

# Promise and Deliverance Student Workbook

Volume 8

Level 2

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.



## Lesson 1

# David's House Humbled

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

**Scripture:** I Kings 12:1-24

**Memory Verse:** “Thus says the Lord: ‘You shall not go up nor fight against your brethren the children of Israel. Let every man return to his house, for this thing is from Me.’” (I Kings 12:24a)

**Lesson Truth:** In order for Israel to be blessed by God's promise, David's house had to be humbled.

### Lesson

Solomon became proud and married unbelieving women. God could not allow this pride to continue. What would happen to God's promise to David if his house forgot God? God promised that David would have a son to sit on his throne forever. If David's house went away from God this could not happen. So God had to humble David's house. He humbled David's house because of His grace. He humbled David's house because he loved His people Israel. The lesson today tells what happened.

Solomon died so the Israelites wanted to make Rehoboam king. Rehoboam was Solomon's son. Instead of going to Jerusalem to make him king they went to Shechem. Shechem was in the land of Ephraim. The people of Ephraim did not like the people of Judah at Jerusalem. The people asked Jeroboam to come from Egypt to help them talk to Rehoboam. They told Rehoboam that Solomon had made their burden very heavy with taxes. They asked Rehoboam to make their burdens lighter. Rehoboam asked them to come back in three days. Then he would have an answer for them.

First Rehoboam asked some elders what he should do. These elders served with Solomon. They told Rehoboam to listen to the people. They said if he would listen, then the people would serve him. Rehoboam did not like the advice of the elders. So he went to the young men. The young men told him to be harsh with the people. They said he should tell them he would make their tax burden heavier. It is sad that Rehoboam did not want to be humble before God and the people. He should have asked the Lord what he should do. Then he could have been a king like David. But God used Rehoboam's pride to make the people reject David's house.

Did the people know what they were doing? Did they forget that God promised David a son to sit on his throne forever? What would happen if they rejected David's

house? If they rejected David's house they also rejected the covenant God made with David. God could have rejected all of Israel. But God did not forget His promise to David. God allowed one tribe to be ruled by David's house.

People from the tribe of Judah and believers from other tribes were ruled by David's house. The ten tribes made Jeroboam their king. They did not want to be ruled by David's house. Rehoboam heard that the ten tribes made Jeroboam their king. He was angry and called his army to fight Jeroboam. He wanted to make the ten tribes part of his kingdom. Then God showed how much he loved Israel. God sent the prophet Shemaiah to talk to Rehoboam. Shemaiah told Rehoboam that God caused the ten tribes to reject David's house. God did this to humble David's house. After David's house was made humble, they would again be faithful. If David's house would again be faithful, then God's promise to David would happen. David would have a son to sit on his throne forever.

God's promises always come true. Because God loved His people Israel, He humbled the house of David. Now the Redeemer could come from David's house as God promised.

## Questions

*Fill in the blanks.*

1. "And \_\_\_\_\_ went to Shechem, for all Israel had gone to Shechem to make him king." (I Kings 12:1)
2. "Your \_\_\_\_\_ made our yoke heavy; now therefore, lighten the burdensome service of your father, and his heavy yoke which he put on us, and we will serve you." (I Kings 12:4)
3. "Then King \_\_\_\_\_ consulted the elders who stood before his father Solomon while he still lived, and said, 'How do you advise me to answer these people?'" (I Kings 12:6)
4. "And they spoke to him, saying, 'If you will be a \_\_\_\_\_ to these people today, and serve them, and answer them, and speak good words to them, then they will be your servants forever.'" (I Kings 12:7)

5. “But he rejected the advice which the \_\_\_\_\_ had given him, and consulted with the young men who had grown up with him, who stood before him.” (I Kings 12:8)
  
6. “So the \_\_\_\_\_ did not listen to the people; for the turn of events was from the Lord, that he might fulfill His word which the Lord had spoken by Ahijah the Shilonite, to Jeroboam the son of Nebat.” (I Kings 12:15)

## Lesson 2

# Unquenchable Fire

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

**Scripture:** I Kings 12:25–14:20

**Memory Verse:** “But to the wicked God says: ‘What right have you to declare My statutes, or take My covenant in your mouth?’” (Psalm 50:16)

**Lesson Truth:** The judgment pronounced against Jeroboam points to the unquenchable fire Christ will use to destroy the chaff.

