Crisis clarifies values and the clarity is often horribly disturbing
* Personal survival makes otherwise nice people desperate devils

Money can’t save you when God withdraws his restraint of hyper-inflation

*What have you become in the last 20 months?*

* **Expect conflict to increase as God turns up the spiritual temperature of your heart.**

Nations rage, the faithless cannibalize their children, the faithful gather together and pray

*“Hear the word of the LORD. This is what the LORD says...”(7:1)*

* The action of God is launched by His word.
* Those who resist the Lord have historically considered the messengers of God the cause of their problems.

*“Wicked men will blame anyone as the cause of their troubles, rather than themselves, and will not leave their sins.” M. Henry*

* When in the crosshairs of the enraged, you can keep your head by keeping your head...and heart and waiting on the Lord. *The signs of wicked governance—uncertainty, uneasiness, anxiety, fearful, division*

*Are you resting confidently in the Lord?*

* **Yes, God can open up the windows of heaven!**

Grace upon grace, God keeps covenant with his people in spite of their unworthiness

*“the LORD caused the Arameans to hear the sound of chariots and horses and a great army...” (7:6)*

* Outcasts, little faith, a mocker—one of these is disqualified from grace. (unbelief)
* Those who mock the magnificence of the Lord will remain unpardoned. They will see His glory and miss out on the eternal benefits of God’s grace. *Promises of this world or the promises of God—which do you believe will disappoint?*
* God is able to make all things work for the good of those who love Him (Rom. 8:28).

*When strength is all gone*

*Are you fully trusting in the Lord for your salvation—do you believe He alone can save?*