

Tapes For Growing Christians

Study Guide for
2 Kings

Growing Christians Ministries
Box 2268, Westerly, RI 02891
growingchristians.org

Lesson 1

Elijah Pronounces Judgment on Wicked King Ahaziah of Israel 2 Kings 1:1-18

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. God's judgment upon unbelievers will not be withheld forever.
2. God's mercy is available for all those who humble themselves before God.

practical applications

1. Where do you turn when you are hurting?
2. Let's not be afraid to confront the unbeliever with truth.

questions

1. Why did God permit the nation of Moab to mount a successful rebellion against Israel?
2. Is illness or injury a form of God's discipline?
 - a) always
 - b) sometimes
 - c) never
3. God's judgment upon believers will not be withheld forever. Explain this doctrinal point by contrasting the lessons in 1 Kings 18 and 2 Kings 1.
4. How long will the wrath of God's judgment be restrained?
5. Why did Ahaziah turn to a pagan god instead of turning to the Lord?
6. List some reasons hurting people fail to turn to God for healing.

answers

1. This was God's means of disciplining Israel because they had turned away from Him.
2. b) sometimes
3. When Elijah confronted the prophets of Baal, the judgment of God fell upon the sacrifice rather than on the unbelieving people. This is a picture of the judgment of God coming down upon Christ on the cross of Calvary. The two companies of fifty soldiers killed by the fire of God is a picture of the coming judgment of God directly upon unbelievers.
4. During this present age of grace, which could end at any time.
5. He was out of touch with the Lord, and had sinned against God.
6. Because of pride and unwillingness to submit to God's dealing in our lives. Because of a lack of knowledge of God and His great mercy. People need to change their ways and admit that they have sinned, and ask God's forgiveness.

discuss / consider

1. Refer to Hebrews 10:26-27. Knowing that God's judgment will not be withheld forever, are you concerned enough to confront unbelievers with the gospel of Christ?
2. Do you find it difficult to humble yourself before the Lord, honestly admitting the sin in your life? Identify yourself with the third captain.

challenge

Recall times when you have been hurting. Did you turn to the Lord for healing? If not, where did you turn? Did you experience healing?

memorize

"Is it because there is no God in Israel that you inquire of Baal-Zebub?" 2 Kings 1:3

"The third captain of fifty...fell on his knees, and pleaded, 'Let my life and the life of these fifty servants of yours be precious in your sight.'" 2 Kings 1:13

Lesson 2

The Rapture of Elijah and the Beginning of Elisha's Ministry 2 Kings 2:1-14

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. God arranges the departure schedule of His servants.
2. Elijah's departure is a picture of the rapture.

practical applications

1. Why think of retirement when you could be like Elijah?
2. Why not think like Elisha when it comes to vacancies?

questions

1. Who knew that Elijah was about to be taken home to heaven?
2. On what issues was Elisha being tested? Did he pass?
3. What was the last miracle of Elijah and the first miracle of Elisha?
4. Is our departure to heaven (or, God forbid, hell) purely happenstance?
5. Discuss Elijah's departure to heaven. Of what is this a picture? Support this with a New Testament passage.

answers

1. Elijah, Elisha, and the sons of the prophets (2 Kings 2:3, 9)
2. Was he really committed to the ministry? Was he ready to take on Elijah's mantle? Yes.
3. The parting of the Jordan River (2 Kings 2:8, 14)
4. No. It depends on our acceptance or rejection of Jesus Christ as personal Savior.
5. God knew the time and place and the means of Elijah's departure to heaven. A chariot of fire and horses appeared, and took him to heaven. God knows the time and place and the means of our departure from this earth. This is a picture of the rapture. See 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18.

discuss / consider

1. What are your thoughts about death? What are your thoughts about heaven and hell? About the rapture?
2. Are these thoughts based on Scripture? For example, turn to 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 and Psalm 116:15.

challenge

Elijah served the Lord in his retirement years by visiting and encouraging the student prophets. He tested Elisha's commitment, and taught him along the way. He was a caring spiritual father right up to the end. If you are retired, how are you serving the Lord?

Elisha asked Elijah for a double portion of his spirit. He was willing to pick up the responsibilities of the prophetic office – the vacancy that would be left when Elijah was taken away. If you are not retired, have you willingly stepped into a vacancy?

In either retirement or workforce, can you say with Paul, "Lord, what do you want me to do?" (Acts 9:6)

memorize

"Ask! What may I do for you, before I am taken away from you?" 2 Kings 2:9

"Please let a double portion of your spirit be upon me." 2 Kings 2:9

Lesson 3

Elisha Begins to Fill the Shoes of Elijah God's Judgment on Some Teenagers Who Mocked the Prophet Elisha 2 Kings 2:15-25

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. Salt is the solution to this world's problems.
2. Blessing or cursing is determined by response to God's word.

practical applications

1. Let's be salt shakers, not just salt containers.
2. Teach your child to respect the Lord's servants.

questions

1. Discuss "Elisha's Spring."
2. Explain the significance of "salt"
 - a. In ancient times
 - b. In the same way today
3. What does Jericho represent?
4. What happens when there is bad water?
5. How does the world try to solve its problems? Take, for example, the problem of AIDS.
6. How does "spiritual salt" solve problems? (Continue with the problem of AIDS)
7. What does the new bowl represent?
8. How can Christians be salt shakers, and not just salt containers?
9. Why would God send bears to kill little children?
10. How is blessing or curse determined?

answers

1. The modern city of Jericho, even to this day, receives part of its water supply from a spring known as “Elisha’s Spring.” There is good evidence that this is the same spring into which Elisha cast the salt.
2.
 - a. In ancient times, before modern refrigeration, salt was used as a preservative. It prevented the spread of decay in foods.
 - b. In the same way, we as Christians are to prevent the spread of spiritual and moral decay in the world today. Salt is a symbol of the preserving and purifying power of truth which, as Christians, we possess in Christ.
3. A picture of the world – a pleasant place, but with “bad water”
4. People die, there is no life, the land is barren and unfruitful, and many more problems and complications result from bad water.
5. The world tries everything to come up with a solution – research, drugs, campaigns for safe sex, etc., but it refuses the true solution, the salt of biblical truth.
6. The salt of biblical truth is that sex outside of monogamous marriages is wrong. Abstinence is biblical. Homosexuality is sin.
7. Christians are the new bowl, containing the salt.
8. By speaking the truth directly to the sinful heart of man.
9. The Hebrew word used here is for teens and older. A negative response to God’s word brings a curse on those who mock God.
10. By a person’s response to God’s word

discuss / consider

1. Have you ever caused a delay in the ministry of the Lord by wanting to check out facts that are already obvious? (Like sending a search party for Elijah after he was taken up into heaven? Like withholding a gift for a Christian institution that is doing a good work for the Lord?)
2. Look up Matthew 5:13. List some of the problems in your neighborhood. As a bowl or salt shaker, how are you influencing the world in your little corner?

challenge

How do you look at servants of God? What is your sphere of influence on children and youth regarding respect for the Lord’s servants? Is it positive or negative? What kind of example should you be, and what kind of influence should you have, according to Scripture?

memorize

“...the city is pleasant, but the water is bad...Elisha went to the source of the water, and cast in the salt, and said, ‘Thus says the Lord, I have healed this water; from it there shall be no more death or barrenness.’” 2 Kings 2:18, 21

“Some youths came from the city and mocked him...he pronounced a curse on them.” 2 Kings 2:23-24

Lesson 4

The Battle Between Moab and Combined Forces (Israel, Judah Edom) & The Digging of Ditches 2 Kings 3:1-27

background notes

- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

doctrinal points

1. Bad company corrupts good character.
2. The Lord can bring water to the wilderness.

practical applications

1. Use praise music to calm your spirit.
2. Let's be faithful ditch diggers.

questions

1. What was King Jehoram's agenda in this portion of Scripture?
2. What was the biggest problem facing the combined forces?
3. Why was Jehoshaphat in trouble?
4. What did the Lord predict in this passage? Did it come to pass?
5. What did it take from the people to bring water to the wilderness? How does this relate to us today?
7. How can spiritual thirst be quenched?

answers

1. He wanted to force Moab into subjection again, and to get the tribute money back.
2. A lack of water
3. Although he was a good and godly king, Jehoshaphat mixed with the wrong company, and as a result he did some foolish things. He was in trouble because he linked himself with wicked King Jehoram. His bad company corrupted good character.
4. That the valley would be filled with water. Yes. See 2 Kings 3:20.
5. The army had to dig ditches in obedience to Elisha's command from the Lord (2 Kings 3:16-17). We must obey, have faith, and work to receive water in the wilderness of our lives.
6. By enlarging our capacity by spending time each day studying the Bible, and availing ourselves to the teaching of God's word.

discuss / consider

1. Have you ever found yourself being drawn into a "coalition" with "bad" company? If so, what did you do about it? Join in? Withdraw? What were the results? Might they have been different if you had decided otherwise? If so, how?
2. Does music have a calming effect on you?

challenge

Are you in a spiritual wilderness right now? Are you thirsty for water (a word from the living God)? Don't be satisfied with surface scratches. Dig deeply!

memorize

"They went by way of the Wilderness...and there was not water." 2 Kings 3:8-9

"When the musician played, the hand of the Lord came upon him." 2 Kings 3:15

"You shall not see wind, nor shall you see rain; yet the valley shall be filled with water, so that you may drink." 2 Kings 3:17

Lesson 5

The Widow's Oil Multiplied 2 Kings 4:1-7

background notes

7.

8.

9.

doctrinal points

1. The needs of widows are known to God.
2. The extent of God's blessing is dependant on faith and obedience.

practical applications

1. What do you have in your house?
2. You must be emptied before you can be filled.

questions

1. Give evidence that the sons of the prophets were not celibate.
2. Did the schools provide a pension plan for widows?
3. Were there government agencies to care for widows? If not, how were the needs of the families met?
4. Discuss the widow's need and how it was met.
5. The extent of God's blessing is dependant on faith and obedience. What does this mean in terms of this passage? What does it mean to you today?

answers

1. Marriage was permitted. See 2 Kings 4:1
2. No.
3. No. The Lord had promised to meet their needs. Read Deuteronomy 10:17-18 and Psalm 146:9.
4. The creditor was at hand, coming to take her two sons to be his slaves. The widow had only a little oil in her home, but it was multiplied by a miracle at the hand of Elisha. She then sold the oil, for which there was a ready market, and the debt was paid.
5. God blessed this widow because she obeyed in faith. She was to collect as many empty containers as possible. She obeyed in faith and was blessed with a miracle. The oil ceased when there were no more vessels. The spiritual lesson here was that God's supply was as great as the widow's faith. If there had been more containers, there would have been more oil. It has the same meaning today – we will receive God's blessing in our lives as we are willing to obey God and walk by faith. We can limit His blessing by lack of faith and disobedience.

discuss / consider

1. What is the extent of your faith? Do you believe that God can meet all of your needs?
2. How empty is your vessel? Review your life, even for a day (longer, if you are really into this), and try to be objective – list things you did that were self-centered. Review again, and list things that were God-centered. Again, how empty is your vessel? Let God fill it.

challenge

Moses had a rod, David had a sling, the widow had a jar of oil. What do you have that can be used by the Lord?

memorize

"Elisha said, 'What shall I do for you?'" 2 Kings 4:2

"When the vessels were full, the oil ceased." 2 Kings 4:6

Lesson 6

The Shunamite Woman Who built a Prophet's Chamber 2 Kings 4:8-17

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. God rewards those who care for the needs of others.
2. God's servants should never presume upon the goodness of God's people.