## Lesson

The story today is about a prophet from Judah who talked of judgment. The judgment against Jeroboam pointed to the judgement of Christ Jesus. The prophet of Judah said most of Israel would be destroyed. John the Baptist said that Christ would separate the wheat from the chaff. The chaff would be burned with an unquenchable fire. An unquenchable fire is a fire that never goes out.

Jeroboam was made king of the ten tribes of Israel. God told Rehoboam not to fight against the ten tribes. Jeroboam could rule the ten tribes without trouble. He was afraid the people would want to be ruled by Rehoboam. He thought he should keep the people away from Jerusalem. Then they would not follow Rehoboam. Jeroboam wanted the people to forget David’s house. If the people forgot David’s house they would also forget God’s grace to David.

Jeroboam decided to make places to worship at Dan and Bethel. He made two golden calves. One he placed at Dan and the other at Bethel. Then he used the same words that Aaron used when he made a golden calf. He said to the people, “Here are your gods, O Israel, which brought you up from the land of Egypt” (I Kings 12:28). Aaron led the people to reject Moses as their shepherd. Now Jeroboam led the people to reject the house of David. Both Aaron and Jeroboam allowed the people to reject God’s covenant. Jeroboam told the people he wanted them to worship God through the calves. But it was wrong for him to make a calf to represent God. This was a disgrace to the glory of God.

Jeroboam also made an altar at Bethel. He offered sacrifices on this altar on his new feast days. When he was offering sacrifices a prophet from Judah came. This prophet was a man of God. He cried against Jeroboam’s altar. He said that altar would burn the bones of the people who worshipped idols. He said a son of the house of David would do this. The son from David’s house was Josiah. This meant that Jeroboam’s house would be destroyed. This made Jeroboam very angry. He pointed to the

prophet and shouted; “Arrest him!” When he did this God made Jeroboam’s hand become limp. Then He asked the prophet to pray for him. The prophet did pray for him and his hand was healed.

Jeroboam asked the prophet to eat and drink with him. The prophet said the Lord would not allow him to do so. He was not allowed to eat and drink in a place that was cursed. When the prophet left Bethel an old prophet convinced him to return. This was disobedient. God demands complete obedience to His Word in His covenant. The prophet from Judah was told he would be killed on his way home. He would not be buried with his family because he disobeyed. Yet God showed that the prophet from Judah belonged to Him. When Josiah came and dug up the bones of the idol worshippers, he did not dig up this grave. God showed His judgement but also His grace.

It is very sad that Jeroboam did not repent. Now his son became very sick. Jeroboam wanted to get a word from the Lord. He told his wife to pretend she was someone else and go to Ahijah. Ahijah was the prophet who told Jeroboam he would rule the ten tribes. God told Ahijah that Jeroboam’s wife was coming. When she came to Ahijah, the prophet told her that her son would die. He also told her that the house of Jeroboam would be completely destroyed. His house would be destroyed because he rejected the Lord’s covenant. This pointed to the prophecy of John the Baptist. John said Christ would come to divide the wheat from the chaff. The chaff would be burned with unquenchable fire.

## Questions

*Fill in the blanks.*

1. “And \_\_\_\_\_ said in his heart, ‘Now the kingdom may return to the house of David.’” (I Kings 12:26)
2. “Therefore the king asked advice, made two \_\_\_\_\_ of gold and said to the people...” (I Kings 12:28a)
3. “It is too much for you to go up to \_\_\_\_\_. Here are your gods, O Israel, which brought you up from the land of Egypt.” (I Kings 12:28b)
4. “And behold a man of God went from \_\_\_\_\_ to Bethel by the word of the Lord.” (I Kings 13:1a)

5. “And he gave a \_\_\_\_\_ the same day saying...” (I Kings 13:3a)
  
6. “This is the sign, which the Lord has spoken: Surely the \_\_\_\_\_ shall split apart, and the ashes on it shall be poured out.” (I Kings 13:3b)

## 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 eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him.” (II Chronicles 16:9a)

**Lesson Truth:** The Lord became jealous when his people followed other gods.

### Lesson

Do you know what estrangement is? Estrangement is turning your love to dislike or hatred. That is what happened in Judah when Rehoboam was king. The people turned their love for God to hatred. They did this when they made wooden images. They did it when they made high places and sacred pillars. They used these high places and sacred pillars to worship idols. It is no wonder they made the Lord jealous with their sins.

