

Promise and Deliverance

Student Workbook

Volume 8
Level 1

Harvey De Groot

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Preface

When S.G. De Graaf wrote his four-volume series, *Promise and Deliverance*, he showed educators how to teach Bible stories from a redemptive-historical perspective. Rather than turning Bible stories into moralistic tales, De Graaf taught us how all the Bible shows God revealing himself as the God of the covenant, who is working out His redemptive plan for humanity and all of creation.

The 80 workbooks written by Harvey De Groot are meant to supplement De Graaf's work. They are divided by volume and level number: 20 volumes with four levels per volume. Workbook lessons are written at four levels so that families with students in various grades can study the same Bible stories during the week in preparation for their classes on Sunday. Prior to class, the Sunday School teacher should study the lesson in De Graaf's book. The teacher and students can go through the workbook during class.

The levels are divided according to the following grades:

- **Level One:** Grades K-1
- **Level Two:** Grades 2-3
- **Level Three:** Grades 4-6
- **Level Four:** Grades 7-8

Each volume contains 12 or 13 lessons, and each lesson has the following sections:

- **Reference:** The volume and lesson number in De Graaf's series.
- **Scripture:** The passage from Scripture on which the lesson is based.
- **Memory Verse:** A memory verse related to the lesson.
- **Lesson Truth:** A short statement to help the class focus on the main point of the lesson.
- **Lesson:** The lesson itself, which the teacher can read in class. For older grades, the teacher may opt to assign it as homework.
- **Questions:** Items to be discussed in class. For older grades, the teacher can assign these questions as homework but should also use them as a basis for class discussion. These are not the only questions that could or should be asked. Teachers should encourage students to come with their own questions as well.

This edition was written by Harvey De Groot and edited by his son Norlan De Groot.

David's House Humbled

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 2, Lesson 26

Scripture: I Kings 12:1-24

Memory Verse: “A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.” (Proverbs 15:1)

Lesson Truth: God's promise to David would come true if He humbled his house so he would be faithful.

Lesson

God made a promise to David. God promised that David's son would always sit on his throne. How could this promise be kept if David's house forgot God? God had to humble David's house. If David's house were humble, they would be faithful. God humbled David's house by taking away ten tribes.

Solomon died so Israel needed a new king. They wanted to make Rehoboam king. Rehoboam was Solomon's son. The people went to Shechem to make Rehoboam king. It was a shame for Rehoboam to go to Shechem. Shechem was not the capital city. The city of David was Jerusalem. The people complained when Rehoboam came to Shechem. They complained about the heavy load of taxes. Solomon made their burden heavy. The people asked Rehoboam to make their burden lighter. Rehoboam asked the people to come back in three days. Then he would tell them if he would make their burden lighter.

During the three days Rehoboam asked the elders what he should do. The elders told him to listen to the people. They told him to speak good words to the people. They said if he did this, the people would serve him. But Rehoboam did not like their advice. So, he went to the young men to ask them what he should do. The young men told him to be harsh to the people. They said, “Tell the people you will make their burden heavier. Tell them,

‘My father made your slavery heavy, but I will make it heavier. My father whipped you with whips, but I will whip you with scourges.’” A scourge was a whip with iron hooks in it.

Rehoboam’s harsh words made the people turn against him. They turned against David’s house. They shouted, “What share have we in David?” They even killed a man that Rehoboam sent to talk to them. Do you think they knew what they were doing? They forgot that God made a promise to David. They rejected David’s house. They also rejected God’s covenant with David. Would God reject His people because they rejected David? No, God would not reject his people. He would allow David’s house to rule one tribe. This way His promise to David would come true.

God did humble David’s house. God did this by taking ten tribes away from Rehoboam. The ten tribes asked Jeroboam to rule them. Rehoboam did not like that. He sent a big army to fight Jeroboam. He wanted to make the ten tribes stay under his rule. Then God sent the prophet Shemaiah to talk to Rehoboam. He told Rehoboam that God took the ten tribes away from him. Then Rehoboam obeyed God and went back to Jerusalem.

All the glory of David’s kingdom was gone. God took away ten tribes to make David’s house humble. If David’s house were humble they would be faithful. Then God would keep His promise to David. David would have a son to sit on his throne forever. The Lord Jesus Christ is the son of David who is sitting on his throne today.

Questions

Choose the correct answer.

1. God promised (David – Jeroboam) that he would have a son to sit on his throne forever.
2. The people wanted to make Solomon’s son (Jeroboam – Rehoboam) king.

3. The people went to (Jerusalem – Shechem) to make Rehoboam king.
4. The elders told (Rehoboam – Solomon) to listen to the people and make their burden lighter.
5. The young men told (Solomon – Rehoboam) to tell the people he would make their burden heavier.

Unquenchable Fire

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 2, Lesson 27

Scripture: I Kings 12:25–14:20

Memory Verse: “And he will give Israel up because of the sins of Jeroboam, who sinned and who made Israel sin.” (I Kings 14:16)

Lesson Truth: The judgment against Jeroboam pointed to the prophecy of John the Baptist that Christ would burn the chaff with unquenchable fire.

Lesson

Do you know what an unquenchable fire is? It is a fire that will burn forever and ever. It is the fire of eternal hell. Today’s story points to the prophecy of the unquenchable fire. It is a story about Jeroboam’s sin. It is about punishment on Jeroboam’s house.

Jeroboam was made the king of the ten tribes. He was afraid the people would not serve him. He was afraid they would follow Rehoboam. He thought they would follow Rehoboam if they went to Jerusalem to worship. Rehoboam was the king in Jerusalem. So Jeroboam made new places for the people to worship. Then they would not have to go to Jerusalem. He made a place to worship at Dan and at Bethel. Do you know what kind of worship he made? He made two golden calves. He told the people that these calves were their gods. This was a very wicked thing for Jeroboam to do.