practical applications

1. Are you content with your status?
2. Have you ever built a prophet's chamber?

questions

1. Describe the status and character of the Shunamite woman.
2. What was her particular concern and care for the prophet Elisha?
3. Did Elisha take her kindness for granted?
4. Read Matthew 25:33-40. On what basis did the Lord give rewards?
5. What did it mean when the Shunamite woman replied, "I dwell among my own people"?

answers

1. The Shunamite woman was a prominent and notable woman in her area. She did good deeds, touching the lives of many people. She was not too busy to help a servant of God. She was sensitive to her relationship with her husband, seeking his consent and cooperation.
2. The woman was spiritually sensitive to the needs of a servant of God. She provided him with the necessities of a servant of God and the amenities to make his stay both pleasant and convenient. She provided a private room, a bed, a table, a chair and a lampstand.
3. No. He wanted to show his gratitude for her kindness.
4. On the basis of their care for God's servants. It will be evidence of their faith.
5. It means that she was content with her status and whatever she had. She did not covet what she didn't have, nor envy those who had more.

discuss / consider

1. Are you truly content with your status? Or, do you crave more? Do you envy those who have things that you don't have? Review the status and contentment of the Shunamite woman.
2. Do you know Christians who are content with a godly contentment? Do you know Christians who are not content? Which would you rather be like? Look up the following portions of Scripture: Philippians 4:11, 1 Timothy 6:6, and Hebrews 13:5.

challenge

Have you ever enjoyed being the recipient of a prophet's chamber? If so, how did you show your gratitude? Have you ever built a prophet's chamber? In what way? When? How often? Look around you and see the needs of a servant of the Lord. Pray about how you can meet these needs.

memorize

"I know that this is a holy man of God, who passes by us regularly." 2 Kings 4:9

"You have been concerned for us with all this care. What can I do for you?" 2 Kings 4:13

Lesson 7

The Sudden and Unexpected Death of the Shunamite Woman's Son and His Return to Life through Elisha's Ministry 2 Kings 4:18-37

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. Bad things do happen to good people.
2. Faith presses on.

practical applications

1. Don't be like the Shunamite man.
2. Be like the Shunamite woman.

questions

1. What caused the death of the boy?
2. What did the Shunamite woman do when she knew her boy was dead?
3. What did the Shunamite man do?
4. What did Elisha do when he heard about the boy's death?
5. Is God out of control when bad things happen to good people? Explain.
6. What was the key doctrinal point in this story that can be applied to our lives today?
7. What did the phrase mean, "It is well" (verse 26)?
8. Why are we admonished not to be like the Shunamite man?
9. Why are we counseled to be like the Shunamite woman?

answers

1. We don't know what caused his death, other than for God to show His power through His servant Elisha.
2. She laid the boy on Elisha's bed, then went to Elisha.
3. When the boy told him of his headache, he sent him to his mother. When the woman told her husband that she wanted to go to the man of God, he questioned her.
4. Elisha sent his servant, Gehazi, to meet the woman, and then he told his servant to go quickly and lay his staff on the boy. Then Elisha went, and first of all, he prayed, then he stretched himself upon the boy.
5. No, God is not out of control. Sometimes God permits bad things to happen to good people to show His power and the truth of Romans 8:2 God can take bad things, all things, and work them together for the good of the believer.
6. Faith presses on and perseveres, even (or especially) in difficult circumstances.
7. It means that whatever the outcome, all is well because God is in control. Like the Shunamite woman, we need to show a willingness to accept God's will, whatever the outcome.
8. He was more concerned with the business at hand than for the Lord's work. He was not spiritually sensitive to the needs of his family. He went along with his wife, but he was not the spiritual head of the household.
9. She was a good woman, doing what she could for people. She was a woman of good character, but most importantly, she was sensitive for the needs of the Lord's servants, and did what she could to meet these needs.

discuss / consider

Can you say, "It is well," in all circumstances? Recall times when you did not say or believe it was well. Recall times when you trusted God for whatever the outcome.

challenge

In what respects are you like the Shunamite woman? Will you determine to be more like her?

memorize

"She went to the man of God." 2 Kings 4:25

"It is well." 2 Kings 4:26

Lesson 8

The Purification of the Poison Stew & The Multiplication of the Prophet's Bread 2 Kings 4:38-44

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. More of Christ is the solution to false teaching.
2. More of Christ is the solution to spiritual famine.

practical applications

1. Let's watch out for wild vines.
2. Let's be more like the man from Baal Shalisha.

questions

1. In the first miracle (the purifying of the poisoned stew), what does meal or flour picture?
2. In the second miracle (the relief from famine), what does the bread or grain picture?
3. What was the dire situation in Gilgal?
4. What did the wild gourds picture?
5. What are the two warnings to us today from these two miracles?
6. What is the solution to false teaching? What is the solution to spiritual famine?
7. "Let's watch out for wild vines." What does this mean? Give an example.
8. "Let's be more like the man from Baal Shalisha." What does this mean?
9. Where in Scripture do you find the miracle of the feeding of the: a) 5,000, b) 4,000, and c) 100?

answers

1. Meal or flour, throughout Scripture, is a picture representing Christ or the word of God. The fine flour or meal offering in the Old Testament pictures the Lord Jesus in His moral perfections, as the sinless Son of God.
2. Bread or grain pictures Christ Himself as the Bread of Life. Read John 6.
3. There was famine in the land.
4. They pictured false teaching.
5. Beware of mixing wild gourds (false teaching), into Christian doctrines and principles. Beware of making excuses to withhold what you can give to help others.
6. More of Christ. More of Christ.
7. Wild vines represent the false teaching of Satan and the world system. Any view that is not the Christian world-view is a wild vine. For example, do not mix evolution into creation. It does not fit into the biblical account.
8. Even during the famine, this man gave from what he had to do the Lord's work and to meet the needs of the Lord's servants.
9. a) Matthew 14:15-21, Mark 8:1-9, John 6:5-13, b) Matthew 15:32-38, and c) 2 Kings 4:42-44.

discuss / consider

1. Can you identify false teachings in your church? How can you counter them or keep them from infiltrating sound doctrine?
2. Is there a famine in the land today? If so, what can you do about it in your little corner?

challenge

How can you be more like the man from Baal Shalisha? Give some practical examples.

memorize

"...there was a famine in the land." 2 Kings 4:38

"A man from Baal Shalisha brought twenty loaves of barley bread...' Give it to the people that they may eat'...one hundred men ate and had some left over." 2 Kings 4:42-44

Lesson 9

The Story of Naaman, the Syrian Military General, Who Was Cured of Leprosy through Elisha, the Prophet 2 Kings 5:1-7

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. God's plans are accomplished in mundane ways.
2. God's plans are accomplished through ordinary people.

practical applications

1. Be faithful, even though tragedy may happen to you.
2. Be faithful, even though you may be misunderstood.

questions

1. Who was Naaman? What was his problem?
2. When the Syrians went out on raids, who did they bring back captive?
3. How did God accomplish His purposes in the story of the healing of Naaman? How does God accomplish His purposes today?
4. How widespread were the consequences of the testimony of the young girl?
5. Can tragedy be used to accomplish God's purposes? List some of the tragedies, from a human perspective, in this portion of Scripture.
6. Did misunderstandings along the way keep the young slave girl from being a viable testimony? Did misunderstandings along the way thwart God's purposes?

answers

1. Naaman was the commander of the army of the King of Syria in the 9th Century, B.C. As field marshal or general over the whole army, he held a prestigious position. He was not only a great military man, but he was a man of honor and well liked by his commander-in-chief, the King of Syria. His problem? He had leprosy. In its early stages, it could be covered up, but it would be only a matter of time before he would have to step down from his military position, and he would die if left untreated.
2. Among others, a young Israelite girl.
3. God used the testimony of a young Israelite girl who was faithful to Him, and God used Naaman, an honorable man, who yielded to His commands to accomplish His purposes. God often accomplishes His purposes in mundane, commonplace ways through ordinary people.
4. This event had international consequences. The testimony of the God of Israel made its way into the ranks of the Syrian army, right from the top down, and God used an unnamed young girl as a major link in the chain of events. The testimony of one faithful teenager affected a nation.
5. Yes, tragedy can be used to bring about God's purposes. In this story, there were many tragedies, humanly speaking. Naaman, a high ranking military man, had leprosy. The young girl was taken from her home and her homeland, and thrust into a different culture; she was made a slave, a servant in a strange place.
6. No, she remained faithful in her testimony that God could heal Naaman. No, misunderstandings do not thwart the purposes of God.

discuss / consider

1. What was the point of Jesus' sermon in Luke 4:27?
2. Look around you. Do you find faithful witnesses in spite of tragedies in their lives? Are you aware of biographies that support this? Make it a point to read some missionary books this year, and also some biographies of contemporary Christians like Joni Eareckson Tada.

challenge

When tragedy, or even minor set-backs come into your life, what is your response? Are you ready to throw in the towel and despair, or do you continue faithfully in your witness? Think of the long-term results of a clear testimony, especially from God's eyes.

memorize

"Thus and thus said the girl who is from the land of Israel." 2 Kings 5:4

Lesson 10

The Cleansing of Naaman, the Leper (A Picture of Salvation and Cleansing from Sin) 2 Kings 5:8-19

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. A humble and obedient faith is required for salvation.
2. A new heart and a new life are the results of salvation.

practical applications

1. Expect all kinds of reaction when you present the simple gospel to someone.
2. Be extremely careful how you handle money in the Lord's work.

questions

1. What did the young Jewish girl tell Naaman that could cure his leprosy?
2. What did Naaman do with this information?
3. What did Elisha do when Naaman came to him? What was Naaman's reaction?
4. Did Naaman finally follow Elisha's directions? What was the result?
5. Why did Elisha refuse Naaman's gift?
6. What does leprosy represent in the Bible?
7. What kind of a disease is leprosy?
8. How is salvation represented in this story?
9. What are the results of salvation?
10. Does everyone respond positively to the gospel?

answers

1. Naaman was told that the God of Israel could heal him through the ministry of the prophet Elisha.
2. He traveled to Israel, taking with him money and a letter from the King of Syria. He went first to the King of Israel, then to Elisha's house.
3. He sent a messenger out to tell him to go and wash in the River Jordan seven times. Naaman was furious, because at the very least he expected Elisha to call on God for a great miracle. He drove away in a rage.
4. Yes, finally, after his servants asked him to reconsider. He submitted and was cleansed. His leprosy was gone.
5. He didn't want wrong ideas to ripple out (for example, that cures could be bought).
6. It represents sin.
7. A systemic disease, a disease of the system, not just a leg. So it is with sin—it permeates the whole being.
8. Leprosy is a picture of sin, and in its early stages it can be covered up. However, without intervention it would lead to death. The same is true with sin. Naaman obeyed the word of God through the prophet Elisha and was cured. Sinners must obey the word of God, realizing that salvation is through Christ alone.
9. There is a change in a life – there is a new heart and a new life when someone becomes a Christian.
10. Unfortunately, no. You can expect all kinds of reactions when you present the gospel to someone. Naaman was enraged, but later he repented and obeyed and was cured.

discuss / consider

1. Have you humbled yourself and obeyed the Word of God concerning Christ as the only way of salvation? If not, be sure, so you will be saved.
2. Are you easily rebuffed when someone turns his back on you after you have presented him with the gospel? Do you continue to witness, realizing the eternal consequences?

challenge

How careful are you with resources given to you as from the Lord?

memorize

"You shall be clean...and he was clean." 2 Kings 5:10,14

"Indeed, now I know that there is not God in all the earth, except in Israel." 2 Kings 5:15

Lesson 11

The Downfall of Gehazi, the Servant of Elisha 2 Kings 5:20-27

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. Defiling the Lord's work is a serious sin.
2. Dishonoring the Lord's servants is a serious sin.
3. Distorting the Lord's gospel is a serious sin.

