

General Church Education



Many Kings Rule Israel and Judah

2 Kings 13; 14:1-12

Lesson 23

Jacob's Ladder Religion Lessons

Level 6: The Lord Is Our Prophet

For ages 11-12 years

Many Kings Rule Israel and Judah

2 Kings 13, 14:1-12

Teacher Background

This lesson takes place towards the end of the kingdoms of Israel and Judah. After Jehoahaz's son Joash became king of Israel, the prophet Elisha became ill. When Joash went to Elisha, Elisha asked Joash to shoot an arrow through an open window. Then Elisha told Joash to strike the ground with the arrows. Joash struck three times. This meant that he would only be able to defeat the Syrians three times. Then Elisha died and was buried. The following spring, a man was hastily buried in Elisha's tomb and came back to life when he touched Elisha's bones. After this, Elisha's prophecy held true. A succession of good kings in Judah failed to tear down the altars of Baal, while in Israel many evil kings reigned.

Many kings come and go in this lesson. This can be very confusing as there are few details and the events do not always occur in sequence. However, the main theme is that when the kings, even evil ones, turned to the Lord, He responded with mercy. Jehoahaz and Joash of Israel were delivered from their enemies because they turned to the Lord. However, they continued in their evil ways, so the deliverance was short-lived.

Focus Points

- Jehoahaz, the king of Israel, died and Joash ruled in his place.
- Elisha died; a dead man was revived when his body touched Elisha's bones.
- Azariah was king in Judah while many evil kings ruled in Israel.

Readings from the Writings

“Because [‘mountains’ signify the good of love and ‘hills’ the goods of charity] in the Ancient Church their Divine worship was upon mountains and upon hills; and afterward the Hebrew nation set altars upon mountains and hills, and there sacrificed and burnt incense; and where there were no hills, they constructed high places. But because this worship became idolatrous, through holding the mountains and hills themselves holy, and thinking nothing at all about the holy things which they signified, this worship was therefore forbidden the Israelitish and Jewish people.” *Arcana Coelestia* 6435.11

“[T]he worship of an external anywhere else than where it was commanded ... was the worship of the representative itself without any intuition of the thing represented, thus a worship of what is merely earthly apart from anything heavenly, therefore this was forbidden them, even to the extent that they should not make for themselves any graven images of such things; for the nature of that nation was such that as soon as they saw them made they worshipped them.” *Apocalypse Explained* 587

Teacher Activity Overview

The lesson offers the following activity choices:

Recitation

Learn the recitation by heart.

“Oh my father, my father, the chariots of Israel and their horsemen!” (2 Kings 13:14)

Projects and Activities (for answers, see back of lesson)

Many Kings Rule Israel and Judah Fill in the Blanks Word Search

Answer a series of questions. Use your answers to complete a word search. The words are written down, up, backwards, forwards and diagonally.

The Lord’s Mercy

Throughout the Word the Lord’s mercy shines through as He helps and forgives people in times of trouble and temptation. In this lesson, the Lord delivered Jehoahaz and Joash of Israel from their enemies while they worshipped false gods. Describe what the Lord did for them, and then reflect on how the Lord has extended his mercy to you when you needed it.

Additional Project and Activity Choices for Parents and Teachers

Elisha’s Miracles

Read a list of Elisha’s miracles. Write down the circumstances under which each miracle took place. Available at: <https://newchurchvineyard.org/file/activity-elishas-miracles-2-kings-13-14.pdf>

Compare the Prophets Elijah and Elisha

Make a Venn Diagram showing traits that are unique to Elijah or to Elisha and record traits that they held in common. Available at: <https://newchurchvineyard.org/file/activity-compare-the-prophets-elijah-and-elisha-1-kings-17-2-kings-8.pdf>

A Chart of the Kings of Israel and Judah

As you learn about the kings of Israel and Judah, complete a chart. As you fill in the spaces, think about whether the king is good or evil. Available at: <https://newchurchvineyard.org/file/activity-a-chart-of-the-kings-of-israel-and-judah-1-kings-2-kings.pdf>

Many Kings Rule Israel and Judah

2 Kings 13, 14:1-12

Vocabulary

raided—quickly and illegally take something from a place

subdued—brought under control by force

deliverance—being rescued or set free

This lesson has some confusing names. Two different kings have the same name, and one king has two names. A King Joash (or Jehoash), ruled Judah while another King Joash (or Jehoash) ruled Israel. Also, King Azariah of Judah is sometimes called Uzziah.