Jeroboam did another wicked thing. He made the people forget David’s house. By forgetting David’s house they also forgot God’s covenant. God’s grace was part of the covenant he made with David. It is terrible to think of living without God’s grace. It was wicked for Jeroboam to make calves for the people to worship. It was wicked for him to make the people forget David’s house.

Jeroboam also made an altar to offer sacrifices. He offered sacrifices on this altar. God sent a prophet from Judah to talk to Jeroboam. The prophet told Jeroboam that bad things would happen. Jeroboam's house would be destroyed. A son from David's house would come. This son's name was Josiah. Josiah would burn the bones of those who worshipped idols on the altar. This meant that Jeroboam's house would be destroyed. Not one person would be left.

Jeroboam was very angry with the prophet. He pointed to the prophet and said: "Arrest him!" Then God made Jeroboam's hand go limp. This made Jeroboam afraid. He asked the prophet to pray for him. The prophet did pray for him. Then Jeroboam's hand was healed. God did not want the people to forget David's house. He did not want the people to forget the covenant He had with David.

Jeroboam wanted the prophet to eat with him. The prophet said the Lord would not permit him to do so. He had to leave because that was a bad place. Later the prophet disobeyed God and went back. He went back with an old prophet. Because he did not obey God, a lion killed him. Then the old prophet buried him in his grave. Josiah the son from David's house did not burn the prophet's bones on the altar. This showed that God still showed His grace to His people.

Jeroboam did not repent. He did not honor God. Then God said he would destroy Jeroboam's house. The prophet Ahijah told Jeroboam's wife. He told her when she came to ask about her son. She pretended she was someone else. But God told Ahijah it was Jeroboam's wife. Because Jeroboam forgot the covenant, his house would be destroyed. Yet, God would keep a few people who were faithful. His promise to David would come true from these few people.

Questions

Choose the correct answer.

1. (Jeroboam – Rehoboam) was made the king of the ten tribes.

2. Jeroboam did not want the people to worship at (Bethel – Jerusalem).
3. Jeroboam made two golden (serpents – calves) for the people to worship.
4. Jeroboam wanted the people to forget the house of (David – Ahijah).
5. (Ahijah – Josiah) would burn the bones of idol worshippers on the altar at Bethel.

Estrangement in Judah

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 2, Lesson 28

Scripture: I Kings 14:21–15:24; II Chronicles 11:5–16:14

Memory Verse: “For the ways of man are before the eyes of the Lord, and he ponders all his paths.” (Proverbs 5:21)

Lesson Truth: The Lord was jealous when the people of Judah served other gods.

Lesson

Estrangement is a big word. It means to change from love to hate. That is what happened in Judah. The people changed from loving God to hating him. This happened when Rehoboam and Abijam were kings.

Rehoboam started out to be a good king. God’s favor was with him. He was from the house of David. He lived in Jerusalem, the city of David. Jerusalem was the place where God put His name. God remembered his covenant with David. God wanted Rehoboam to help the people love Him.

It is very sad. Rehoboam became proud. He forgot God. He forgot God’s promise to David. Then bad things happened. The people forgot God. It was not good to live in Judah. The people did some very wicked things. They began to worship idols. They built places to worship idols. They made gods of wood. Some people did evil things with each other. God saw the people doing these bad things. Then God was jealous. He wanted the people to worship Him. Then He could bless them

God had to punish His people. He had to punish them because He loved them. Then they would remember God. God allowed the king of Egypt to attack Judah. He attacked the strong cities first. Then he attacked Jerusalem. The king of Egypt took the treasures from the temple. He even took Solomon’s golden shields. God wanted the people to serve Him. God

wanted Rehoboam to serve Him. But Rehoboam still turned away from God.

Rehoboam died and Abijam became the king. Abijam was Rehoboam's son. He was from the house of David. Abijam was evil just like Rehoboam. Still he wanted to rule the people of Israel. He said Israel rejected David's house. He said they rejected the covenant God made with David. He gathered a large army. He would fight Jeroboam and Israel. Jeroboam fought Abijam's army. He had twice as many soldiers as Abijam. He put soldiers around Abijam's army. Then Abijam's soldiers did a wonderful thing. They prayed to God. They trusted God to help them. God gave Judah the victory. Abijam's soldiers beat the soldiers from Israel. But Abijam was not close to God.

Abijam was king only three years. Then he died, and Asa became king. Asa was Abijam's son. He was from the house of David. Asa was a good king. He made the people put away their idols. He told the people to seek the Lord. Asa trusted God to help him. A large army came against Asa. This army had more than one million soldiers. Asa believed the Lord could help the weak. He believed God would help him against this big army. God did help him. God gave Asa a total victory.

God sent a prophet to talk to Asa. The prophet told Asa that the people did not live close to God. Asa then had a large meeting. He offered sacrifices to God. He renewed the covenant. Asa wanted the people to remember God's covenant with David.

Asa was a good king. But even Asa did a bad thing. He was afraid of Baasha the king of Israel. This time he did not ask God what to do. He asked the king of Syria to help him. Asa should have trusted God. Asa did many good things in Judah. Still Judah did not turn fully to God.

Questions

Choose the correct answer.

1. Rehoboam was from the house of (Saul – David).

2. Rehoboam lived in the city of (Jerusalem – Shechem).
3. God became (angry – jealous) when the people worshipped other gods.
4. Abijam was a (good – evil) king after Rehoboam.
5. Asa was a (good – evil) king who had the people put away their idols.