practical applications

1. You can be sure that one lie will lead to another.
2. You can be sure that you will be tested in the area of money.

questions

1. Naaman wanted to give a gift to Elisha in appreciation for healing him from his leprosy. Responding to this offer,
 - a. Elisha refused. Why?
 - b. Gehazi asked for it. Why?
2. What does it mean to defile the Lord's work? How did Gehazi defile the Lord's work?
3. What does it mean to dishonor the Lord's servants? How did Gehazi dishonor Elisha?
4. What does it mean to distort the Lord's gospel? How did Gehazi distort the gospel?
5. How was Gehazi disciplined?

answers

1.
 - a. Elisha refused the gift, so as not to dishonor or distort the gospel. Naaman's healing was a free gift from God, and not to be bought or tainted by the exchange of money or payment of some kind. He honored the Lord by his motives and actions.
 - b. Gehazi, on the other hand, wanted riches for himself, and they were there for the taking. He considered his needs above the Lord's honor.
2. It means to corrupt or contaminate it; to do something wrong in the name of the Lord. Gehazi wanted to gain riches for himself at the expense of the work of the Lord. Furthermore, his greed was compounded by lies.
3. To dishonor the Lord's servants is to slander them. We must be warned about bad-mouthing the Lord's servants. Gehazi put words into Elisha's mouth by saying that Elisha had sent him to Naaman to receive a gift for his service.
4. Distorting the Lord's gospel means to detract from the good news freely given. Gehazi distorted the gospel by lying and taking money when the gift was freely given.
5. The leprosy of Naaman was put upon Gehazi and his descendants forever.

discuss / consider

1. One lie leads to another. Has this ever happened to you? What were the results?
2. What should you do when you are aware that someone is defiling the Lord's work? Or dishonoring the Lord's servants? Or distorting the gospel? Do you look the other way or confront him?

challenge

Have you been tested in the area of money? Be specific. Did you pass or fail?

memorize

"I will run after him and take something from him." 2 Kings 5:20

"Where did you go, Gehazi? Did not my heart go with you? Is it time to receive money?" 2 Kings 5:25-26

"If you have not been faithful in money, who will commit to your trust the true riches?" Luke 16:11

Lesson 12

The Miracle of the Floating Ax Head 2 Kings 6:1-7

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. God cares about the needs of His working people.
2. God cares about the ax head of His willing people.

practical applications

1. Be careful about borrowing stuff.
2. Be careful about spiritualization of Scripture.

questions

1. What were the sons of the prophets doing by the River Jordan at this point?
2. What happened to cause some concern?
3. How did Elisha rectify the situation?
4. What is noteworthy about the workman?
5. Did God care about the workman in this situation?
6. What did God expect from the workman?
7. What is the implied meaning of the doctrinal point, “God cares about the ax head of His willing people?”

answers

1. They were expanding their school by building new quarters.
2. While they were cutting down trees, an ax head flew off its handle and sank into the river.
3. He cut a stick and threw it into the river. The ax head floated up to it.
4. He was concerned about the ax head, for it was borrowed. He wanted to do the right thing. Also, he obeyed Elisha when the ax head floated by reaching out and picking it up.
5. God's care was evident, in that through Elisha he performed a miracle of restoration.
6. He expected him to work, both in doing the work of the Lord (in this case, cutting down trees for the expansion of the quarters) and in reaching out during the miracle.
7. God cares about the small problems of life, the incidental things that cause us concern. By inference here, God expects us to be willing workers, participants in what we can do concerning our problems. He doesn't do for us what we can do for ourselves.

discuss / consider

1. How can you become more aware of God's care for you? How does He care for small problems in your life? Recall times when you found this to be true.
2. List some of the "ax heads" in your life right now. What are you doing about them? And, most importantly, are you asking for God's help?

challenge

In this lesson, we discussed "borrowing." What is your view on this?

memorize

"Please consent to go with your servants! Elisha answered, I will go." 2 Kings 6:3

"Pick it up yourself..." He reached out his hand and took it." 2 Kings 6:7

Lesson 13

**The Attempts of the Army of Syria to Capture Elisha
(They Meet with Failure)
2 Kings 6:8-23**

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. The Lord can thwart the strategy of the enemy.
2. The Lord's forces are greater than the enemies' forces.

practical applications

1. Pray that your eyes may be opened.
2. Overcome evil with good.

questions

1. Who is telling the King of Israel the war plans made by the King of Syria?
2. What is the double miracle during the onset of the invasion?
3. How did the Lord thwart the strategy of the enemy of Israel?
4. Why is it that the opposition looks so much stronger?
5. How were the eyes of Elisha's servant opened?
6. How did Elisha illustrate the point, "Overcome evil with good?"

answers

1. Elisha
2. The eyes of Elisha's servant are opened, and he is able to see the surrounding host that is protecting them. The eyes of the Syrian soldiers are temporarily blinded.
3. By the two miracles – Syria's efforts to overthrow Israel were thwarted, and they failed in their attempts to capture Elisha.
4. We tend to have a grasshopper complex, thinking that we are outnumbered and outsized. We need to remember that one plus God is a majority. We would do well to review Numbers 14 and Joshua 1
5. By prayer.
6. Instead of killing the captured enemy, Elisha said to feed them and send them home.

discuss / consider

1. When you feel that you are "outnumbered," review Romans 8:31 and 1 John 4:4. All too frequently we are blinded to God's protection and care. Pray that your eyes might be open to all that God has for you.
2. Do you believe that angelic hosts are protecting and ministering to you? Read Hebrews 1:14 and 13:2. How have you experienced the ministry of angels in your life?

challenge

A vindictive spirit will only harm everyone involved. Resolve to overcome evil with good, which will bring glory to God. Read 2 Kings 6:22 and Romans 12:19-2

memorize

"Elisha said, 'Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.'" 2 Kings 6:16

"Elisha prayed, 'Lord, open his eyes that he might see.' The Lord opened his eyes." 2 Kings 6:17

"Set food and water before them, that they may eat and drink." 2 Kings 6:22

Lesson 14

The Horrible Conditions that Existed in Samaria During the Time of a Siege by the Syrian Army 2 Kings 6:24-33

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. Man's cruelty to man is not God's fault.
2. Man shifts the blame when things go wrong.

practical applications

1. Listen, so that God does not have to shout.
2. Expect to suffer at times for sins that are not your own.

questions

1. Discuss the conditions during a siege, such as described in this passage.
2. What sin drove King Jehoram to want to kill Elisha and surrender to the enemy?
3. God can be blamed for man's cruelty to man. Right?
4. List some conditions today that are similar to those described in this portion of Scripture.
5. Why is it that man shifts the blame when things go wrong?
6. How can such tragedies be averted?
7. Why do good people suffer for the actions of bad people?

answers

1. The invading army would surround the walls of the city and close it off. No one could get in or out; supplies were cut off, and as a result there would be great famine in the city. Prices were beyond imagination for food and fuel.
2. The sin of cannibalism. See 2 Kings 6:28-29.
3. Wrong! Man's cruelty to man is man's departure from God. If man returned to God and His standards, this cruelty would stop.
4. Wars and provocations throughout the world, including ethnic cleansing, genocide, forcing people from their homelands, withholding food and supplies from those in need, and the killing of innocent people through acts of terrorism, just to mention a few.
5. Because he does not want to assume his own responsibility before God.
6. By listening and responding to God. God said that if the people would follow Him, He would bless them. But if not, they would be disciplined and judged.
7. When conditions are bad, Christians are not immune, but suffer in the crisis along with others. The rain falls on the just and the unjust.

discuss / consider

1. What is your response to the horrible conditions of the world? Do you sometimes even blame God?
2. Our society teaches us that all of the problems in our life are caused by somebody or something. When things go wrong in your life, do you play the blame game?

challenge

Spend more time in prayer that God will intervene in man's inhumanity to man throughout the world, and that your responsible actions will bring glory to God.
What can you do to alleviate tough conditions in your corner of the world?

memorize

"If the Lord does not help you, where can I find help for you?" 2 Kings 6:27

"Surely this calamity is from the Lord." 2 Kings 6:33

"If we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged." 1 Corinthians 11:31

Lesson 15

Samaria Delivered from the Siege of the Syrian Army; Windows in Heaven 2 Kings 7:1-20

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. The good news of God's gospel is for sinners.
2. The good new of God's gospel brings different reactions.

practical applications

1. Let's not hoard the gospel.
2. Let's not compromise the gospel.

questions

1. Follow the reasoning of the four lepers at the entrance of the gate concerning their fate.
2. What did the lepers find at the Syrian camp? Then what did they do?
3. In a broader picture, what do the following represent?
 - a) the story itself
 - b) Elisha
 - c) the lepers
 - d) the Syrian army
 - e) the Samaritans
 - f) the message of the lepers to the city
4. The lepers realized that they had a responsibility to share the good news. What does this mean to us today?
5. What did King Jehoram think when he heard the good news?
6. What happened to the royal official?

answers

1. Because of their condition, they would die at the gate. They couldn't go inside the city, for there was death there, too. So they decided to go to the Syrians, where there might be food. Maybe they would kill them, but maybe they would spare them. They were going to die anyway.
2. They found that the Syrian army had fled, and there were treasures and food everywhere for the taking. After eating their fill and hiding some of the treasure, they felt convicted and brought word to the Samaritans.
3.
 - a) the gospel (God's good news for sinners)
 - b) in many ways Elisha is a type of Christ. He had predicted that the siege of Samaria would soon be over and the enemy would no longer control things. So our Lord predicted good news – that Satan and his forces, our enemy, would be subdued, and his power would be broken
 - c) man in his sin (leprosy was a disease leading to death)
 - d) Satan and his forces, the enemy
 - e) captives of Satan, without food
 - f) a picture of God's super-abounding grace. Captives would be set free and the blessings of God would be readily available to all who would believe the good news..
4. We are not to hoard the good news of the gospel when people all around us are starving for spiritual food.
5. He thought it was a trap to draw the people outside the city, then ambush them.
6. He was trampled to death. See 2 Kings 7:1

discuss / consider

1. Have you found various reactions when you told people the good news of the gospel? When people reject the gospel, do you become silent and give up?
2. Recall the time when you first heard the gospel. What was your response? (If at first you rejected it, did people give up on you?)

challenge

Think about the superabundance of God's grace in your life. Isn't it worth sharing?

memorize

"If the Lord would make windows in heaven..." 2 Kings 7:2

"I will open for you the windows in heaven..." Malachi 3:10

"We are not doing right. This is a day of good news, and we remain silent. Let us go and tell." 2 Kings 7:9

Lesson 16

**The Shunamite Woman Gets Her Land Restored
2 Kings 8:1-6**

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. The Lord reveals His secrets to His servants.
2. What the world calls coincidence is really divine providence.

practical applications

1. Use godly counsel in making important decisions.
2. Your setbacks and disappointments are not necessarily an indication that you have made a wrong or bad decision.

questions

1. King Jehoram talked with Gehazi. What did the king want to know?
2. Review the story of the Shunamite woman.
3. Was her return and meeting with the king a coincidence or divine timing?
4. What did the king do for the woman?
5. What did the Lord reveal to Elisha?
6. Name some other revelations from the Lord to His servants.
7. To whom does the Lord reveal his secrets?
8. Is God's timing more than coincidence?