Because the people left God and served idols they became poor and needy. This happened in the years that Rehoboam was king. Rehoboam could have been a good king. God allowed him to rule in Jerusalem. Jerusalem was the city of David where God placed His name. But Rehoboam did not give himself fully to the Lord. He was no longer zealous for the name of the Lord. Under his leadership the people of Judah also broke away from the Lord.

The people of Judah committed terrible sins. The more they forgot the God of David, the more they followed other gods. They committed practices that God clearly forbid. They built high places and sacred pillars. They made wooden images to worship. They allowed perverted people to practice their perversions. It is no wonder that God became jealous. He was jealous for the love of David’s son. How could the Redeemer come from David’s line if they forgot God? Because of His jealous love he had to punish Judah. There was hope for Judah if punishment brought repentance.

How did the Lord try to get Judah’s attention? He allowed Shishak, the king of Egypt, to come into Judah and attack her cities. The loss of the fortified cities was terrible. But the real punishment came when Shishak attacked Jerusalem. Jerusalem was the city that had all the treasures. All the gold and silver that David and the people gathered was in Jerusalem. Shishak took many of these treasures and the

golden shields that Solomon had made. What a lot of grief for God's people because they worshipped idols. Still Rehoboam did not return to the Lord with a whole heart.

God still loved Judah for David's sake. When Rehoboam died his son Abijam became king. Abijam was from the house of David, yet he did not serve the Lord as David had done. Still when Abijam called on the name of the Lord, the Lord heard his prayer. Abijam wanted to force the people of Israel under the rule of the house of David. He gathered an army of four hundred thousand men and went against Jeroboam. But Jeroboam had eight hundred thousand men. Jeroboam's men soon surrounded Abijam's men. Then Abijam called on the name of the Lord and trusted that the Lord could help him. The Lord gave Abijam and Judah the victory. The victory did not come because Abijam was close to the Lord. It came because of God's covenant with David.

Asa became the third king of Judah. He was the son of Abijam from the house of David. Asa was a good king and tried to live for the Lord. He did away with all the idol worship in Judah. He urged the people to seek the Lord. He wanted them to do this while it was still possible to find Him. Asa also showed that he trusted God in a time of war. An army of more than a million men from Ethiopia came against Judah. Then Asa confessed that God could help the weak as well as the strong. He trusted in the Lord completely, and the Lord gave Judah a great victory. As Asa came back from the war, God sent a prophet to talk to him. The prophet, Azariah, told Asa that not all the people of Judah lived close to the Lord. So, Asa continued to tell people to turn to the Lord. He held a large meeting in Jerusalem to renew the covenant. The people joined Asa in turning to the Lord.

But it is sad that Asa did not seek the Lord in everything. When king Baasha from Israel tried to harm him, he did not seek the Lord. Instead, he brought treasures to the king of Syria to get his help. Asa was a good king who failed. Still because of God's covenant with David, Asa would have son to sit on the throne. Judah did not fully return to the Lord. A Redeemer, better than Asa, would come from David's house.

## Questions

*Fill in the blanks.*

1. "And \_\_\_\_\_ the son of Solomon reigned in Judah."  
(I Kings 14:21a)
2. "Now \_\_\_\_\_ did evil in the sight of the Lord, and they provoked him to jealousy with their sins which they committed." (I Kings 14:22a)

3. “For they built for themselves \_\_\_\_\_ and sacred pillars and wooden images on every high hill and under every green tree.” (I Kings 14:23)
  
4. “And there was war between \_\_\_\_\_ and Jeroboam all their days.” (I Kings 14:30)
  
5. “\_\_\_\_\_ did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, as did his father David.” (I Kings 15:11)
  