Israel Forsaken

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 2, Lesson 29

Scripture: I Kings 15:25–16:34

Memory Verse: “Now Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the Lord, more than all were before him.” (I Kings 16:30)

Lesson Truth: The Lord forsook Israel when the Israelites rejected the house of David.

Lesson

The people of Judah made the Lord jealous. He became jealous when they worshipped idols. The Lord punished Judah so they would repent. At the same time the people of Israel rejected David’s house. They rejected the promise made to David. The promise to David was that he would always have a son on the throne. This son is Jesus. God forsook Israel because they rejected Him.

Jeroboam did not want the people to worship at Jerusalem. To keep them in Israel he did a wicked thing. He made calves for them to worship. He put one calf at Dan and the other one at Bethel. Jeroboam did not want the people to remember David. God said he would destroy the house of Jeroboam. He would destroy his house because he made Israel worship idols. He would destroy them because they rejected David’s house.

Nadab became king after Jeroboam. He was Jeroboam’s son. Nadab did evil things just like his father. God sent Baasha to destroy the house of Jeroboam. Baasha killed Nadab when he was at Gibbethon. Then he killed everyone from Jeroboam’s house. He did exactly what Ahijah the prophet foretold. God could not let this wicked house lead Israel away from Him. Now the kingdom of Israel lived with everything mixed up. One king would kill the other. This is what happened when they rejected David’s house.

Baasha became the king of Israel. But he did not want to lead the people back to the Lord. Instead, he continued to worship idols. He was just like Jeroboam. He did not want Israel to remember David. God then told Jehu that the house of Baasha would be destroyed. Elah became king after Baasha. He was Baasha's son. Zimri killed Elah when he was drunk at a banquet. Then Zimri killed all of Baasha's family. God could not let this wicked family lead Israel away from Him.

Zimri was king for only seven days. Then the army made Omri king. Omri was also a wicked king. He led the people away from God. Omri built the city of Samaria. Samaria was opposite of Jerusalem. Jerusalem was a sign of service to God. Samaria was a sign of going away from God. Israel went farther and farther away from God. God then forsook Israel. Yet, some people in Israel continued to believe.

Ahab became king after Omri. He was very wicked king. He had a very wicked wife. Her name was Jezebel. She came from Sidon. The people of Sidon worshipped Baal. They thought Baal controlled nature. Didn't Ahab know that only God controls nature? Jezebel brought Baal worship to Israel. Ahab had the people worship the Baals. He rejected God's grace. Ahab led the people totally away from God.

The people showed how far away from God they were. They decided to rebuild the city of Jericho. Jericho was the wicked city that Joshua destroyed. Joshua said that if anyone would rebuild this city his sons would die. This is what happened. Heil began to rebuild Jericho. His sons died just as Joshua said they would. Turning away from the Lord brings death. The people wanted to be just like the other nations. They worshipped idols. They turned away from God. Yet God did not let them go. A few of the people were believers. For the sake of Christ Jesus there was still grace for Israel.

Questions

Choose the correct answer.

1. Jeroboam did not want the people to remember the house of (David – Saul).

2. Jeroboam made golden (sheep – calves) for the people to worship.
3. Because of this sin God said the house of (David – Jeroboam) would be destroyed.
4. Because of idol worship Zimri killed the house of (Elah – Baasha).
5. The king who had the wicked Jezebel as his wife was (Omri – Ahab).

The Word of Grace Concealed

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 2, Lesson 30

Scripture: I Kings 17

Memory Verse: “Then the Lord heard the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came back to him, and he revived.” (I Kings 17:22)

Lesson Truth: The Lord hid His Word of grace with Elijah, so he could show its power.

Lesson

God hid His Word with Elijah. Elijah was a prophet who spoke God’s Word. Why did God hide His Word of grace? He hid it because the king would not listen to His Word. God sent Elijah to the King. Elijah would show him the power of God’s Word.

Ahab was the wicked king of Israel. He had a very wicked wife. Her name was Jezebel. Ahab and Jezebel worshipped Baal. They brought Baal worship to Israel. This was a very wicked thing to do. They believed that Baal ruled nature. They believed that Baal sent the rain and sunshine. But this is not true. God rules nature. God sends the rain and the sunshine. God sent Elijah to talk to king Ahab.

Elijah told Ahab that it would not rain until he said so. Elijah was the messenger of God’s Word. Ahab would learn that Baal does not send the rain. He would learn that Elijah’s God sends the rain. After Elijah talked to Ahab God told him to hide. God told Elijah to go to a brook. This brook was called Cherith. God told Elijah the ravens would feed him at the brook. This was a miracle. It was a miracle because ravens do not share their food. God showed his Word of grace to Elijah.

It happened just like Elijah said it would. It did not rain. At last the brook dried up. Elijah could no longer stay at the brook. God told Elijah to go to

Zarephath. This was a town in Sidon. God said a widow would take care of Elijah. Elijah did as God told him. He went to Zarephath. There he saw a lady picking up sticks. He asked her for some water and a bite of bread. She told Elijah she had only a handful of meal. She said she had just a little bit of oil. She said she would share her last cake with her son. Then they would die.

Elijah tested the lady's faith. He told her to first make a cake for him. He told her the Lord promised that her meal and oil would not run out. Each day there would be a handful of meal and a little oil. The lady believed Elijah. She believed Elijah spoke the Word of God. She was the widow who would care for Elijah. Each day she saw the miracle. She did not run out of meal and oil.

Elijah stayed at the widow's house a long time. One day a sad thing happened. Her son became sick and then died. She asked Elijah if her son died because she was sinful. She thought God punished her. She knew that God ruled everything. But she forgot that God also shows his grace. She forgot that God shows mercy. Elijah took the child to his room. He prayed that God would bring the boy back to life. God heard Elijah's prayer. The boy came back to life.