answers

1. He wanted to hear about Elisha's exploits and miracles.
2. See Lesson 6 (2 Kings 4:8-17), the building of the prophet's chamber; Lesson 7 (2 Kings 4:18-37), the death and return to life of her son; Lesson 16 (2 Kings 8:1-6), the return of the woman from the land of the Philistines.
3. Divine timing
4. He restored her house and property, and all the back income that was made from the use of her land while she was away.
5. That there would be a famine for seven years.
6. See Genesis 18:17, Daniel 4, and Amos 3
7. To those who walk closely with Him in obedience. Note how God revealed the future to His prophets.
8. Yes. See Romans 8:28 and Ephesians 1:1

discuss / consider

1. Recall times when you sought godly counsel in making important decisions in your life. How did they help you?
2. Have you let setbacks or disappointments deter you in moving ahead in the work of the Lord? In retrospect, would you have done differently?

challenge

Do you believe that events in your life are coincidental or divinely ordered? Cite examples.

memorize

"Arise and go...for the Lord has called for a famine." 2 Kings 8:1

"So the woman arose and did according to the saying of the man of God." 2 Kings 8:2

"The secret of the Lord is with those who fear Him." Psalm 25:14

Lesson 17

Elisha's Announcement to Hazael 2 Kings 8:7-15

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. Unbelievers are definitely affected by a believer's testimony.
2. Biblical ends do not justify unbiblical means.

practical applications

1. Are you emotionally involved concerning the future?
2. Don't be deceived by the mask of an unbeliever.

questions

1. Why did Elisha go to Damascus?
2. Who was Hazael?
3. Discuss the conversation between Elisha and Hazael, then between Hazael and Ben-hadad. What did Hazael do to Ben-hadad after he gave him the message?
4. Why did Elisha weep?
5. Are unbelievers affected by a believer's testimony? Is this always a positive thing?
6. True or False: The end justifies the means, if biblical.

answers

1. To announce to Hazael that he would replace Ben-hadad as king of Syria.
2. King Ben-hadad's servant.
3. Elisha told Hazael to tell Ben-hadad that he would recover, but he also told him that he would die. Hazael only told Ben-hadad the first part of the message. Hazael suffocated the king.
4. Because he knew the horrible things that Hazael would do to Israel when he became king.
5. Yes. Ben-hadad was not a believer, and he worshipped pagan gods, but he referred to the God of Israel as Lord, likely because of Naaman's testimony. The testimony of a believer can be positive, but the negative side in this case was that Ben-hadad thought he had to send gifts, probably because of Gehazi's actions with Naaman.
6. False, the end, according to Scripture, was that Hazael was to become king (1 Kings 19:15), but that did not justify Hazael to take things into his own hands and murder Ben-Hadad. Trying to accomplish biblical ends by unbiblical means got Abraham into a lot of trouble, the consequences of which are felt even to this day. See Genesis 17:1-8, 15-17; 18:10-14; 16:1-16; 21:1

discuss / consider

1. When you receive a message from the Lord, do you pass it on in its entirety? Or, do you present only half the message, like, "Saved people go to heaven." Do you fail to present the fact that judgment will come, and unsaved people will go to hell?
2. When you receive a message from the Lord, do you let Him accomplish what He has purposed, or do you tend to take matters into your own hands to accomplish it? Is it difficult for you to wait on the Lord? How are unbelievers affected by your testimony – negatively or positively?

challenge

Have you ever wept when you realized what the future holds for those who do not receive Jesus Christ as their Savior?

memorize

"...the man of God wept...because he knew the evil that Hazael would do..." 2 Kings 8:11-12

Lesson 18

**What Is Going On in the Southern Kingdom of Judah
While Elisha Is Ministering in the North &
The Reign of Jehoram (Joram), King of Israel &
The Reign of Ahaziah, King of Judah
2 Kings 8:16-29**

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. God's faithfulness is taught in Judah's history.
2. God's grace is seen in Judah's history.

practical applications

1. Who you marry will greatly affect your commitment.
2. Make your children's spiritual and moral inheritance a top priority.

questions

1. Who were Kings Ahaziah and Joram?
2. Why didn't God destroy Judah because of their unfaithfulness?
3. What is one of the great lessons learned in the marriage of King Jehoram and Athaliah, daughter of King Ahab and Queen Jezebel?
4. What was the purpose of the alliance that King Ahaziah consented to, and with whom was the alliance made?
5. How is God's grace seen in this passage?
6. Jehoshaphat, King of Judah, was a good and godly king, but he failed to make one thing a priority. What was that one thing?

answers

1. This is confusing, for there were kings by those names in both Judah and Israel, and they were also related by marriage.
2. Because of His faithfulness. God had made a promise to David that his kingdom would be established forever. See 2 Kings 8:19 and Psalm 89:3-4.
3. That a wicked wife can have a great influence on her husband, in spite of his godly heritage. See 2 Kings 8:18.
4. The alliance was made with King Jehoram for the purpose of warring against Hazael, King of Syria.
5. God's grace is seen in the genealogy of Judah's history. Within this genealogy, there are accounts of an incestuous relationship, an adulterous relationship, a prostitute, a Gentile marriage with a Jew, and even wicked rulers who affect the whole nation.
6. He failed to make his children's spiritual and moral inheritance a top priority.

discuss / consider

1. List some verses from the Bible that show God's faithfulness.
2. If you are married, how has your spouse influenced your spiritual life? If you are not married, what is your commitment to find the spouse of the Lord's choice? If you are single, do you choose friends who will enhance your spirituality?

challenge

If you have children, have you made their spiritual and moral inheritance a top priority? If you do not have children yet, are you committed to making their spiritual and moral inheritance a top priority? If you do not have children, do you have a positive spiritual influence on the children in your life?

memorize:

"Jehoram began to reign as king of Judah...and he walked in the way of the kings of Israel...for the daughter of Ahab was his wife; and he did evil in the sight of the Lord." 2 Kings 8:16, 18

"Yet the Lord would not destroy Judah, for the sake of his servant David, as He promised." 2 Kings 8:19

Lesson 19

**The Anointing of King Jehu
as the Next King of the Northern Kingdom of Israel
2 Kings 9:1-13**

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. God can accomplish His purposes through unholy instruments.
2. God avenges the blood of His people.

practical applications

1. Never take your own revenge.
2. Don't be surprised if people call you "mad."

questions

1. Why is it that Elisha anointed Jehu as the next king of Israel, when it was Elijah who was commissioned to anoint Jehu?
2. Who was Jehu before he became king?
3. Did Elisha anoint Jehu?
4. In this story, who was the unholy instrument that God used to accomplish His purposes?
5. Does God avenge the blood of His people?

answers

1. We read in 1 Kings 19:16 that Elijah was to anoint Jehu. That was twenty years prior to the commission given to Elisha to anoint Jehu. We don't know the reason, but it could be that Elisha was to give the second anointing, or that the original commission was just being carried out.
2. He was a military commander, over all the Israelite army that was fighting the Syrian forces at Ramoth-Gilead, near the Syrian border.
3. Actually, Elisha delegated this responsibility to one of his subordinates, a servant, one of the sons of the prophets.
4. Jehu had been appointed by God Himself to do the Lord's work of judgment and remove the dynasty of Ahab. Jehu, however, was a proud, ruthless and godless person, who took every advantage to advance his own agenda. But God used Jehu, an ungodly instrument, to erase the evil dynasty of Ahab.
5. Yes. Under Ahab's reign, many prophets and servants of the Lord had been killed. Read 1 Kings 18:4. But now their blood was about to be avenged.

discuss / consider

1. Jehu's fellow military officers spoke ill of the prophet, calling him a madman. Why? Have you observed a similar reaction today as people watch the Lord's servants?
2. Can you think of instances other than in this passage where God has accomplished His purposes through unholy instruments?

challenge

Do you ever want to take revenge on someone who has maligned you? What should be your course of action?

memorize

"...that I may avenge the blood of My servants the prophets, and the blood of all the servants of the Lord..." 2 Kings 9:7

"Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord." Romans 12:19

Lesson 20

Removal of King Jehoram and Queen Jezebel from Israel & The Death of Queen Jezebel 2 Kings 9:14-37

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. God's prophecies of judgment will come true.
2. Jezebel's violent end is a prophetic picture of the end of future Babylon.

practical applications

1. You cannot escape God's judgment.
2. Prepare your soul, and not just your body for death.

questions

1. We note that Jehu was not a godly leader, but he was used of God to bring about His purposes. What were God's purposes in this case?
2. Two kings got into their chariots to meet someone. Who was he, and why did they go to meet him?
3. What happened to these two kings?
4. Were the deaths of Kings Jehoram and Ahaziah (and Queen Jezebel) by chance?
5. You cannot escape God's judgment. This was true concerning the House of Ahab. Is it true today?
6. Did Jezebel paint her eyes and adorn herself to try to seduce Jehu?
7. Why did Queen Jezebel say to Jehu, "Is it peace, Zimri, murderer of your master?"
8. How did Queen Jezebel die?
9. Of what is Jezebel's violent end a prophetic picture?

answers

1. To hold back the increasing Baal worship in the northern kingdom of Israel and to bring about the downfall and removal of Ahab's dynasty.
2. It was Jehu, and they wanted to get a report from the battle front.
3. They both were killed. Jehu was out to usurp the throne.
4. No. They were prophecies of God's judgment fulfilled. Read 1 Kings 21, a prophecy given to Elijah a number of years before it was accomplished. Note that the prophecy was carried out in Naboth's vineyard (2 Kings 9:21), the very place where the prophecy was given.
5. Yes. There are prophecies in the Bible of future judgments to come, both on the world and individuals who reject Christ. They will come true.
6. No, rather she wanted to die like a queen. She was originally from Phoenicia, and that is what Phoenician queens did when they prepared for death.
7. She was referring to a former King of Israel, Zimri, who usurped the throne by murdering his predecessor.
8. She was thrown out of the window, her blood was spattered on the wall, and her body was eaten by dogs, just as it was prophesied years before (1 Kings 21:23).
9. It is a picture of the end of future Babylon. This Babylon is a political- religious system that opposes God, but it meets a sudden and violent end, like Jezebel.

discuss / consider

1. Look up some of the prophecies of the Lord. Check those that have already been fulfilled. Consider some of the prophecies of the Lord yet to be fulfilled.
2. Read Revelation, Chapters 17 and 18 to see the vivid portrayal of the end of the political-religious system that opposes God (Babylon).

challenge

Refer to Hebrews 2:3. What does this verse mean to you in terms of your own standing before the Lord, and in terms of the people with whom you rub shoulders daily?

memorize

"Is it peace?" 2 Kings 9:17-19, 22, 31

"Surely I saw yesterday the blood of Naboth," says the Lord, "and I will repay you in this plot...Now therefore, do it...according to the word of the Lord." 2 Kings 9:26

Lesson 21

**The Record of King Jehu's Elimination of
Everyone Associated with the Dynasty of King Ahab
2 Kings 10:1-17**

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. Religious zeal may have a hidden agenda.
2. Religious zeal can go too far.

practical application

Let's approve the programs of unbelievers when they are in line with the word of God.

questions

1. Which prophet predicted the downfall of the dynasty of King Ahab?
2. What did Jehu do to establish his own dynasty?
3. It is noted that Jehu had religious zeal, which may have a hidden agenda. What was Jehu's
4. Religious zeal can go too far. Did Jehu take his zeal too far?

answers

1. Elijah

2. Jehu removed any possible claims to the throne by remnants of Ahab's line. He forced the hands of the officials and elders in Israel, and had them kill all seventy sons of Ahab, and then he killed the forty-two brothers or relatives of King Ahaziah of Judah. He had already killed King Ahaziah of Judah and King Jehoram of Israel.

3. Jehu had a hidden agenda in his zealousness "for the Lord." He planned to advance his own political career. He was not altruistic in wanting to serve the Lord, and to return the northern kingdom of Israel back to God.