6. “And he banished the perverted persons from the land, and removed all the \_\_\_\_\_ that his fathers had made.” (I Kings 15:12)

## Israel Forsaken

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

**Scripture:** I Kings 15:25–16:34

**Memory Verse:** “Indeed they are all worthless; their works are nothing; their molded images are wind and confusion.” (Isaiah 41:29)

**Lesson Truth:** Israel was forsaken by the Lord when they rejected David’s house.

### Lesson

In Judah some of the peoples love for God had turned to hate. God punished the people of Judah so they would repent. In Israel the people rejected the house of David. So they were forsaken by God. This is what happened when Jeroboam, Nadab, Baasha, Elah, Zimri, Omri, and Ahab were kings of Israel. Although God forsook Israel, His grace was seen in a few people.

You remember that Jeroboam did not want the people to worship in Jerusalem. He set up calves to worship at Dan and at Bethel. When he did this he taught the people to worship idols. He also did this because he rejected David’s house. In rejecting David’s house he rejected God’s promise to David. This meant he rejected Christ, the Promised Son of David. God said he would destroy the house of Jeroboam. He could not let this sin go unpunished. God wanted to save Israel by destroying this wickedness.

When Jeroboam died his son Nadab became king. Nadab walked in the sins of his father. He had the people continue in idol worship. The Lord raised up Baasha to destroy the house of Jeroboam. He began this destruction by killing Nadab. He did this when Nadab was laying siege to a Philistine town. When he made himself king, he killed the family of Jeroboam. He did not leave one person of Jeroboam’s family alive. The family of Jeroboam was destroyed according to the word of God. They were destroyed just like the prophet Ahijah foretold. Baasha did not walk in the ways of the Lord. He had the people continue with calf worship. For this reason the Lord said the same judgement that came on Jeroboam would come on Baasha. His family would also be totally destroyed.

In the time of Baasha we see the beginning of real confusion in Israel. This confusion came because Israel rejected the promise of David’s house. It seemed that the kingdom just fell apart. When Baasha died Elah his son became king. He was king for only two years when Zimri killed him. Then the Lord used Zimri to bring His judgement on the house of Baasha. Zimri killed the entire family of Baasha just as

Jehu foretold. The confusion became worse when Zimri was king for only seven days. The army made Omri king instead of Zimri. Zimri then killed himself by burning the king's house upon himself.

Omri had to fight for the throne by defeating Tibni. But Omri did not walk in the ways of the Lord. The Bible says he was more wicked than the kings before him. He led the people of Israel in forsaking God and worshipping idols. Omri bought a mountain in Israel. He built the city of Samaria on this mountain. Samaria was the opposite of Jerusalem. Jerusalem had the temple. It was a sign of service according to the Word of the Lord. Samaria was a sign of a life lived apart from the Lord. In this way Israel went farther and farther away from the Lord. Finally, they forgot the Lord entirely.

When Omri died his son Ahab became king. Ahab was a very wicked king. He thought it was nothing to do the sins of Jeroboam. He married a very wicked woman from Sidon. Her name was Jezebel. She brought Baal worship to Israel. The people worshipped the forces of nature when they worshipped Baals. Ahab allowed the people to worship Baals. This showed that he had rejected the Lord. Didn't Ahab understand that God controls the forces of nature? Didn't he realize that he rejected the word of God's grace? In this way Israel made a complete break with the Lord.

The people showed how they broke with the Lord. They decided to rebuild the city of Jericho. Years before Joshua said they would die if they rebuilt Jericho. This is what happened. The man, Heil began rebuilding Jericho. Immediately the Lord sent judgment. His oldest son died. Later his other sons died as well. Fighting against the Lord's grace brought death. The people of Israel became more and more like the heathen people. They showed they wanted to be just like the people of other nations. That is why Israel was forsaken! Yet God's covenant was true! Some of the people would always love the Lord. For the sake of Christ Jesus there was still grace for the kingdom of Israel.