Jehoahaz Is King Over Israel

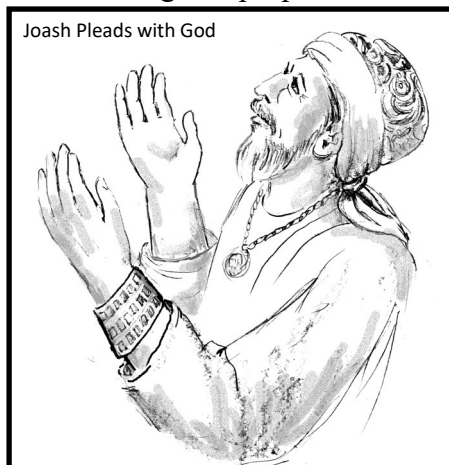
While Joash reigned in Judah, Jehu died and his son Jehoahaz became king of Israel. Unlike his father, Jehoahaz did not follow the Lord but continued in the sins of the evil kings before him. This caused the Lord to allow Hazael, king of Syria, to defeat and oppress Israel. However, the oppression did not last long. Despite his lack of faith, Jehoahaz spoke to the Lord and asked him to deliver Israel from the Syrians. Always merciful, the Lord heard his request.

“Then the Lord gave Israel a deliverer, so that they escaped from under the hand of the Syrians; and the children of Israel dwelt in their tents as before.” (2 Kings 13:5)

You would think that this might cause Jehoahaz to rethink his worship idols, but it did not. Few soldiers and chariots survived the battle with the Syrians, and Jehoahaz soon died.

Joash of Israel and Elisha

After this, Jehoahaz’s son Joash became king of Israel and continued in his father’s sins. While he was king, the prophet Elisha became ill. This caused Joash to go to Elisha and call out,



“O my father, my father, the chariots of Israel and their horsemen!” (2 Kings 13:14)

Joash may have been calling for the return of the horsemen and chariots that were lost in the Syrian conquest during his father’s reign. However, the words are more meaningful if we know their inner sense. Remember that Elijah was carried up into heaven by a chariot and horses, and that Elisha, his successor, was dying. The horses and chariots in each story stand for aspects of the Word—the chariots for important teachings and the horses for the understanding of

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those teachings. With the death of Elijah and Elisha, each of whom represented the Word, went some of the power of the Word on earth.

When Elisha heard these words, he had Joash take out his bow and some arrows. Then, he put his hands on Joash's hands, and told him to shoot an arrow through an open window. He called the arrow a sign of Israel's deliverance from Syria. Finally, Elisha had Joash strike the ground with the arrows. Joash struck three times. Therefore, Joash would only be able to defeat the Syrians three times. However, more was needed for Israel to overthrow the Syrians completely.

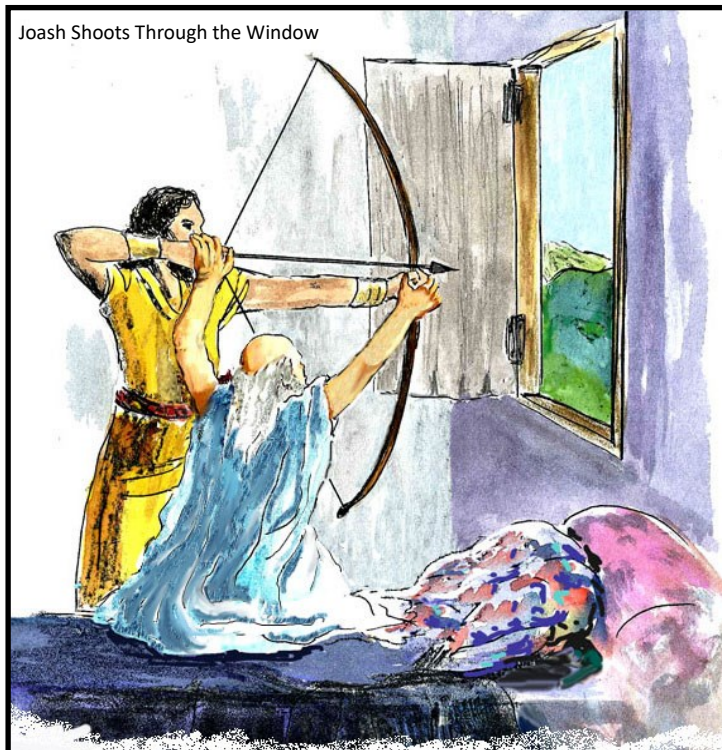
Elisha Dies

After this, Elisha died and was buried. The following spring the Moabites raided Israel. As some people were burying a man who had died they spotted Moabite raiders. They quickly hid the body in Elisha's tomb. Imagine their surprise when the body fell on Elisha's bones and the man came back to life. It was a final reminder of the power the Lord gave Elisha. After his death, Hazael, king of Syria, continued to attack Israel, but Elisha's prophecy held true. When Hazael died, his son Ben-Hadad ruled in Syria. Joash repelled Ben-Hadad three times.