4. Jehu killed all that remained to Ahab in Samaria, "according to the word of the Lord." God had commissioned Jehu to end the dynasty of Ahab, which he did. (However, Jehu went too far and he used gruesome Assyrian methods in this slaughter).

discuss / consider

1. Do you know someone who has great zeal for the Lord? Does he handle this zeal appropriately?

2. How zealous are you for the Lord? Do you honor God in your zeal, or do you tend to go too far in following your agenda, rather than the Lord's word alone?

challenge

Jehonadab knew that Jehu was neither a God-fearing man, nor a believer committed to the Lord. But he approved Jehu's program because it was in line with the word of God. List some non-Christian programs of which you could approve (e.g., disaster relief, helping homeless people). Are you involved in any of these kinds of programs?

memorize

"Know that nothing shall fall to the earth of the word of the Lord which the Lord spoke concerning the house of Ahab; for the Lord has done what He spoke by His servant Elijah." 2 Kings 10:10

"Come with me, and see my zeal for the Lord." 2 Kings 10:16

Lesson 22

King Jehu's Purge of Baal Worship in the Northern Kingdom 2 Kings 10:18-36

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. Partial obedience has its rewards.
2. Partial obedience has its losses.

practical application

Let's destroy the golden calves as well as the images of Baal.

questions

1. Was king Jehu a godly king? How was he used of God?
2. What was Jehu's plan to remove the worship of Baal in the kingdom?
3. How did the Lord God reward Jehu? But what was the problem here?
4. On the other hand, how did God discipline Jehu?
5. Jehu destroyed the images of Baal, but not the golden calves. What does this mean to Christians today?

answers

1. Jehu was not a godly king, but he was used as an instrument of God to end the wicked dynasty of Ahab, in accordance with Elijah's prophecy in 1 Kings 21. Jehu was also used of God to remove the worship of Baal that was going on in the northern kingdom of Israel.
2. Jehu proposed a national convention of Baal worshippers, pretending he was on their side. All of the prophets and worshippers of Baal throughout the land were gathered together inside the temple of Baal in Samaria. The building was full, and everyone was given a special garment to wear so they could easily be identified. After some offerings were made to Baal, Jehu ordered his military men to go in and execute everyone with the edge of the sword. No one escaped. Then Jehu ordered the destruction of all the images of Baal and the temple of Baal.
3. The Lord rewarded Jehu for his "partial obedience" ("partial" was the problem here) by promising him that his sons would sit on the throne of Israel until the fourth generation.
4. The Lord began to cut off parts of Israel's territory – the land on the east side of the Jordan was taken by the Syrians, to discipline both Jehu and the northern kingdom of Israel. Because Jehu took no heed to walk in the law of the God of Israel with all his heart, his partial obedience had both its rewards and its losses.
5. We are told to keep ourselves from idols (1 John 5:21). It is possible that we destroy the "images of Baal," the obvious idols in our lives, but we continue to tolerate the golden calves, those things that are less obvious but are not pleasing to God.

discuss / consider

Recall times when you have obeyed the Lord, but only with partial obedience. What were the results? If you could have this time over again, how would you change your behavior or actions?

challenge

Have you destroyed the images of Baal in your life (the obvious sins)? Have you destroyed the golden calves in your life (the "lesser" sins, such as materialism, watching questionable TV programs, wasting time, etc.)?

memorize

"Jehu destroyed Baal from Israel. However, Jehu did not turn away from the sins of Jeroboam...who had made Israel sin...But Jehu took no heed to walk in the law of the Lord God of Israel with all his heart." 2 Kings 10:28-29, 31

"The Lord said to Jehu, "Because you have done well in doing what is right in My sight, and have done to the house of Ahab all that was in My heart, you shall be rewarded.'" 2 Kings 10:30

Lesson 23

The Removal of Wicked Queen Athaliah from the Throne & The Coronation of Seven Year Old Joash 2 Kings 11:1-21

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. Satan tried to destroy the Messianic line through the bloodbath of a wicked woman.
2. God preserved the Messianic line through the compassion of a godly woman.

practical application

Let us be loyal to the true King.

questions

1. Who was Athaliah? What did she do when her son, Ahaziah, was killed?
2. Who was Jehosheba, and what did she do in this scenario?
3. Who planned a military coup, and what was it about?
4. Discuss the timeliness of this coup.
5. What was Joash given at the time of his coronation?
6. What was the reaction of the people? What did they cry out?
7. What did Athaliah cry out?
8. What happened after Athaliah was killed?
9. How did Satan try to destroy the Messianic line?
10. How did God preserve the Messianic line in this instance?

answers

1. Athaliah was the daughter of Queen Jezebel (like mother, like daughter, they were both wicked). Athaliah had married King Joram (Jehoram) of Judah. Their son, Ahaziah, was King of Judah. Athaliah was a wicked, heartless woman. She secured the throne for herself when Ahaziah was killed. Ahaziah had no living brothers, so she killed all of the royal descendants, even murdering her own grandchildren.
2. Jehosheba was Ahaziah's sister, and she rescued a one-year old son of King Ahaziah. She was married to the high priest, Jehoiada. They took little Joash and hid him for six years in an apartment in the temple.
3. The high priest, Jehoida, planned and organized a military coup to remove wicked Queen Athaliah, who had wrongfully usurped the throne. It was time to restore the rightful heir, Joash, to the throne.
4. The plan called for the coronation of seven year old Joash to take place in the temple area. It would take place on a Sabbath, when many loyalists would be gathered for worship. And it would take place at the time of the changing of the royal guard, to avoid suspicion.
5. A copy of the testimony, that is the Scriptures.
6. All the people clapped their hands and cried, "Long live the king!"
7. "Treason! Treason!" When actually, she was the one guilty of treason.
8. Under the direction of Jehoida, the high priest, the people renewed their covenant commitment to the Lord and to the house of David. They tore down the temple of Baal that Athalia had erected in Jerusalem, and they removed the pagan priest of Baal.
9. Through the bloodbath of Athaliah murdering her own grandchildren. Satan knew that the Messiah would come from the tribe of Judah and be in the line of David. If Athaliah had been successful and had been able to destroy all the royal offspring, the Davidic line would have ended. She was a willing pawn in Satan's master plan.
10. He preserved it through the compassion of a godly woman, Jehosheba, who took Joash and hid him until he was seven years old. She was in the right place at the right time, and did the right thing.

discuss / consider

1. When you read a true story like this, do you stop to marvel at God's sovereign power over the devious plans of Satan? Do you realize afresh that God's sovereignty and power are operative today, even when things seem to be going Satan's way? Do you see God's plans, even in the midst of devastating world conditions? Do you trust Him?
2. How important is it that the Messianic line was not cut off?

challenge

Would you have dared to be a Jehosheba under an Athaliah's reign? How loyal are you to Christ? What has it cost you?

memorize

"A covenant was made between the Lord...that they should be the Lord's people." 2 Kings 11:17

"All the people of the land rejoiced and the city was quiet." 2 Kings 11:20

Lesson 24

**The Plans of Good King Joash (Jehoash) of Judah to
Repair the Temple of the Lord in Jerusalem
2 Kings 12:1-10**

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. The Lord's people will give voluntarily when they know where the money is going.
2. The Lord's people will give voluntarily when they see what the money is doing.

practical application

When Plan A is not working, try Plan B.

questions

1. Who was the youngest king to ascend the throne in Judah? How old was he at that time?
2. What made him a good king?
3. What particularly good thing did he do as king?
4. Why did the voluntary giving by the people slacken?
5. What prompted the people to start giving again?

answers

1. Joash. He was seven years old when he began to reign.
2. The primary factor for Joash being a good king was that he had a good teacher and mentor in the high priest, Jehoida, who instructed him in the things of the Lord.
3. He repaired the house of the Lord, which had fallen into disrepair under Athaliah's reign.
4. They didn't know where their money was going. They had been told that it was to go to repairing the Temple, but they saw no changes.
5. They began giving when they saw results and when they knew where their money was going. There was a new plan, whereby a chest with a slot in it was placed in the Temple where the people could see it and contribute to the repair of the Temple. As the people gave, the chest was emptied and put into Temple repair. Also, there was a responsible accounting of the monies by both the high priest and a royal scribe.

discuss / consider

1. Have you ever given to the Lord's work and become discouraged because you didn't see any results or accountability from your giving? If so, did you cease to give to that particular ministry?
2. Have you ever been in a position to give account of monies received? If so, did you do this to the best of your ability to honor the Lord and to report back to the people?

challenge

If you have been accountable for a project, were you willing to change plans if the plan you had been following wasn't working?

memorize

"Jeboash did what was right in the sight of the Lord all the days in which Jeboida the priest instructed him." 2 Kings 12:2

(Use rightly) "All the money that a man purposes in his heart to bring into the house of the Lord." 2 Kings 12:4

Lesson 25

Good News and Bad News About the Reign of King Joash 2 Kings 12:11-21

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. Spirituality is not determined by spiritual gift or spiritual position.
2. Spirituality is dependant on spiritual accountability.

practical application

How spiritual are you when no one is looking?

questions

1. What was the good news about the reign of King Joash?
2. What was the bad news about the reign of King Joash?
3. Why did Joash depart from the Lord?
4. What made the workmen of the Temple so pleasing to God?

answers

1. He completed the repairs of the Temple of the Lord in Jerusalem.
2. He took the treasury of the Temple as well as the royal treasury and gave it to the pagan king of Syria.
3. When Jehoida died, Joash no longer had his godly influence and his spiritual counsel.
4. No account was required, for they dealt faithfully (see 2 Kings 12:15).

discuss / consider

1. Have you known people who have begun well in their spiritual lives, but have not done well later on? How do you feel about this? Could you have been a positive influence on them?
2. Assess your own spiritual life. Are you as passionate for the Lord now as you were when you first came to Christ?
3. Name some of the spiritual mentors and examples that have influenced your life. How have you shown your appreciation to them?

challenge

How spiritual are you when no one is looking?

memorize

"They gave the apportioned money to those who did the work, and had the oversight of the house of the Lord." 2 Kings 12:11

"Moreover they did not require an account from the men into whose hand they delivered the money to be paid to workmen, for they dealt faithfully." 2 Kings 12:15

Lesson 26

**The Accounts of King Jehoahaz and
King Jehoash of the Northern Kingdom of Israel &
The Death of Elisha &
The Last Miracle of Elisha
2 Kings 13**

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. God provides deliverance, even when we don't deserve it.
2. God provides victory in accordance with our commitment.

practical application

Let's leave a spiritual legacy to future generations.

questions

1. What is the theme of 2 Kings?
2. How many good kings ruled over the Northern Kingdom of Israel?
3. Who is Jeroboam, mentioned in verse 2?
4. Are the Syrians the same people group as the Assyrians?
5. Describe Elisha's object lesson for Jehoash and explain its meaning.

answers

1. The decline of Israel and Judah
2. None. All 19 kings of Israel were bad kings.
3. Jeroboam was the first king of the Northern Kingdom of Israel. He is the king that committed the terrible sin of setting up two golden calf idolatrous shrines. He also ordained his own line of priests that were not in the line of Aaron. He is known as “the king who made Israel sin.”
4. No, the Syrians were from a country north of Israel. The Assyrians, of the Assyrian Empire, lived far east of Israel.
5. Jehoash was to shoot arrows out the window, with Elisha’s hands on the king’s hands. Then Jehoash was to strike the ground with the arrows. These actions were to symbolize victory over the Syrians. But Jehoash only struck the ground three times and without much intensity. So Elisha said that because of this lack of commitment and zeal, Israel’s victory over Syria would be limited.