## Questions

*Fill in the blanks.*

1. "And it was so, when he became king, that he killed all the house of \_\_\_\_\_.  
(I Kings 15:29a)
2. "He did not leave to \_\_\_\_\_ anyone that breathed, until he had destroyed him according to the word of the Lord which He had spoken by His servant Ahijah the Shilonite." (I Kings 15:29b)

3. “Then the word of the Lord came to \_\_\_\_\_ the son of Hanani, against Baasha saying...” (I Kings 16:1)
  
4. “Surely I will take away the posterity of \_\_\_\_\_ and the posterity of his house, I will make your house like the house of Jeroboam the son of Nebat.” (I Kings 16:3)
  
5. “In the twenty-seventh year of Asa king of Judah, \_\_\_\_\_ had reigned in Tirzah seven days.” (I Kings 16:15)
  
6. “Now \_\_\_\_\_ the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the Lord, more than all who were before him.” (I Kings 16:30)

## The Word of Grace Concealed

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

**Scripture:** I Kings 17

**Memory Verse:** “Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months.” (James 5:17)

**Lesson Truth:** The Lord hid the Word of His grace with Elijah, so the people would know it speaks with God’s authority.

### Lesson

Do you know what it means to conceal something? Conceal means to hide something. God had forsaken Israel. Now He would hide His Word from the people. God would hide His Word with the prophet Elijah. God would hide His Word so the people would know it had power.

Ahab was the king of Israel. His wife was the wicked Jezebel. Ahab and Jezebel brought Baal worship to Israel. People who bowed to Baal thought he controlled nature. The people of Israel should have known that only God controls nature. God sent Elijah to talk to King Ahab. Elijah told Ahab that there would not be dew nor rain until he said it could rain. This would show Ahab and Israel that Baal did not control nature. They would know that only God controls nature.

After Elijah talked to Ahab God told him to hide. God told him to go to the brook called Cherith. God said he would take care of him there. Do you know how God took care of Elijah? He made ravens bring bread and meat to Elijah. This was a miracle, because ravens usually eat all the food they can get. Now the ravens brought food to Elijah and he drank from the brook. Elijah knew about the power of God’s Word of grace. But right now he could not tell Israel about that power. Still Elijah knew that God would not forget His people.

For a long time it did not rain. It became so dry that the brook dried up where Elijah was hiding. Would God send Elijah to the people of Israel? God was not yet ready to show Israel the power of His Word. So he told Elijah to go to Zarephath. This was a town in Sidon. God told Elijah a widow in that town would take care of him. Elijah went to Zarephath and there he saw a woman picking up sticks. He wondered if this was the widow that God told him about. He asked her for some water and a bite of bread. She told Elijah she only had a handful of meal and a little oil. Then Elijah tested this woman.

He told her to first bring him some bread and then make some for herself. He also told her that God said her meal and oil would not run out. This widow believed Elijah. She believed the Word of the God of Elijah. So she brought Elijah some bread. Elijah stayed at this widow's house for a long time. She brought bread to Elijah each day. Her meal and oil did not run out. This widow saw the power of God's Word of grace. God showed his miracle of grace to a widow from Sidon. Would God show His miracle of grace to His own people again? Today we can see His miracle of grace in Christ Jesus.

When Elijah was at the widow's house a sad thing happened. The widow's young son got sick and then died. The widow asked Elijah if her son died to point out her sins. Did her son die because of her sins? The widow believed that God controlled everything. So she was being punished for her sins. She didn't understand that there is grace for those who belong to God. Elijah took her dead son to his room. He then prayed to God, in faith, to bring the boy back to life. He knew the widow and her son deserved to be rejected like everyone else. But he also knew that God visits people with His Word of grace.

God heard Elijah's prayer. God made the boy come back to life. Then Elijah brought him to his mother. She knew it was a miracle that her son came back to life. Now she confessed that Elijah was a prophet from the Lord. She believed that the Word of the Lord is truth. Elijah knew that God could make a boy come back to life. He also knew that God could bring His people back to spiritual life. God could renew His covenant with His people!