Elijah gave the boy back to his mother. She knew this was a miracle. Her boy came back to life because of God's mercy. Now she knew Elijah was a prophet of the Lord. She knew that the Word of the Lord is truth. Elijah knew that Israel could also be made alive again. He knew that God could make a new covenant with Israel. God hid His Word with Elijah. But it would not always stay hidden.

Questions

Choose the correct answer.

1. God hid His Word with (Ahab – Elijah).

2. Ahab was the wicked king of Israel who had wicked wife named (Baal – Jezebel).
3. Ahab and Jezebel believed that (God – Baal) sent the sunshine and the rain.
4. The meal and the oil of (Elijah – the widow) did not run out.
5. Elijah prayed to God that He would bring the widow's (husband – son) back to life.

The Word of Grace Revealed

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 2, Lesson 31

Scripture: I Kings 18

Memory Verse: “But our God is in heaven; He does whatever He pleases.”
(Psalm 115:3)

Lesson Truth: The Lord showed His Word of grace so Israel would return to Him.

Lesson

Elijah had been hidden for three years. The Word of God’s grace was hidden with Elijah. God hid His Word of grace so King Ahab would listen. But he did not listen. King Ahab did not believe that Israel needed God’s Word. Instead, he became angry with Elijah.

Now God told Elijah to go to Ahab. God was ready to make it rain in Israel again. God would show His Word of grace to His people. Elijah went back to Israel. He first talked to Obadiah. Obadiah was a servant of Ahab. He also believed God. Elijah asked Obadiah to tell Ahab he was back in Israel. Obadiah was afraid to do that. He was afraid Elijah would hide again. Then Ahab would be very angry. Elijah told Obadiah that he would talk to Ahab that day. Then Obadiah believed Elijah. He believed God’s Word of grace was back in Israel.

Elijah went to meet wicked King Ahab. Ahab asked him, “Is that you Elijah? Are you the one who gave Israel so much trouble?” Elijah answered, “I did not trouble Israel. You and your father’s house have troubled Israel. You troubled Israel because of your sins. You forgot God’s commandments and followed Baal. That is why it did not rain in Israel.” Ahab tried to blame God for his troubles.

Elijah told Ahab to bring the people to Mount Carmel. He told him to bring the prophets of Baal and the prophets of Asherah. These were the ones who ate with Jezebel the wicked queen. Elijah then told the people they must choose. They had to choose between Jehovah God and the Baal. Elijah said he and the prophets of Baal would each place a sacrifice on the altar. Then the prophets of Baal would call on their god, and Elijah would call on Jehovah God. He said, “The God who answers by fire, let him be God!” (I Kings 18:24). The prophets of Baal cried out to their god all day. But he did not answer because he was an idol. Then Elijah had men pour water on his sacrifice. They poured so much water on that the ditches around the altar were full. Then Elijah asked the Lord to answer by fire. A fire came down from heaven. It burned up the sacrifice. It even burned up the wood and the water. When the people saw this, they cried out: “The Lord, He is God! The Lord, He is God!” (I Kings 18:39). Now the people knew that God had not rejected them.

Elijah then told Ahab to get ready for rain. God showed His Word of grace in the fire. Now He would show His Word of grace in the rain. Elijah then prayed seven times for the rain. He prayed until he saw the clouds come. After three years it rained in Israel. It rained a very hard rain. In His mercy God was seeking Ahab. He wanted to use His grace to change this wicked man. He wanted His people led in the way of His grace.

Questions

Choose the correct answer.

1. God’s Word of grace had been hidden with (Ahab – Elijah).
2. Elijah went back to Israel and first talked to (Ahab – Obadiah).
3. King (Ahab – Obadiah) said that Elijah was the one who troubled Israel.

4. Elijah said the people must choose between Jehovah God and (Asherah – Baal).

5. (Jehovah God – Baal) answered by burning up the sacrifice, the wood and the water with a fire from heaven.

Stillness with God

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 2, Lesson 32

Scripture: I Kings 19

Memory Verse: “Lord they have killed Your prophets and torn down Your altars, and I alone am left, and they seek my life.” (Romans 11:3)

Lesson Truth: The Lord spoke to Elijah in a still small voice as he struggled against Baal worship.

Lesson

Elijah was God’s prophet. He struggled against Baal worship. He had the prophets of Baal put to death at Kishon. King Ahab told Jezebel that Elijah killed the prophets of Baal. Jezebel was Ahab’s very wicked wife. She was very angry that the prophets of Baal were killed. She took an oath that she would kill Elijah. She told Elijah that she would kill him the next day.

Jezebel’s words made Elijah afraid. He ran for his life to the wilderness of Beersheba. Why was Elijah afraid? Didn’t he remember what God did on Mount Carmel? Didn’t he know that God always gets the victory? He rested under a broom tree in the wilderness. He even asked God to let him die. God did not let him die. God sent an angel to care for him. The angel brought food and water for him. Then he told Elijah to get up and eat. He fed Elijah two times so he would be ready for a long journey. Elijah then walked for forty days and forty nights. He walked all the way to Mount Horeb. Horeb was the mountain of God. God would talk to Elijah on Mount Horeb.

Elijah went into a cave on Mount Horeb. God asked him what he was doing on Mount Horeb. He told God that he was zealous for Him. He told God that the children of Israel forgot His covenant. He told God they tore down His altars and killed His prophets. Elijah told God he was the only one left. He said they also wanted to kill him. Now God wanted to talk to Elijah.