Amaziah Rules in Judah

Judah experienced the peace that Joash, a good king, brought to the land. After he was murdered his son Amaziah killed the men who killed his father, but did not punish their families. Amaziah obeyed the Lord in most ways, but like his father, he did not tear down the altars in the high places and people continued to sacrifice and burn incense there instead of in Jerusalem.

Shortly after Amaziah began to rule he subdued Edom, a nation to the east of Judah. Then he challenged Joash, king of Israel. Joash was reluctant to fight but Amaziah persisted, so Joash brought his armies to meet those of Judah.



Might Amaziah have felt confident after successfully going into Edom? If so, his confidence was misplaced because Israel defeated Judah. The people of Judah went home while Joash went to Jerusalem and took valuable things from the temple and the palace. Then he took captives and returned to Samaria rather than occupying Judah. Some time after this, Joash died and was buried in Samaria. Amaziah lived for fifteen more years before being killed. He ruled for twenty-nine years.

Azariah Becomes King in Judah

When Amaziah died, the people of Judah chose his sixteen year old son to be king. He was named Azariah but is sometimes called Uzziah. Like his father, Azariah enlarged the kingdom. He took his army down to Elath on the northern tip of the Arabian Sea, and regained it for Judah. This strategic position opened trade with many nations.

Azariah was a good king who followed the Lord. But he too, did not tear down the high places, so he was struck with leprosy and lived apart until his death. Azariah was king for fifty-two years.

Many Evil Kings Rule Israel

During Amaziah's reign in Judah, Joash died and Jeroboam II ruled in Israel. He continued in the evil ways of Jeroboam I, the first king of Israel. Jeroboam recaptured lands that had been lost and reigned for forty-one years. During this time, Azariah became king in Judah. While Azariah ruled well and followed the Lord, many kings came and went in Israel, each one doing evil in the sight of the Lord. First was Zechariah, son of Jeroboam II. You might remember the prophecy given to Jehu—that four generations would follow him on the throne. Zechariah was that fourth generation. He ruled for just six months when Shallum took the throne from him. He ruled for one month before Menahem overthrew him and held it for ten years. During his reign King Pul of Assyria threatened Israel, but Menahem bought him off. When Menahem died his son, Pekahiah, ruled for two years before Pekah, his officer, overthrew him and ruled for twenty years.

Jotham and Ahaz of Judah

While Pekah ruled Israel, Azariah died and his son became king of Judah. Jotham was like his father and walked in the path of the Lord, ruling for sixteen years. He repaired the temple in Jerusalem, but, like his father, allowed sacrifice to continue in the high places. When he died, his son Ahaz became king. Ahaz was not like his father or the other good kings. Ahaz committed many kinds of evil, among them the sacrifice of his own son.

Tearing Down High Places

Each of the good kings “walked in the way of the Lord” but they did not tear down the “high places”. These stand for the worship of the Lord. So why should they tear them down? Worshiping false gods in high places means to worship self and the world. We do this when we make ourselves and our desires more important than the Lord and His commandments. We, too, need to tear down such high places and worship the Lord with humility and love.



Activity Overview

Recitation

Learn the recitation by heart.

“Oh my father, my father, the chariots of Israel and their horsemen!” (2 Kings 13:14)

Projects and Activities (for answers, see back of lesson)

Choose one or two.

Many Kings Rule Israel and Judah Fill in the Blanks Word Search

Answer a series of questions. Use your answers to complete a word search. The words are written down, up, backwards, forwards and diagonally.

The Lord’s Mercy

Throughout the Word the Lord’s mercy shines through as He helps and forgives people in times of trouble and temptation. In this lesson, the Lord gave Jehoahaz and Joash of Israel deliverance from their enemies while they worshipped false gods. Describe what the Lord did for them, and then reflect on how the Lord has extended his mercy to you when you needed it.

Many Kings Rule Israel and Judah Fill in the Blanks Word Search

2 Kings 13, 14:1-12

Answer a series of questions and then use your answers to complete a word search. The words are written down, up, backwards, forwards and diagonally.