## Questions

*Fill in the blanks.*

1. "And \_\_\_\_\_ the Tishbite, of the inhabitants of Gilead said to Ahab..." (I Kings 17:1a)
2. "As the Lord God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall be neither dew nor \_\_\_\_\_ these years, except at my word." (I Kings 17:1b)
3. "And it will be that you shall drink from the brook, and I have commanded the \_\_\_\_\_ to feed you there." (I Kings 17:4)
4. "Arise go to \_\_\_\_\_ which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. See, I have commanded a widow there to provide for you." (I Kings 17:9)

5. “For thus says the \_\_\_\_\_ of Israel: ‘The bin of flour shall not be used up, nor shall the jar of oil run dry, until the day the Lord sends rain on the earth.’” (I Kings 17:14)
  
6. “\_\_\_\_\_ was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months.” (James 5:17)

## The Word of Grace Revealed

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

**Scripture:** I Kings 18

**Memory Verse:** “Now when the people saw it, they fell on their faces; and they said, “The Lord, He is God! The Lord, He is God!”” (I Kings 18:39)

**Lesson Truth:** The Lord wanted His people to return to Him in faith, so He made known His Word of grace.

### Lesson

To reveal something means to make it known. The Lord made His Word of grace known to the children of Israel. His Word of grace had been hidden with Elijah for three years. Now the Lord told Elijah to go back to Israel. The Lord would again show His Word of grace to His people.

For more than three years Elijah was hidden. God’s Word of grace was hidden with Elijah. All these years the wicked king Ahab looked for Elijah. He wanted to have Elijah say the right words so it would rain. Ahab did not understand that it didn’t rain because Christ had turned away from His people. Now the Lord told Elijah to show himself to Ahab. The Lord was ready to give Israel rain again.

Elijah went back to Israel. He met Ahab’s servant, Obadiah. Ahab had sent Obadiah to look for grass for the livestock to eat. It was so dry that most of the fields had dried up. Elijah asked Obadiah to tell Ahab that he was back. But Obadiah was afraid. He was afraid Elijah would disappear again. Then he would be in trouble with Ahab. Elijah said the Lord told him to show himself to Ahab. Then Obadiah believed Elijah. He knew God could speak His Word of grace whenever He pleased.

After more than three years Elijah now went to meet Ahab. The first thing Ahab did was to accuse Elijah. He asked Elijah: “Is that you, O troubler of Israel?” (I Kings 18:17). Wicked King Ahab thought it was the prophet of the Lord who was troubling Israel. He did not realize that it was because of his sins that God withheld the rain. Elijah told Ahab the truth. He said that he did not trouble Israel. But it was because of Ahab’s sins and the sins of Ahab’s house that trouble came to Israel. It was because they forsook God’s commands and followed Baal that trouble came to God’s people.

Now Elijah asked Ahab to have the people gather at Mount Carmel. He told him to make sure the prophets of Baal and Asherah were there. Elijah knew the Lord would reveal Himself by fire. He told the people to make a choice. If God is God then

follow Him and if Baal is god then follow him. He said that he and the prophets of Baal would each put a sacrifice on the altar. Then they would call on the name of their god and he would call on the name of God. Elijah said the God who answered by sending fire to consume the sacrifice, let Him be God. The people were completely silent.

Elijah told the prophets of Baal to call on their god. They cried out all day but Baal did not answer because he was an idol. Then Elijah put his sacrifice on the altar. He had servants cover the sacrifice and altar with water. He put on so much water that the trenches around the altar were full. Then he called on the name of the God of heaven. A fire came down and burned the sacrifice, the wood, and even the water. Then the people fell on their faces and cried out: "The Lord, He is God! The Lord, He is God!" (I Kings 18:39). This was the way the Lord showed His grace in fire from heaven.

Elijah told Ahab to return to Jezreel because it was going to rain. He then called on the name of the Lord in prayer. He prayed seven times that the Lord would send the rain. He knew the Lord would send rain. He wanted to claim what God in his grace had decided to give his people. The Word of God's grace had been hidden for more than three years. Now this Word of His grace was again made known to Israel and its wicked king, Ahab.