God told Elijah to go and stand on the mountain. Then God passed by Elijah. Elijah heard a great wind that tore the rocks on the mountain. God was not in the wind. Then Elijah felt an earthquake. God was not in the earthquake. Elijah then saw a fire that burned everything. God wasn't in the fire either. Then it became very quiet. Elijah heard a still small voice. When he hear this voice he wrapped his face in his robe. He went to the entrance of the cave and listened. God wanted Elijah to know that his faith was weak. Then He told Elijah that Israel would be punished. They would be punished because they worshipped Baal. God even told Elijah how they would be punished.

God told Elijah to anoint Hazael to be king over Syria. He told him to anoint Jehu to be king over Israel. And God said that he should anoint Elisha to take his place as the prophet of the Lord. God then promised that Hazael would punish Israel with the sword. He promised that whoever escaped Hazael would be killed by Jehu's sword. And whoever escaped Jehu would be killed by Elisha's sword. That is the way the Israelites would be punished because they worshipped Baal. God also told Elijah that there were seven thousand that never bowed to Baal. Now Elijah knew that God did not forget His people.

Elijah then went to find Elisha. He put his robe on Elisha. This was the sign that Elisha would be the next prophet of the Lord. God would use Elisha to bring His Word of grace to Israel. Elijah heard the voice of God in the stillness. Our Lord Jesus Christ also knew the stillness of God's eternal fellowship. He knew this after His death on the cross.

Questions

Choose the correct answer.

1. Elijah was a prophet of the Lord who struggled against (a calf – Baal) worship.
2. The queen who said she would kill Elijah was (Hazael – Jezebel).

3. Elijah went to cave at Mount (Horeb – Carmel).
4. God told Elijah to anoint (Hazael – Jehu) to be king over Syria.
5. God told Elijah that there were (5,000 – 7,000) in Israel who never bowed to Baal.

Like Sheep without a Shepherd

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 2, Lesson 33

Scripture: I Kings 20:1–22:40

Memory Verse: “Bless the Lord, you His angels, who excel in strength, who do his word, heeding the voice of His word.” (Psalm 103:20)

Lesson Truth: The Lord rejected Ahab an unfaithful shepherd. Ahab stood in the way of His grace to His people.

Lesson

Ahab was an unfaithful shepherd. He allowed his wicked wife Jezebel to bring Baal worship to Israel. He did not destroy Ben-hadad. Ben-hadad was an enemy of the Lord. Because of His grace to His people, God had to reject Ahab.

Ben-hadad was the king of Syria. He gathered a large army. With his large army he attacked Israel. He wanted all Israel’s gold and silver. He wanted the king’s wives and children. Ahab agreed to give him all these things. Then Ben-hadad also wanted to strip Samaria bare. At last Ahab said no. He listened to the elders of Israel. This made Ben-hadad angry. He said he would attack Israel. Then a prophet told Ahab that Ben-hadad would be defeated. Ahab believed the prophet. But he did not understand that defeating a large army was a miracle. He did not know that only God’s grace could defeat a large army. Ahab’s army attacked the Syrians. They defeated God’s enemies.

The Syrians said that gods helped Israel. They thought that Israel’s God was a God of the hills. They would learn that Israel’s God was a God of all the earth. They attacked Israel in the valley. The prophet again told Ahab the Syrians would be defeated. This time one hundred thousand Syrians were killed. Another twenty seven thousand died under a wall. Now the Syrians knew that God was the God of the valleys as well as the hills. God wanted Ahab and Israel to know that He keeps His covenant promises.

Ahab made a very bad mistake. God gave Ben-hadad into his hands. He could have destroyed the Lord's enemy. But instead he let him go. A prophet told Ahab that he and Israel would be destroyed in place of Ben-hadad and the Syrians. Ahab was an unfaithful shepherd. He did not return to the Lord's grace.

Ahab was also unfaithful to the people of Israel. He wanted a vineyard that belonged to Naboth. Naboth could not sell his vineyard. God did not allow the people of Israel to sell their inheritance. This made Ahab pout. His wicked wife Jezebel told him not to pout. She said she would get the vineyard from Naboth. She had wicked men tell lies about Naboth. Because of these lies Naboth was put to death. Then his vineyard was given to Ahab. This was a wicked thing for Jezebel to do. It was also wicked for Ahab to let Jezebel do this. Ahab was an unfaithful shepherd!

Ahab asked the king of Judah to help him in battle. The king of Judah wanted Ahab to ask God if they should fight. Ahab called the prophets of Israel. They told him to go into battle. They said he would win the battle. The king of Judah didn't trust these prophets. He asked if there was any other prophet. Then Ahab sent for Micaiah. He said he did not like Micaiah. Ahab said Micaiah always prophesied bad things. Micaiah said he would only say what God told him to say. He then told Ahab he saw Israel on the mountains. They were on the mountains like sheep without a shepherd. Ahab asked why the other prophets told him to go into battle. Micaiah said that God sent a lying spirit into their mouths. God did this so Ahab would go into battle and be killed. Ahab was killed. Then Israel was scattered like sheep without a shepherd.

Questions

Choose the correct answer.

1. The unfaithful shepherd in Israel was (Elijah – Ahab).
2. Ben-hadad was the king of (Israel – Syria).

3. A prophet told Ahab that the (Syrians – Israelites) would be defeated in battle.

4. Ahab pouted when he could not have the vineyard of (Micaiah – Naboth).

5. The prophet (Naboth – Micaiah) said he saw Israel scattered on the mountains like sheep without a shepherd.

Joy in the Lord

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 2, Lesson 34

Scripture: I Kings 22:41-51; II Chronicles 17:1–18:3; 19:1–20:37

Memory Verse: “Now the Lord was with Jehoshaphat, because he walked in the former ways of his father David; he did not seek the Baals.” (II Chronicles 17:3)

Lesson Truth: Jehoshaphat found his joy in the Lord by faith. This was the strength of the people of Judah.

