

Lesson 2 – 2 Kings 13-14

Text: 2 Kings 13-14; 2 Chronicles 25

Main Characters: God, Jehoahaz, Joash, Jeroboam II, Amaziah

Key Passages:

- 2 Kings 13:23 – God did not destroy Israel immediately for their sin; He honored His promises.
- 2 Kings 14:3; 2 Chronicles 25:2 – Amaziah served God like his father: not with a loyal heart.

Main Storyline:

After Jehu's death, his son, Jehoahaz, became king over Israel. Jehoahaz was evil and worshipped idols. God was angry with Israel for their sin, so He allowed Hazael and Ben-Hadad (Syria) to subdue Israel. Jehoahaz pleaded with God to help them, and the Lord listened to him. God gave Israel a deliverer, who allowed the Israelites to escape the oppression of Syria. Despite this, Israel did not turn from their sins. Jehoahaz died after 17 years as king, and his son, Joash, became king in his place.

Joash, like his father, was an evil king in Israel who continued the false religion of Jeroboam. During his reign, Elisha became very sick, to the point of death. Joash went to see him and wept over him. Elisha told Joash to take a bow and arrows. He told Joash that the Lord was about to deliver Israel from Syria, but that Joash would need to attack Syria until it was destroyed. Elisha told Joash to shoot the bow into the ground. The arrows that Joash shot represented God's deliverance. Joash took the bow, shot the ground 3 times, and then stopped. Elisha rebuked him for stopping, explaining that if he had gone on to fire it 5 or 6 times, God would have allowed Israel to destroy Syria. Because he had only shot it 3 times, he would only defeat Syria 3 times. Just as Elisha said, Joash later defeated Syria 3 times.

At some point after his discussion with Joash, Elisha died, and the people buried him. Later in the year, the people were burying another man near Elisha's grave. While they were burying him, they saw a group of raiders from Moab coming toward them. Hastily, they put the man in Elisha's grave. As soon as the dead man touched Elisha's bones, the man came back to life.

Since Joash's death in Judah, Amaziah had become king. Amaziah followed the Lord, but he obeyed as Joash had done, not as David had done. Amaziah did not have a loyal heart towards God. Amaziah killed the men who had killed his father, but spared their children (Deuteronomy 24:16). He also prepared a large army, bolstered by hiring men from the northern kingdom of Israel. A prophet came and warned Amaziah to send the Israelites away, as God was not pleased with them. Amaziah obeyed, and the Israelite men returned home angrily (these Israelites later returned and raided parts of Judah in vengeance). Amaziah took his army and attacked Edom, defeating them badly.

When Amaziah returned, he brought back the gods of Edom and worshipped them. God sent a prophet to Amaziah, warning him that he was acting foolishly and being disobedient; Amaziah ignored him. He later provoked the king of Israel (Joash), who then attacked Judah and won. Joash came to Jerusalem, broke down a large portion of its walls, plundered the temple, and took the king's treasures before returning. Years later, men from Judah plotted against Amaziah and killed him.

After Joash's death (Israel), his son, Jeroboam II, became king (Jeroboam II for distinction from Jeroboam, the first king of Israel). Even though he was an evil king, God allowed him to take back many of the lands that had been captured by their enemies. In fact, Israel's territory under Jeroboam II was about as large as it had ever been. Eventually, Jeroboam II died, and his son, Zechariah, became king.

Lessons/Applications:

- 1.) If we choose to obey God, we must obey with undivided zeal and devotion (Deuteronomy 6:5).
- 2.) One who obeys without having a loyal heart toward God will eventually be influenced to sin.