discuss\ consider

1. God provides deliverance, even when we don’t deserve it. Discuss this principle in relation to the nation of Israel in this chapter. Who was the deliverer God sent (verse 5)? Recall a time when this principle has proven to be true in your own life.
2. God provides victory in accordance with our commitment. We’re not talking about salvation, but victory in spiritual warfare. Are you experiencing defeat right now in your Christian life? Are you full of discouragement and doubts? Don’t expect victory in spiritual warfare if there is no zeal and commitment in your life.

challenge

What kind of spiritual legacy do you want to leave to your family and future generations? Will there still be spiritual power at work because of your godly life of commitment to the Lord and His service?

memorize

“You should have struck five or six times; then you would have struck Syria till you had destroyed it! But now you will strike Syria only three times... three times Joash defeated him and recaptured the cities of Israel.” 2 Kings 13:19, 25

“But the LORD was gracious to them, had compassion on them, and regarded them, because of His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and would not yet destroy them or cast them from His presence.” 2 Kings 13:23

Lesson 27

**The Record of the Reigns of
King Amaziah of Judah and
King Jeroboam II of Israel
2 Kings 14**

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. Pride goes before a fall.
2. Prosperity does not infer God's pleasure.

practical application

Let's remember to thank the Lord for our godly mothers.

questions

1. Was Amaziah of the southern kingdom of Judah a good king or a bad king?
2. What famous landmark was conquered by Amaziah?
3. How did Amaziah celebrate his victory over the Edomites at Sela?
4. Describe the parable Jehoash of Israel sent in response to Amaziah's challenge to war.
5. What famous Old Testament prophet is mentioned in this chapter?

answers

1. He is considered a good king (see verse 3). Notice his respect for the Law (verses 5-6), but on the other hand he did allow sacrifices to take place outside of Jerusalem (verse 4). So Amaziah was not perfect by any means, but he was a good king.
2. Amaziah conquered Sela, which he named Joktheel. Today this is called Petra, in modern Jordan. By doing this, Amaziah was lifted up with pride.
3. 2 Chronicles 2 reports that Amaziah had 10,000 Edomites thrown over a cliff.
4. He likened Amaziah and Judah to a scrawny little thistle bush challenging a large stately cedar tree, which represented Jehoash and the northern kingdom of Israel. The little thistle even had the audacity to try to arrange a political marriage between the two countries by having Jehoash give his daughter to Amaziah's son in marriage. While the thistle bush was making all this proud talk, a wild beast came along and stepped on it and silenced it and trampled it to death.
5. Jonah, of Jonah and the big fish fame. We learn some details here of Jonah's life and we see that he was a real prophet of God. The story of Jonah and the big fish is not some Old Testament parable, but real history.

discuss\ consider

1. Read Proverbs 16:18. Discuss how this biblical truth is illustrated in the life of Amaziah. What does selfish pride look like in today's society? God's Word says that pride goes before a fall.
2. Without verse 24 in this chapter we might infer that Jeroboam was a good king and that the Lord was pleased with his reign. But prosperity does not infer God's pleasure – then or today. Discuss the danger of this kind of thinking.

challenge

The mothers' names are typically listed in the records of the good kings of Judah. The influence of a godly mother greatly affected whether the king would become a good king. Do you or did you have a godly mother? Thank the Lord for her – and thank her!

memorize

“And he did what was right in the sight of the LORD, yet not like his father David; he did everything as his father Joash had done. However the high places were not taken away, and the people still sacrificed and burned incense on the high places.” 2 Kings 14:3-4

“You have indeed defeated Edom, and your heart has lifted you up. Glory in that, and stay at home; for why should you meddle with trouble so that you fall – you and Judah with you?” 2 Kings 14:10

Lesson 28

**The Reign of Azariah or Uzziah of Judah &
The Reigns of Zechariah & Shallum of Israel
2 Kings 15:1-16**

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. God disciplines believers for their evil deeds.
2. God records the evil deeds of unbelievers.

practical application

Let's learn to love the phrase, "And so it was."

questions

1. How is it that Azariah had such a long reign?
2. What were the "high places"?
3. Why did the Lord strike King Uzziah with leprosy?
4. What city was the capital of the northern kingdom of Samaria?
5. What is "the Chronicles of the kings of Israel"?

answers

1. When we put the biblical data together, we find that for 23 years of his 52 year reign Azariah co-reigned with his father Amaziah.
2. They were not places where foreign gods were being worshipped, but where the Lord was being worshipped with sacrifices and incense. However, they were not the Temple in Jerusalem where all sacrifices were to take place according to the Law.
3. We know from 2 Chronicles that Uzziah's leprosy was discipline from the Lord because Uzziah's heart was lifted up with pride and he tried to take on the role of a priest.
4. Samaria
5. This is not a reference to 1 or 2 Chronicles in the Bible, which were written after the books of Kings and only cover the kings of Judah. The Chronicles of the kings of Israel mentioned here are a different record, which has not survived to this day.

discuss\ consider

1. Discuss God's discipline of believers. Discuss why the Lord sometimes disciplines with sickness and even death.
2. Although "the Chronicles of the kings of Israel" are not around today, God has a record of the evil deeds of the kings. In fact the evil deeds of all unbelievers are recorded. See Revelation 20:11-15. Why do you think God keeps a record of these deeds?

challenge

There are many prophecies in God's Word that are yet to be fulfilled. You can be confident that they will be fulfilled – just as God's Word says. And when they are fulfilled we will rejoice and say, "And so it was."

memorize

"And he did what was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father Amaziah had done, except that the high places were not removed; the people still sacrificed and burned incense on the high places." 2 Kings 15:3-4

"This was the word of the LORD which He spoke to Jehu, saying, 'Your sons shall sit on the throne of Israel to the fourth generation.' And so it was." 2 Kings 15:12

Lesson 29

**The Record of the Reigns of Three Bad Kings of Israel &
The Reign of One Good King of Judah
2 Kings 15:17-38**

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. It is impossible to avoid the consequences of God's moral laws.
2. It is possible to do what is right in the midst of moral and spiritual decay.

practical application

How many "howevers" will be in your final record?

questions

1. What was the purpose of Menahem's cruel and barbaric acts in verse 16?
2. How is God's moral law "You reap what you sow" illustrated in this chapter?
3. How do Hosea 13:16 and Hosea 5:3-7 relate to this passage?
4. How is God's moral law "Partial obedience leads to loss" illustrated in this chapter?
5. Was King Jotham a good king or a bad king?

answers

1. The act of killing all the children, including the unborn, was to prevent any uprising in the future from the defeated enemy.
2. Pekah, one of Pekahiah's officers, conspired to assassinate King Pekahiah. Later Pekah was assassinated himself as the result of a conspiracy.
3. The prophet Hosea preached God's judgment in the northern kingdom at this time. These prophecies were fulfilled in 722 BC when the Assyrians conquered Samaria and defeated the northern kingdom of Israel.
4. Tiglath-Pileser II, the ruler of Assyria, conquered the cities on the east side of the Jordan River. These cities belonged to the two-and-a-half tribes of Reuben, Gad, and the half-tribe of Manasseh who had practiced partial obedience back in Numbers 32.
5. He was one of the eight good kings of the southern kingdom of Judah.

discuss\ consider

1. Breaking God's moral laws has consequences. How do people today try to rationalize their actions or avoid the consequences?
2. King Jotham ruled the southern kingdom of Judah in a time of moral and spiritual decay. Yet he chose to do what is right. How do you and your family consciously try to live rightly in today's world?

challenge

Jotham was a good king, however he did not do everything right. What about you? Is there a "however" in your record, holding you back from a righteous life?

memorize

"And Menahem exacted the money from Israel, from all the very wealthy, from each man fifty shekels of silver, to give to the king of Assyria." 2 Kings 15:20

"In the days of Pekah king of Israel, Tiglath-Pileser king of Assyria came and took Ijon, Abel Beth Maachab, Janoah, Kedesh, Hazor, Gilead, and Galilee, all the land of Naphtali; and he carried them captive to Assyria." 2 Kings 15:29

Lesson 30

**The Reign of Ahaz, King of Judah
2 Kings 16**

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. Idolatry involves the worship of false gods.
2. Idolatry includes false worship of the true God.

practical application

What king is directing your activity?

questions

1. What is God's position on child sacrifice? Was it occurring in Israel and Judah at this time?
2. What was the consequence of King Ahaz' idolatry.
3. How did King Ahaz respond to the attack of these two kings?
4. How did King Ahaz introduce the worship of false gods in Judah?
5. How did King Ahaz introduce the false worship of the true God?

answers

1. Of course, child sacrifice was strictly forbidden under the Mosaic Law (Leviticus 18:21). Child sacrifice was practiced regularly in the northern kingdom of Israel and it had also come into Judah through King Ahaz.
2. Because of King Ahaz' idolatry and child sacrifice God allowed Rezin the king of Syria and Pekah the king of northern Israel to attack Judah and besiege Ahaz' capital city of Jerusalem. Although they were not able to conquer Jerusalem, they did capture some territory including the important port city of Elath on the Gulf of Aqaba and they inflicted heavy losses on Judah.
3. Rather than turn to the Lord for deliverance, Ahaz sent messengers and money to Tiglath-Pileser of Assyria for help. Tiglath-Pileser brought Ahaz temporary relief by attacking Damascus, the capital of Syria and King Rezin of Syria was killed.
4. King Ahaz requested an altar be built in Jerusalem like the pagan altar he had seen in Damascus. Second Chronicles 28 reports that he began to worship the gods of Damascus.
5. He moved the Bronze Altar of the Lord out of its central place in the Temple Court against the divine pattern given in the book of Exodus. He replaced the Bronze Altar with his new pagan altar and ordered the priests to offer their morning and evening sacrifices to the Lord on this new altar.

discuss\ consider

1. Discuss the difference between a "Christian home" and a "Christ-centered home." The answer partially lies in the idolatry of things over the worship of the one true God.
2. Read John 4:23-24. In Christendom today there are all kinds of departures from the simple and straightforward approach to the one true God. Why do you think it is man's tendency to make worship of God more complicated than it has to be? Do you take time to simply worship God?

challenge

King Ahaz diminished the glory of the Temple in Jerusalem, on account of the king of Assyria. This pagan king was directing his activities. What about you? Is the Lord truly directing your activities, or are you being influenced by the world system?

memorize

"But [Ahaz] walked in the way of the kings of Israel; indeed he made his son pass through the fire, according to the abominations of the nations whom the LORD had cast out from before the children of Israel." 2 Kings 16:3

"Also he removed the Sabbath pavilion which they had built in the temple, and he removed the king's outer entrance from the house of the LORD, on account of the king of Assyria." 2 Kings 16:18

Lesson 31

**The End of the Northern Kingdom of Israel &
The Reasons God Removed This Kingdom
2 Kings 17**

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. Rebellion against God leads to captivity.
2. Rebellion against God leads to syncretism.

practical application

Watch out for syncretism in your own family.

questions

1. Who was the last king of northern Israel?
2. How did King Hoshea get Israel in trouble with Assyria? What was the end result?
3. Why did God allow the downfall and captivity of the northern kingdom of Israel?
4. What is syncretism?
5. How did the Assyrians encourage syncretism?

answers

1. King Hoshea was the last of the nineteen kings of the northern kingdom of Israel.
2. Shalmaneser V of Assyria forced Hoshea to pay annual tribute or taxes. But Hoshea refused to pay the tribute after he made a treaty with Egypt. However, this military treaty was unsuccessful and Shalmaneser invaded Israel and besieged Samaria for three years. In 722 BC Samaria was finally conquered by Sargon II, Shalmaneser's successor. Israelite captives were taken into exile and resettled in towns of Assyria.
3. Instead of getting rid of all the pagan practices in the land that God gave them, Israel adopted these pagan practices and the heathen gods behind them. They broke all the commandments of the Mosaic covenant. They lowered themselves to worshipping golden calves. They got involved in astrology and other occult practices. They even sacrificed their children in their idolatry. And they would not listen to the prophets that God graciously sent them.
4. Syncretism is the fusion of different forms of belief or practice. In other words, mixing religions.
5. They took Israelites captive and resettled them in towns of Assyria. Then they repopulated the Land of Israel with people from other areas of the Assyrian Empire. Thus there was a fusion that took place between the true Israelites and these foreign people. This mixed race became known as the Samaritans.