Lesson

The kingdom of Judah had fallen into idol worship. This happened under the first three kings of Judah. King Asa did bring some reforms to Judah. But he did not get rid of the high places. Now Jehoshaphat became king. He led the people to return to the ways of David. The Bible says he took delight in the ways of the Lord.

Jehoshaphat was happy to do the Lord’s service. The Lord blessed him because he followed the ways of David. He broke down the high places. He did not want the people to worship idols. Jehoshaphat sent priests and Levites to teach the people the law of God. He wanted them to know God’s law. He thought if they knew God’s law, they would not worship idols. We should also know God’s law. This will protect us from idol worship.

Jehoshaphat wanted to be friends with Israel. But Israel had a very wicked king. Ahab was the king of Israel. Ahab led the people to worship Baal. God did not want Jehoshaphat to make an agreement with this wicked king. Jehoshaphat made an agreement with Ahab anyway. God sent the prophet Jehu to tell him that this was wrong. Even though Jehoshaphat made an agreement with Ahab he still loved God in his heart. Jehu told him the Lord would not take His favor away from him. Then Jehoshaphat gave the people new judges. He had them judge in the ways of the Lord. He told them that

they were not judging for man, but for the Lord. He made a higher court in Jerusalem. There Amariah judged the things of the Lord. Zebadiah judged the things of the king. Jehoshaphat found joy in keeping the law of God.

Jehoshaphat was also a man of faith. He led the people in the way of faith. He did this when the people of Moab and Ammon fought against him. They were going to attack with a large army. Jehoshaphat knew he could not fight them in his own strength. Then he went to seek the Lord. He called the people to Jerusalem. He stood before them and prayed. He asked God to protect the land He had given them. God sent His Spirit into Jahaziel. Jahaziel told the people they should meet this large army. He said they would see the salvation of the Lord. These armies would come against the Lord.

Jehoshaphat bowed before the Lord when he heard this. The people bowed with him. They bowed in faith that their enemies would be defeated. Jehoshaphat then had singers march before the army. They sang a song of praise to the Lord. They praised the Lord before He gave them the victory. God then caused one group of the enemy to attack another group. They finally destroyed each other. This was God's answer to the joy of faith in His people.

Now the people returned to Jerusalem singing. They found real joy in being thankful. They sang praises to God in the valley of Beracah. The word Beracah means The Valley of Praise. But Jehoshaphat was disobedient again. He made another agreement with Ahab. Then God sent a prophet to warn him. Jehoshaphat then listened to the Lord. His love for the Lord was the most important thing in his life.

Questions

Choose the correct answer.

1. Jehoshaphat led the people back to the ways of (David – Ahab).
2. (Jehoshaphat – Ahab) sent priests and Levites to teach the law of God.

3. It was wrong for Jehoshaphat to make an agreement with the wicked king (Amariah – Ahab).
4. Jehoshaphat knew he could not fight the people of (Moab – Judah) and Ammon in his own strength.
5. Jehoshaphat went to seek the (king of Israel – Lord) when he needed help against his enemies.

The Prophet of Penitence

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 2, Lesson 35

Scripture: I Kings 22:52–II Kings 1:18

Memory Verse: “And the angel of the Lord said to Elijah, ‘Go down with him; do not be afraid of him.’ So he arose and went down with him to the king.” (II Kings 1:15)

Lesson Truth: God showed His grace by sending His judgment on Ahaziah.

Lesson

Do you know what penitence is? Penitence is being sorry for doing wrong. Elijah was the prophet of penitence. This meant he talked to people for God. He told people when they did wrong. He wanted them to be sorry for doing wrong. Elijah talked to the messengers of King Ahaziah. He told them the king was doing wrong by going to Baal-Zebub. He wanted Ahaziah to be sorry for doing wrong. Then God would show the king His grace.

Ahaziah became king of Israel after Ahab. He was very wicked. He worshipped Baal and idol calves. He did the same wicked things that his father and mother did. The country of Moab rebelled against Ahaziah. He wanted to make them obey him. Before he could go after Moab he fell from his upper room. When he fell he was hurt very bad. He was not sure he would ever get better. Do you know what he did? He decided to ask the idol called Baal-Zebub if he would get better. He sent messengers to ask Baal-Zebub. This was a wicked thing for Ahaziah to do. He should have asked the God of Israel if he would get better. But Ahaziah did not want to be humble before God.

The Angel of the Lord told Elijah to meet the messengers of the king. The Angel of the Lord was the same Angel that led Israel in the wilderness. He told Elijah to ask the messengers a question. He was to ask them if they were going to Baal-Zebub because there wasn't a God in Israel? Elijah knew that

there was a God in Israel. He knew that Israel's God had a covenant with His people. Elijah knew that Israel's God could make an injured person well. The Angel of the Lord and Elijah wanted Ahaziah to look to God for help. Only God could tell the king if he would get better.

The king was upset with Elijah. He thought Elijah should be captured. So he sent a captain and fifty men to capture Elijah. The captain said to Elijah: "Man of God, the king has said, 'Come down.'" Elijah answered, "If I am a man of God, let fire come down from heaven. And let this fire burn up you and your men." Then it happened. Fire came down and burned up all these men. Fire also burned up a second group of men. This was very sad. But it was worse that the king did not honor God's name. God's grace had to win the victory. So those who did not honor His name had to die.