## Questions

*Fill in the blanks.*

1. "And it came to pass after many days that the word of the Lord came to \_\_\_\_\_ in the third year, saying, 'Go present yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain on the earth.'" (I Kings 18:1)
2. "Then it happened, when \_\_\_\_\_ saw Elijah, that he said to him, 'Is that you, O troubler of Israel?'" (I Kings 18:17)
3. "And he answered, 'I have not troubled \_\_\_\_\_, but you and your father's house have, in that you have forsaken the commandments of the Lord and have followed the Baals.'" (I Kings 18:18)
4. "And \_\_\_\_\_ came to all the people, and said, 'How long will you falter between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him.'" (I Kings 18:21)

5. “Hear me, O Lord, hear me, that this people may know that You are the \_\_\_\_\_, and that You have turned their hearts back to You again.” (I Kings 18:37)
  
6. “And \_\_\_\_\_ said to them, ‘Seize the prophets of Baal! Do not let one of them escape!’” (I Kings 18:40)

## Stillness with God

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

**Scripture:** I Kings 19

**Memory Verse:** “But what does the divine response say to him? I have reserved for Myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal.” (Romans 11:4)

**Lesson Truth:** In the struggle against Baal worship, the Lord talked to Elijah in a still small voice.

### Lesson

Today we will learn how God encouraged Elijah. Elijah fled to the wilderness in despair when Jezebel said she would take his life. God brought him to Mount Horeb. There He talked to Elijah in a still small voice. He assured Elijah that Baal worship would be punished.

God answered Elijah’s prayer in a spectacular way on Mount Carmel. He sent a fire from heaven to consume Elijah’s sacrifice. When the people saw it they cried out: “The Lord, He is God!” (I Kings 18:39). Elijah then had all the prophets of Baal killed at the Kishon Brook. King Ahab told his wicked wife, Jezebel about the contest on the mountain. He also told her that the prophets of Baal had been killed. This made Jezebel very angry. She sent a messenger to Elijah to tell him that she would kill him before a day went by. Jezebel’s threat made Elijah afraid. He ran for his life into the wilderness. There he sat under a broom tree and asked God to take his life. He thought the struggle against Baal had failed. Did Elijah forget that God’s grace would surely be victorious?

As he slept under the broom tree an angel came to him. The angel brought a cake and some water. Then two times over he told Elijah to get up and eat. At the angel’s command Elijah ate. He then traveled for forty days and forty nights to Mount Horeb. Mount Horeb was the mountain of God. This is where Elijah would find the Lord again. When he arrived at Horeb, he spent the night in a cave. It was in this cave that the Lord asked him: “What are you doing here Elijah?” (I Kings 19:9). His answer showed how weak his faith had become when he said, “I have been very zealous for the Lord God of hosts; for the children of Israel have forsaken your covenant, torn down Your altars; and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life” (I Kings 19:10). In response, the Lord told Elijah to go stand on the mountain. There He would bring Elijah the assurance that God’s grace is always victorious.

Elijah did as the Lord commanded and stood on the mountain. The Lord passed by Elijah. First a great and strong wind tore into the mountain even breaking the stones. But the Lord was not in the wind. Then an earthquake shook the mountain. But the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake God sent a consuming fire. But the Lord was not in the fire. After the fire God sent a still small voice. Elijah heard this still small voice and wrapped his face in his robe. Then God asked him the same question He asked before: “What are You doing here Elijah?” (I Kings 19:13). In asking this question a second time the Lord wanted Elijah to understand how weak his faith had become.

After Elijah had found strength in the stillness, the Lord told him to continue to struggle. He gave Elijah the assurance that God would be with Him. He told him to return and anoint Hazael to be king of Syria. He also commanded him to anoint Jehu to be king of Israel. And finally, he told him to make Elisha a prophet to take his place. Anointing these three men was God’s way of assuring Elijah that Baal worship would be punished. He promised that Hazael would attack Israel to punish Baal worshippers. He also gave the assurance that anyone who escaped the sword of Hazael, Jehu would kill. The Lord gave additional assurance that anyone who escaped the sword of Jehu, Elisha would kill. God anointed these men to kill the Baal worshippers in Israel so he could bring His salvation. With this assurance Elijah knew that the Kingdom of peace was sure to come.