discuss\ consider

1. Rebellion against God leads to captivity. This was graphically illustrated by the nation of Israel, and the same is true today. People think they can gain freedom by ignoring God's moral standards and doing what "feels good," but just the opposite is true. They become captives to their sin and to Satan. Do you have personal experience with this, or have you seen it in someone you love?
2. In many foreign countries around the world today you will find syncretism – a fusion of Christianity and remnants of the former pagan religions. Other gods were not completely removed when Christianity came in. Discuss the dangers that must result from this rebellion.

challenge

What heritage are you passing on to your children and grandchildren in your observation of religious holidays? Watch out for syncretism in your own family.

memorize

"Now the king of Assyria went throughout all the land, and went up to Samaria and besieged it for three years. In the Ninth year of Hoshea, the king of Assyria took Samaria and carried Israel away to Assyria." 2 Kings 17:5-6

"For so it was that the children of Israel had sinned against the LORD their God, who had brought them up out of the land of Egypt." 2 Kings 17:7

"Then the king of Assyria brought people from Babylon, Cuthab, Ava, Hamath, and from Sepharvaim, and placed them in the cities of Samaria instead of the children of Israel." 2 Kings 17:24

"They feared the LORD, yet served their own gods – according to the rituals of the nations from among whom they were carried away." 2 Kings 17:33

Lesson 32

**The Reign of Good King Hezekiah &
The Threat Against Judah by Sennacherib,
King of Assyria
2 Kings 18**

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. The Lord will prosper committed believers.
2. The enemy will threaten committed believers.

practical application

Get rid of relics.

questions

1. List some of the actions of King Hezekiah that made him a “good king.”
2. What was Hezekiah’s relationship with the Assyrians?
3. List the type of tactics used by the enemy here and used by Satan against believers.
4. Why did the Judean officials ask the Assyrian officials to speak in Aramaic?

answers

1. The idolatrous shrines were removed and the high places where sacrifice to the Lord was wrongly taking place were closed down. He repaired and reopened the doors of the Temple which had been closed to the priests by wicked King Ahaz. Even Moses' bronze serpent was destroyed, because it had become an object of worship. As a result of Hezekiah's trust and faithfulness, a great revival started and spread even into northern Israel.
2. King Hezekiah rebelled against the king of Assyria. This was a good rebellion. Wicked King Ahaz, Hezekiah's father, had wrongly submitted to the pagan Assyrians.
3. Scare tactics, tactics of maligning and questioning God and God's leaders, bargaining tactics, and "the Lord told me" tactics
4. Because they had been speaking in Hebrew, which the people on the wall could overhear and be discouraged by

discuss\ consider

1. Psalms 1:3 says whatever the godly do will prosper. Explain what this biblical truth is not guaranteeing. So in what ways does this guarantee blessing and prosperity?
2. Review the tactics used by the Assyrian officials in verses 17-37. These were some intimidating and demoralizing threats! Discuss how Satan uses these same types of threats against believers today.

challenge

"But the people held their peace and answered him not a word; for the king's commandment was, 'Do not answer him.'" 2 Kings 18:36 Sometimes the best response to someone's discouraging tactics, is no response. Especially if that person is not teachable or open to listening to your side.

memorize

"The LORD was with him; he prospered wherever he went." 2 Kings 18:7

"But if you say to me, 'We trust in the LORD our God,' is it not He whose high places and whose altars Hezekiah has taken away, and said to Judah and Jerusalem, 'You shall worship before this altar in Jerusalem?'" 2 Kings 18:22

"Do not listen to Hezekiah; for thus says the king of Assyria: 'Make peace with me by a present and come out to me.'" 2 Kings 18:31

Lesson 33

**The Deliverance of King Hezekiah and Jerusalem
from the Attack of Sennacherib, the King of Assyria
2 Kings 19**

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. The Lord sends encouragement in the day of distress.
2. The Lord sends deliverance in the day of distress.

practical application

Thank the Lord for His omniscience.

questions

1. When did Samaria, the capital of the Northern Kingdom, fall?
2. What was Sennacherib, the King of Assyria's, approach in attacking the Southern Kingdom of Judah?
3. How did Hezekiah react to this threat from Assyria?
4. What promise and encouragement did the Lord send Hezekiah?
5. Where is the miraculous deliverance of Jerusalem confirmed in history?

answers

1. In 722 B.C.
2. In 701 B.C., Sennacherib invaded Judah and conquered all the fortified cities, which were part of the outer ring defense system for the capital city of Jerusalem. King Hezekiah was able to delay the inevitable siege of Jerusalem by giving the Assyrians a huge sum of money, but it wasn't long before Sennacherib sent three of his officials to offer King Hezekiah terms of surrender.
3. He humbled himself before the Lord and sent to the prophet Isaiah to ask for prayer.
4. No siege of the Assyrians would cause them to starve to death. In fact, no siege ramps would be built against the walls of Jerusalem and not even an arrow would be shot at the city. Instead Sennacherib would return to Assyria by the way he had come and he would not conquer the city of Jerusalem.
5. Besides being recorded three times in the Bible (Isaiah 37, 2 Chronicles 32, and 1 Kings 19), these biblical accounts are supported by the Assyrian annals of Sennacherib. In a series of clay prisms, Sennacherib's scribes recorded in cuneiform his campaign against Judah- including his attempted capture of Jerusalem.

discuss\ consider

1. Read Hezekiah's prayer in verses 15-19. Discuss these two points about this prayer, and what we can learn from it:
 - 1) It was short and to the point.
 - 2) Hezekiah prayed for deliverance for the sake of God's name and glory.

2. *2 Kings 19:35, "And it came to pass on a certain night that the angel of the LORD went out, and killed in the camp of the Assyrians one hundred and eighty-five thousand; and when people arose early in the morning, there were the corpses -- all dead."*
What an amazing and powerful God we serve. Take some time to thank Him for who He is.

challenge

The Lord is omniscient. He knows everything about us, and everything about the forces that would oppose us. Aren't you glad for this truth?

memorize

"Now therefore, O LORD our God, I pray, save us from his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that You are the LORD God, You alone." 2 Kings 19:19

"Therefore thus says the LORD concerning the king of Assyria: 'He shall not come into this city, Nor shoot an arrow there, Nor come before it with shield, Nor build a siege mound against it. By the way that he came, By the same shall he return; And he shall not come into this city,' Says the LORD. 'For I will defend this city, to save it For My own sake and for My servant David's sake.'" 2 Kings 19:32-34

Lesson 34

**The Recovery of King Hezekiah from His Sickness &
His Foolish Action of Showing the Babylonian Officials
The Temple Treasures
2 Kings 20**

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. Set your house in order, for you shall die.
2. Don't cast your pearls before swine.

practical application

Live as if you had only 15 more years!

questions

1. When did the recovery of King Hezekiah take place?
2. Describe the sign Hezekiah asked for and received.
3. How long was Hezekiah's life extended?
4. What did Jesus mean by "Don't cast your pearls before swine"?
5. How did Hezekiah cast pearls before swine?

answers

1. When we compile all the chronological data it seems that this event occurred shortly before Jerusalem's miraculous deliverance from the Assyrians.
2. The steps were either a sundial or a set of stairs being used as a sundial. Hezekiah asked that the shadow go back ten steps, which would have been contrary to the natural movement of the shadow.
3. For an additional 15 years
4. He meant you don't take the holy and precious things of the Lord and share them with unbelievers who have no time for God and have rejected His offer of salvation.
5. Hezekiah foolishly showed all the treasures of God's House to the Babylonian officials. Years later the Babylonians would return and take all of the Temple treasures as well as the royal offspring to Babylon.

discuss\ consider

1. Set your house in order, for you shall die. Unless the rapture takes place in our lifetime, we will all die. Discuss these steps for "setting your house in order:"
 - 1) Make sure you are saved.
 - 2) Make your transition as easy as possible for others.
 - 3) Use your remaining time for the glory of God.
2. Where is the practical balance between not casting pearls before swine and sharing your faith with unbelievers?

challenge

If the Lord told you, "I'll give you 15 more years of life," would you live your life differently than you're living now?

memorize

"And I will add to your days fifteen years. I will deliver you and this city from the hand of the king of Assyria; and I will defend this city for My own sake, and for the sake of My servant David." 2 Kings 20:6

"[The Babylonians] have seen all that is in my house; there is nothing among my treasures that I have not shown them." 2 Kings 20:15

Lesson 35

**The Reigns of Manasseh and Amon, Evil Kings of Judah
2 Kings 21**

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. Godliness is not genetic.
2. Ungodliness is natural.

practical application

Set up godly patterns.

questions

1. What miracle did God perform at the end of 2 Kings 20?
2. Did Hezekiah use the remainder of his life to the glory of God?
3. Which of the kings of Israel or Judah had the longest reign?
4. Which king was the most wicked of all the kings of Judah?
5. List some of the sins of evil King Manasseh.
6. Godliness is not genetic, but is ungodliness?

answers

1. God graciously raised King Hezekiah up from his deathbed and gave him 15 more years to live, in answer to Hezekiah's prayer.
2. No, during this time Hezekiah foolishly showed off the temple treasures to a delegate of Babylonian officials. The Lord rebuked Hezekiah and told him that the Babylonians would return and take these temple treasures to Babylon along with Judean captives. It was also during these years that Hezekiah's son Manasseh was born.
3. King Manasseh
4. King Manasseh
5. Idolatry, child sacrifice, witchcraft, divination, and the occult. Reliable Jewish tradition says that it was Manasseh who killed Isaiah by sawing his body in half. Manasseh not only did great wickedness himself, but he led the whole nation of Judah into further evil in the sight of the Lord.
6. In a sense, yes. The Bible teaches that the sinful nature which we all possess is passed on naturally – from parents to children. As a result, we are not only sinners because we sin, but we sin because we are sinners by nature.

discuss\ consider

1. Godliness is not genetic. We see from the life of King Manasseh that Hezekiah's righteousness did not guarantee that his children would be godly. So as parents, what are we to do? While we can not ensure godliness, how can we steer our children in that direction?
2. It is not a popular concept to say that mankind is by nature ungodly, but this is what the Bible teaches. And if we are honest, we certainly see this to be true in life. Discuss some of the ways that evil is checked and restrained in society. Yet only God can change our natural bent toward evil.

challenge

Because ungodliness is natural, we need to set up godly patterns and habits in our lives to keep us from forsaking the Lord. What godly habit can you begin or recommit to this week?

memorize

"And [Manasseh] did evil in the sight of the LORD, according to the abominations of the nations whom the LORD had cast out before the children of Israel." 2 Kings 21:2

"So [Amon] walked in all the ways that his father had walked; and he served the idols that his father had served, and worshiped them." 2 Kings 21:21

Lesson 36

**The Beginning of the Reign of Good King Josiah –
His Repair of the House of the Lord & The Recovery of the Law of God
2 Kings 22**

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. Faithful workers are a great blessing to any ministry.
2. Faithful leaders are a great blessing to any nation.

practical application

Let Scripture judge you.

questions

1. Why did Josiah become king at such a young age?
2. What does 2 Chronicles 34 tell us about good King Josiah?
3. What significant event occurred in the 18th year of Josiah's reign?
4. Why did Josiah send the Book of the Law to Huldah the prophetess?
5. How did God reward Josiah's faithfulness?