The king sent a third group of men to capture Elijah. The captain of this group did honor God's name. So he and his men were not burned up. The Angel of the Lord told Elijah to go with this captain. He went with him to the king. Elijah told the king he would not get better. He told the king he would die. Wicked king Ahaziah had to die. He could not stand in the way of God's mercy to His people. God would show His grace to His people.

Questions

Choose the correct answer.

1. Elijah talked to the messengers of king (Ahab – Ahaziah).
2. Ahaziah sent messengers to ask (God – Baal-Zebub) if he would get better.
3. The Angel of the Lord told (Elijah – Ahab) to ask if there wasn't a God in Israel that the king sent messengers to Baal-Zebub.
4. The king sent a captain and fifty men to capture (Jezebel – Elijah).

5. (Elijah – Ahaziah) said, “If I am a man of God let fire come down from heaven and burn up you and your men.”

Ascension

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 2, Lesson 36

Scripture: II Kings 2

Memory Verse: “Now when the sons of the prophets who were from Jericho saw him, they said, “The spirit of Elijah rests on Elisha.” (II Kings 2:15a)

Lesson Truth: God took Elijah to heaven in a whirlwind, because he brought God’s Word to Israel.

Lesson

Today we will learn about Elijah’s ascension. Ascension means the act of going up. The ascension of Elijah was his going up to heaven. God took Elijah to heaven so he did not die. Elijah was a champion for God’s Word. God honored His Word when He took Elijah to heaven. Elijah’s ascension made the people, who loved God’s Word, strong.

Elijah knew he was going to be taken up to heaven. He knew his work on earth was finished. Elijah did not know that God also told Elisha and the prophets. Elijah and Elisha were leaving Gilgal. Elijah told Elisha to stay at Gilgal. He said the Lord told him to go to Bethel. But Elisha would not stay behind. He told Elijah, “I will not leave you.”

When they came to Bethel the sons of the prophets met them. They said to Elisha, “Do you know the Lord is going to take Elijah away from you today?” Elisha did not want to talk about it, so he said, “Yes, I know; keep silent!” (II Kings 2:3) Elisha and the prophets had to wait on the Lord. They had to see if the Spirit of the Lord would stay with them. They did not know if the Spirit of the Lord would go with Elijah.

At Bethel Elijah again asked Elisha to stay behind. He said the Lord told him to go to Jericho. But Elisha would not stay behind. He said, “As the Lord

lives... I will not leave you” (II Kings 2:4). At Jericho Elijah asked Elisha once again to stay behind. He said the Lord wanted him to go to the Jordan River. But Elisha would not stay behind. He wanted to stay with Elijah to the end. Now Elijah understood that Elisha knew what was going to happen.

They traveled together to the Jordan River. At the Jordan the water was too deep for them to cross. Elijah then took his robe and struck the water of the river. God then sent a miracle. The water of the Jordan River divided. Elijah and Elisha walked through the river on dry ground. Elijah then asked Elisha what he could do for him before he was taken away. Elisha wanted the Spirit of the Lord to stay with the people. So he asked Elijah for a double measure of his spirit. Elijah knew that only God could give this gift to Elisha. So he said God will give you this gift, if you see me when I am taken away.

All of a sudden there was a strong whirlwind. Fire came down from heaven. Elisha saw a chariot of fire and horses of fire. Then Elijah was taken up to heaven. Elisha saw Elijah when he was taken away. Now he knew the Lord would put Elijah’s spirit in him. He picked up the robe that fell from Elijah. Elisha took this robe and went to the Jordan River. He struck the water with Elijah’s robe. He said, “Where is the Lord God of Elijah?” Then God sent His Spirit to do another miracle. The waters of the river parted just as they had done for Elijah. Elisha could walk through the river on dry ground. The sons of the prophets in Jericho said, “The spirit of Elijah rests on Elisha” (II Kings 2:15).

Elisha went back to Bethel. At Bethel some boys met him and mocked him. Do you know what they said? They said, “Go up, bald head! Go up, bald head!” (II Kings 2:23). This was a very wicked thing to do. It was terrible to mock God’s prophet. It was even worse to mock the Word of God. It was the Word of God that took Elijah up to heaven. Elisha wanted to honor the Word of God. He cursed the boys in the name of the Lord. Then God sent two bears from the woods to destroy these evil boys. God wanted the people to believe the Word of the Lord. You and I must also fear the Word of the Lord.

Questions

Choose the correct answer.

1. God took (Elisha - Elijah) to heaven so he did not die.
2. Elijah asked (Elisha – the prophets) to stay at Gilgal.
3. Elijah struck the water of the Jordan river with his (staff – robe).
4. Elisha asked for a (triple – double) measure of Elijahs’s spirit.
5. The sons of the prophets in Jericho said the spirit of (Elijah – Moses) rests on Elisha.

The Whole Earth Is Mine

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 2, Lesson 37

Scripture: II Kings 3

Memory Verse: “And this is a simple matter in the sight of the Lord; He will also deliver the Moabites into your hand.” (II Kings 3:18a)

Lesson Truth: The Lord showed His grace to His people. He wanted them to bless the whole earth.

Lesson

Today the story is about a battle between Israel and Moab. This battle happened when Jehoram became the king of Israel. Jehoram was a son of wicked Ahab and Jezebel. When he became king, he put away the worship of Baal. Baal was the idol that Ahab and Jezebel worshipped. But Jehoram did not put away the worship of calves. He was wicked in the way he worshipped the Lord. Jehoram had the people worship the Lord through the calves at Dan and Bethel. He acted like God was no different than the gods of other nations.