G	K	Q	U	F	J	E	R	O	B	O	A	M	I	I	Y	O	L	X	H	S
Y	P	O	L	S	T	O	I	R	A	H	C	B	J	E	R	O	O	A	M	R
T	L	E	A	R	S	I	G	D	C	H	M	K	W	U	H	I	L	F	D	E
C	A	R	I	O	T	Y	S	E	M	A	A	N	J	L	O	R	D	K	A	I
R	C	L	T	D	B	K	R	S	C	J	U	I	D	G	R	O	U	N	D	D
A	E	S	H	J	E	H	I	I	G	O	U	B	Z	A	S	T	T	L	A	L
A	S	A	R	R	O	W	S	B	A	A	C	D	D	A	E	E	F	G	D	O
L	I	V	E	H	I	L	I	F	O	S	J	K	A	L	M	G	R	O	A	S
L	I	F	E	C	H	I	L	J	E	H	U	A	M	H	E	A	Z	I	H	G
I	S	R	E	A	L	J	U	D	A	N	M	O	F	T	N	H	R	E	N	E
C	H	E	L	T	T	A	B	A	R	I	O	T	C	H	I	L	D	R	E	N
D	E	F	E	A	T	E	V	E	L	G	O	O	D	M	E	S	S	A	B	E

1. Jehoahaz of Israel was the son of whom?
2. What country was able to gain power over Israel during Jehoahaz's reign?
3. Jehoahaz pleaded with whom?
4. Jehoahaz was left with only fifty what?
5. Jehoahaz was left with only ten what?
6. Jehoahaz was left with only ten thousand foot _____?
7. Jehoahaz died and his son _____ (use shorter name) reigned in his place.
8. The king of _____ wept over Elisha when he was dying.
9. Elisha told the king to shoot some _____.
10. Elisha told the king to strike what with the arrows?
11. The king struck with the arrows only _____ times.
12. When a dead man's body touched Elisha's bones, he came back to _____.
13. When King Hazael of Syria died, his son, _____, ruled in his place.
14. When Joash, king of Judah, died, his son, _____, became king of Judah.
15. The new king of Judah was a good king, but he continued to allow people to sacrifice and burn incense on the high _____.
16. The new king killed the people who had murdered his father, but not their _____.
17. The king of Judah told the king of Israel, "Come let us face each other in _____."
18. This led to _____ being defeated by Israel.
19. When King Joash of Israel died, who took his place?
20. This new king of Israel was an _____ king.

The Lord's Mercy

2 Kings 13:3-5, 14-19

Throughout the Word we see the Lord's mercy as He helps and forgives people during their troubles. We see Him giving people many chances to do the right thing, to choose good over evil. When they do this, they have success and happiness.

In this lesson the Lord delivered Jehoahaz and Joash of Israel from their enemies, even though both kings worshipped false gods and did other evils.

- Describe how the Lord did this for Jehoahaz. (See 2 Kings 13:3-5)
- Describe how the Lord did this for Joash. (See 2 Kings 13:14-19)
- Did this deliverance last forever? Why or why not?

The Lord's mercy is also present in our own lives. He gives everyone many chances to make good and useful choices.

- Write about a time when you needed more than one chance to do the right thing. Most people have bad habits or a strong tendency to choose a particular type of evil like lying, cheating or gossiping. These habits or evils are hard to overcome without the Lord's mercy. We need many chances to overcome them.
- Write about an area of your life where you might especially need the Lord's mercy.
- What do you think you have to do to benefit from the Lord's mercy?

Answers

Lesson 23

Many Kings Rule Israel and Judah Fill in the Blanks Word Search

1. Jehoahaz of Israel was the son of whom? Jehu
2. What country was able to gain power over Israel during Jehoahaz's reign? Syria
3. Jehoahaz pleaded with whom? The Lord
4. Jehoahaz was left with only fifty what? horsemen
5. Jehoahaz was left with only ten what? chariots
6. Jehoahaz was left with only ten thousand foot ____ foot soldiers ____?
7. Jehoahaz died and his son ____ Joash ____ (use shorter name) reigned in his place.
8. The king of ____ Joash ____ wept over Elisha when he was dying.
9. Elisha told the king to shoot some ____ arrows ____.
10. Elisha told the king to strike what with the arrows? ground
11. The king struck with the arrows only three ____ times.
12. When a dead man's body touched Elisha's bones, he came back to ____ life ____.
13. When King Hazael of Syria died, his son, ____ Ben-Hadad ____, ruled in his place.
14. When Joash, king of Judah, died, his son, ____ Amaziah ____, became king of Judah.
15. The new king of Judah was a good king, but he continued to allow people to sacrifice and burn incense on the high places ____.
16. The new king killed the people who had murdered his father, but not their ____ children ____.
17. The king of Judah told the king of Israel, "Come let us face each other in ____ battle ____."
18. This led to Judah ____ being defeated by Israel.
19. When King Joash of Israel died, who took his place? Jeroboam II
20. This new king of Israel was an ____ evil ____ king.