answers

1. Because his father, wicked King Amon, was assassinated after only 2 years in office.
2. When Josiah was 16 years old he began to see the God of his father David, and when he was 20 years old he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem of idolatry.
3. Josiah began major repairs on the House of the Lord, which led to the discovery of a copy of the Law hidden in the Temple during the evil days of kings Manasseh and Amon. The rediscovery of the Law of God led to the greatest revival up to this time in Judah's history, in 621 B.C.
4. Because he knew that he needed clarification and help understanding it.
5. God said that He would delay His coming judgment on Judah and Jerusalem until after Josiah's death.

discuss\ consider

1. Faithful workers are a great blessing to any ministry. Discuss what this faithfulness looks like and does not look like. How are you being a faithful worker?
2. We can be thankful when we have government leaders who govern righteously and promote moral reform as Josiah did. In spite of who is in government, we are always responsible to promote morality and righteousness in our own lives and in our families.

challenge

Josiah let the Word of God judge and convict him. He did not sit in judgment of Scripture as many people do today. Do you judge Scripture or do you let Scripture judge you?

memorize

"And he did what was right in the sight of the LORD, and walked in all the ways of his father David; he did not turn aside to the right hand or to the left." 2 Kings 22:2

"Now it happened, when the king heard the words of the Book of the Law, that he tore his clothes... for great is the wrath of the LORD that is aroused against us, because our fathers have not obeyed the words of this book, to do according to all that is written concerning us." 2 Kings 22:11,13

Lesson 37

**The Record of Josiah's Great Revival
2 Kings 23:1-25**

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. Great revivals require great commitment.
2. Great revivals involve great reform.

practical application

Make celebration a part of your reform.

questions

1. Review the reign of King Josiah to this point.
2. What did Josiah do after he read the Law?
3. What is the key to revival in your personal or church life?
4. What was a "high place"?
5. Why are the cities of Samaria mentioned in verses 19-20?

answers

1. Josiah became king when he was 8 years old, following the reign of two extremely wicked kings. In his 18th year of ruling he began major repairs on the Temple, which had fallen into disrepair. During the work on the Temple, a hidden copy of the Book of the Law was found. After the reading of the Law, King Josiah tore his clothes in repentance and humbled himself before the Lord.

2. He gathered all the people together, including the leaders of Judah and Jerusalem, the priests, and the prophets. After a reading of the Law in the presence of the people, Josiah called the people to publicly enter into a covenant with the Lord to keep the Law of God.

3. Commitment

4. There were many high places set up throughout Israel and Judah where worship of the true God was taking place. But this was not appropriate worship. All sacrifices were to take place in Jerusalem at the House of the Lord, not at the high places.

5. Even though the northern kingdom of Israel had been conquered by the Assyrians 100 years before this time, there were still Jews living in these northern cities and practicing idolatry. (Samaria was the capital of the northern kingdom of Israel, and the name is often used to refer to the entire region.)

discuss\ consider

1. Great revivals require great commitment. Our commitment must be to the Lord and His Word – not to people or programs. Discuss the distinction here.

2. As we read of Josiah's sweeping reformation, we see how bad the moral and spiritual conditions were in Judah. Do you think this moral and spiritual decay came suddenly or gradually? Discuss how easily this can happen.

challenge

King Josiah not only got rid of the negative in his reform, he also practiced the positive. How can you make celebration a part of your reform?

memorize

"Then the king stood by a pillar and made a covenant before the LORD, to follow the LORD and to keep His commandments and His testimonies and His statutes, with all his heart and all his soul, to perform the words of this covenant that were written in this book. And all the people took a stand for the covenant." 2 Kings 23:3

"Then the king commanded all the people, saying, 'Keep the Passover to the LORD your God, as it is written in this Book of the Covenant.' Such a Passover surely had never been held since the days of the judges who judged Israel, nor in all the days of the kings of Israel and the kings of Judah." 2 Kings 23:21-22

"Now before him there was no king like him, who turned to the LORD with all his heart, with all his soul, and with all his might, according to all the Law of Moses; nor after him did any arise like him." 2 Kings 23:25

Lesson 38

**The Death of King Josiah &
The Reigns of Jehoahaz and Jehoiakim
2 Kings 23:26-37**

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. Godly leaders can make costly mistakes.
2. Ungodly leaders can oppress many people.

practical application

Listen when God speaks to you through an unbeliever.

questions

1. Review some of the reforms instituted by King Josiah.
2. In what sense was Josiah's revival "too little too late"?
3. Explain some of the historical background involving Assyria at this time.
4. The next two kings of Judah were brothers. Did they carry on the godly reign of their father Josiah?
5. We read more about the wicked reign of King Jehoiakim in the book of Jeremiah. Name a few of his evil ways here.

answers

1. The pagan shrines and all the high places were removed, the idolatrous altars were defiled, and the illegal and immoral priests were executed. This revival even swept north to some of the cities of Samaria.
2. Josiah's revival was effective during his time and the Lord rewarded his faithfulness by postponing His judgment until after Josiah's death. But Judah turned back to her sinful ways and the past sins of the people still required judgment. Within 35 years of Josiah's revival God allowed the beautiful Temple to be destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonians in 586 B.C.
3. The Assyrian empire was waning in power at this point in history, 609 B.C. Egypt and Babylon were maneuvering against one another to take over and fill this power vacuum. Josiah should have stayed out of this conflict. Instead he intercepted Pharaoh Neco at Megiddo where there was a major crossroads in the ancient world. Here good King Josiah was killed.
4. No, they were both evil kings who led Judah back to the sinful ways that were practiced under wicked kings Manasseh and Amon.
5. Jehoiakim had a good prophet named Uriah murdered. He also took the Word of God and deliberately cut it with a knife and burned it.

discuss\ consider

1. Although he was a godly leader, King Josiah made a costly mistake which ended his life and reign. Godly leaders can make costly mistakes – then and today. Give an example you have seen of this.
2. These two kings of Judah were wicked, but it was the people who were suffering under the oppression. Tribute had to be paid to Egypt because the nation was suffering the consequences of bad leadership. Can you give an example of the people suffering because of ungodly leadership?

challenge

God spoke to Josiah through the pagan Pharaoh Neco, but Josiah would not listen and he died as a result. God may use a non-Christian to speak to you. Will you listen?

memorize

“Nevertheless the LORD did not turn from the fierceness of His great wrath, with which His anger was aroused against Judah, because of all the provocations with which Manasseh had provoked Him.” 2 Kings 23:26

“In his days Pharaoh Necho king of Egypt went to the aid of the king of Assyria, to the River Euphrates; and King Josiah went against him. And Pharaoh Necho killed him at Megiddo when he confronted him.” 2 Kings 23:29

Lesson 39

**The Last Three Kings of Judah –
Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, and Zedekiah
2 Kings 24**

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. The past prophecies of judgment were fulfilled just as the Lord had said.
2. The future prophecies of judgment would be fulfilled just as the Lord had said.

practical application

Remember, judgment begins with the household of God.

questions

1. Review the three invasions of Judah and Jerusalem by the Babylonian armies.
2. Did these invasions happen by chance?
3. Describe the conditions in Judah at the time of Zedekiah.
4. What was Ezekiel and Jeremiah's rebuke to the people at this time?
5. How does 1 Kings 9:6-9 relate to this passage?

answers

1. 2 Kings 24:1 records the first invasion, which took place in 605 B.C. The second invasion, recorded in verse 10, took place in 597 B.C., during the reign of Jehoiachin. It was during this second invasion that the prophet Ezekiel was taken to Babylon along with other captives. 2 Kings 25:1 begins the final invasion of Jerusalem. The city fell to the Babylonians in 586 B.C., and the beautiful Temple of the Lord that Solomon had built was destroyed by fire.
2. No, they happened “just as the Lord had said.”
3. Two Babylonian invasions had already taken place, and many people had been taken into captivity in line with the prophecies of judgment. But the city still had not fallen and the Temple was still standing, so many of the people of Jerusalem as well as the captives in Babylon thought that God would never let the city of His Temple fall.
4. Both Ezekiel prophesying in Babylon and Jeremiah prophesying in Jerusalem warned the people not to listen to false promises. The prophecies of judgment that still were not fulfilled surely would be fulfilled.
5. Even as Solomon was building the Temple, the Lord warned him of the consequences that would befall the city and the Temple if the people turned from God.

discuss\ consider

1. Read Deuteronomy 30:15-20, spoken 800 years before the fall of Jerusalem to the Babylonians. From the time of Moses to the time of the Babylonian invasions, the prophets had foretold of the coming judgments. God would have to remove His people from the Land for their sins of idolatry and immorality. Why do you think they were so hard of hearing?
2. All of the prophecies of judgment were fulfilled just as the Lord had said. While the consequences are negative here, it is equally true that all of God’s promises will be fulfilled just as He has said. How do you respond to this insight into God’s character?

challenge

Judgment begins with the household of God. This means as believers we are held to a high standard, and God is always just in His judgments.

memorize

“He sent them against Judah to destroy it, according to the word of the LORD which He had spoken by His servants the prophets.” 2 Kings 24:2

“For because of the anger of the LORD this happened in Jerusalem and Judah, that He finally cast them out from His presence.” 2 Kings 24:20

Lesson 40

**The Fall of Jerusalem to the Babylonians with the
Destruction of the Temple and the Transport of the Jewish Captives to Babylon
2 Kings 25**

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. The way of the transgressor is hard.
2. The way that seems right may end in death.

practical application

Look for light at the end of the tunnel.

questions

1. Review the three Babylonian invasions of the kingdom of Judah.
2. How bad were the conditions in Jerusalem during the siege?
3. Who was Gedeliah and what happened to him?
4. How did the remaining Israelites illustrate doctrinal point #2?

answers

1. In the first invasion in 605 B.C., Daniel and other noble youths were taken to Babylon as captives. In the second invasion in 597 B.C., Ezekiel and other captives were sent to Babylon. The third invasion, covered in 2 Kings 25, was a year and a half long siege, which ended with the fall of Jerusalem in 586 B.C.
2. The conditions were so horrible that many people resorted to cannibalism in order to survive.
3. Gedeliah was appointed by King Nebuchadnezzar to be governor over Judah. He was a good governor and truthfully told the people left in the land that if they would submit to the Babylonians, things would go well with them and they would not have to fear. But some guerilla Israelite forces that had avoided captivity distrusted Gedeliah and assassinated him.
4. In direct opposition to the good counsel of Gedeliah and Jeremiah they sought refuge in Egypt. This seemed right to them, but it ended in death. These rebellious people all died by the sword when the Babylonians invaded Egypt.

discuss\ consider

1. Read Ezekiel 17:11-21. When Zedekiah broke the covenant that he had made before God with King Nebuchadnezzar, he essentially broke the covenant with God. The personal consequences because of his transgression were severe. Discuss this principle, "The way of the transgressor is hard."
2. The way that seems right may end in death. This is seen today in the lives of people who try to work their way to salvation. It seems right to them, but it ends in death. Can you think of other examples?

challenge

Even though the nation's disobedience and captivity seemed like a long dark tunnel, there was light at the end. Jehoiachin was released from prison – a foretaste of the coming return of the Jews from captivity. Think of this context when you read Jeremiah 29:11.

memorize

"And all the army of the Chaldeans who were with the captain of the guard broke down the walls of Jerusalem all around." 2 Kings 25:10

"The bronze pillars that were in the house of the LORD, and the carts and the bronze Sea that were in the house of the LORD, the Chaldeans broke in pieces, and carried their bronze to Babylon." 2 Kings 25:13

"And all the people, small and great, and the captains of the armies, arose and went to Egypt; for they were afraid of the Chaldeans." 2 Kings 25:26