Jehoram was upset that Moab would not honor Israel. He should have been upset that they would not honor God. For years Moab paid thousands of lambs and wool to Israel. After Ahab died the king of Moab would no longer pay the lambs and wool. Jehoram decided to take his army and make the Moabites pay. He asked Jehoshaphat to help him. Jehoshaphat was the king of Judah. He said he would take his army and help king Jehoram. Jehoshaphat also made the king of Edom go along to fight Moab.

The three kings decided to attack Moab from the south. They marched for seven days in the desert. They thought there would be water in the streams for their armies. But there wasn't any water. The soldiers and the animals of the army were very thirsty. King Jehoram said the Lord wanted Moab to capture the three kings. That was not true. King Jehoshaphat thought about

the Lord. He asked if there was a prophet of the Lord with the army. He wanted to ask the prophet of the Lord what to do.

The three kings went to talk to the prophet Elisha. Elisha told Jehoram to go to the god, Baal, that his parents worshipped. He said he would only talk to them because Jehoshaphat was with them. Elisha respected Jehoshaphat because he was a descendant of David.

Elisha told the three kings that God would save them from the Moabites. He told them to make ditches in the valley. Elisha said that God would fill the ditches with water. There would not be any wind or rain, but God would fill the ditches. It happened just like Elisha said. Water came from the land of Edom and filled the ditches. The people in Moab thought the water in the ditches was blood. They thought the armies of Israel and Judah killed each other. They went to pick up the things the armies left behind. Then the men of Israel and Judah attacked the Moabites. Many of the people of Moab were killed.

The three kings then did a sad thing. They threw stones on all the good fields of Moab. They stopped all the springs of water. They even cut down all the good trees. It was true that Elisha told them to do these things. But this was not what the Lord wanted them to do. The Lord wanted Israel to remember that everything in the world belongs to Him. Even the land of Moab belonged to the Lord. God had given the land to Moab the son of Lot.

God showed His grace to His people. He filled the ditches with water. He saved the men of Israel and Judah from Moab. He did this for the sake of Christ Jesus. The men of Israel had to learn that the earth belongs to God. God's earth is made for blessing and salvation. It is not to be utterly destroyed.

Questions

Choose the correct answer.

1. The battle between Israel and Moab happened when (Elisha - Jehoram) became king.

2. The king of Israel asked (Jehoshaphat - Mesha) king of Judah to help him fight Moab.
3. The three kings marched for (three - seven) days in the desert.
4. Elisha told the kings to make the valley full of (stones - ditches).
5. God saved the men of Israel and Judah from the king of (Edom - Moab).

The Word of Life

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 2, Lesson 38

Scripture: II Kings 4

Memory Verse: “He went in therefore, shut the door behind the two of them, and prayed to the Lord.” (II Kings 4:33)

Lesson Truth: The prophet Elisha brought life when he brought the Word of the Lord.

Lesson

Do you know what a widow is? She is a lady whose husband died. A widow cried out to Elisha for help. Her husband had been one of the sons of the prophets. After her husband died the widow could not pay her debts. She told Elisha the creditor was going to take her sons. He was going to make them slaves in order to pay the debt.

Elisha was a prophet of the Lord. He knew the Lord could help this widow. He asked her what she had in the house. She told Elisha that all she had was a small jar of oil. Elisha knew that the Lord could use a small jar of oil to help the widow. He told her to ask her neighbors for vessels. He wanted her to borrow a lot of them. Then Elisha told her to do a very strange thing. He told her to pour oil from the small jar into the big vessels. Do you know what happened? The widow was able to fill all the big vessels with oil from this small jar. The Lord made it so the small jar did not go empty. Elisha then told her to sell the oil from the big vessels. She could then take the money and pay the creditor. Then the creditor would not take her sons as slaves. God helped the widow with a miracle of His grace!

One day Elisha was at the little town named Shunem. An important woman asked him to come to her house for some food. This woman knew that Elisha was a man of God. She told him to eat at her house whenever he was at Shunem. She even got her husband to agree to build a room for Elisha.

He could stay in this room anytime he was in town. Elisha was very thankful for the woman's kindness. He had his servant ask her what they could do for her. She told the servant that she did not need anything. But the servant knew that she wanted a child very much. He told Elisha how much she wanted a child.

Elisha knew the Lord could give her a child. He called the woman and told her that next year she would have a son. This seemed so impossible. She asked Elisha not to lie about something so wonderful. Still, she believed Elisha. The next year the Lord gave her a son.

Then a very sad thing happened. Her son died. He had been in the sun with his father. The woman knew she had to find Elisha. She knew he was a man of God. She found Elisha. She told him it would have been better if she never had a son. It would have been better than to have her son die. Elisha sent his servant to put his staff over the boy's face. He thought the boy would awaken. But he remained dead.

Elisha then went home with the woman. He found the boy on his bed. He struggled in his faith before the Lord. He stretched himself over the boy two times. Then a wonderful thing happened. The boy sneezed seven times and he awoke. He was alive again! He was made alive by the power of the Word of God's grace.

Elisha also helped the sons of the prophets. He put flour in a pot of stew. This took away the bitter taste. It made it possible for the prophets to eat the stew. He also had his servant feed one hundred men with twenty small loaves. The loaves were too small to feed one hundred men. It took a miracle of the Word of grace. With this miracle there was enough bread. There was even bread left over. Again and again, Elisha brought the Word of life. This Word of life is the Word of the Lord

Questions

Choose the correct answer.

1. A widow is a lady whose husband has (died – left).

2. The widow had only a small jar of (meal – oil).
3. (The Lord – Elisha) made it so the small jar did not go empty.
4. The Lord gave the woman from (Gilgal – Shunem) a son.
5. The Word of life that Elisha brought is the Word of (Elisha – the Lord).