Elijah then went to find Elisha. He threw his robe on him, which meant that Elisha would be the next prophet. Now Elijah knew that the Lord would continue to send His Word of grace to Israel. He would do so through the prophet Elisha. Elijah felt the stillness of God after the earthquake, wind, and fire. So also Christ Jesus felt the stillness of God’s eternal fellowship after His death on the cross.

## Questions

*Fill in the blanks.*

1. “And Ahab told \_\_\_\_\_ all that Elijah had done.” (I Kings 19:1)
2. “Then \_\_\_\_\_ sent a messenger to Elijah saying:..” (I Kings 19:2a)
3. “So let the \_\_\_\_\_ do to me, and more also, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them (the slain prophets of Baal) by tomorrow about this time.” (I Kings 19:2b)

4. “And when he saw that, he arose and ran for his life, and went to \_\_\_\_\_  
(I Kings 19:3)
  
5. “Then He said. ‘Go out and stand on the \_\_\_\_\_ before the  
Lord.’” (I Kings 19:11a)
  
6. “And after the \_\_\_\_\_ a fire, but the Lord was not in  
the fire; and after the fire a still small voice.” (I Kings 19:12)

## Like Sheep without a Shepherd

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

**Scripture:** I Kings 20:1–22:40

**Memory Verse:** “Suddenly a prophet approached Ahab king of Israel, saying, Thus says the Lord: ‘Have you seen all this great multitude? Behold, I will deliver it into your hand today, and you shall know that I am the Lord.’” (I Kings 20:13)

**Lesson Truth:** The Lord rejected Ahab, the unfaithful shepherd, so He could show His grace to Israel.

### Lesson

A nation without a king is like sheep without a shepherd. King Ahab was rejected as the king of Israel. That is why Israel became like sheep without a shepherd. God rejected Ahab because of His grace. God could not allow a wicked king to lead His people away from Him.

Why was Ahab rejected as the king of Israel? It was because he was an unfaithful shepherd. He was unfaithful in the way he dealt with an enemy of the Lord. When Ahab was king, Ben-hadad, king of Syria, attacked Israel. He was a king who had no respect for Israel’s God. He demanded the silver and gold from Israel. He also wanted the fairest of the king’s wives and children. Ahab, the king of Israel, agreed to all these demands. But when Ben-hadad wanted permission to strip the city bare, Ahab said no. For once this weak king took the advice of the elders and answered with strength. He said; “Let not the one who puts on his armor boast like the one who takes it off” (I Kings 20:11). Then Ben-hadad decided to fight.

As the armies prepared to fight, a prophet of the Lord talked to Ahab. The prophet told Ahab that the Lord promised that the Syrians would be defeated. He told Ahab that the whole army of Syria would be delivered into his hand. They would be delivered so Ahab would know that the Lord is God. Ahab believed the prophet. But, he did not see the miracle of the Lord’s grace in this deliverance. Israelite soldiers made a surprise attack on Syria when Ben-hadad was drunk. The Lord gave them the victory.

It was clear that the Lord gave Israel the victory. The Syrians also believed that the gods gave Israel the victory. They thought that Israel’s God was a God of the hills. That is why they were defeated in the hills. The next battle they would fight on the plains. Then Ben-hadad would gain an easy victory. But Syria would learn that there was a God in Israel. In the spring of the year Ben-hadad attacked Israel on the plains.

Once more a prophet of the Lord told Ahab that Syria would be delivered into his hands. God wanted Ahab and Israel to know that He is faithful to His covenant. The Lord gave Israel another great victory. One hundred thousand Syrians were killed in battle. Twenty seven thousand Syrians died when a wall fell on them.

After this great victory Ahab made a terrible mistake. God had given Ben-hadad, the enemy of the Lord, into his hand. But instead of destroying this enemy of the Lord, Ahab let him go. He did not understand that the Lord's enemies must also honor the Lord's name. God then sent a prophet to Ahab to tell him that he and Israel would be destroyed. They would be destroyed in the place of Ben-hadad and the Syrians. Ahab did not return to the grace of the Lord.

Ahab was also unfaithful in dealing with his own people. He wanted a vineyard that belonged to Naboth. He sulked when Naboth said the Lord would not allow him to sell his inheritance. Ahab then showed that he was too weak to correct his wicked wife Jezebel. She told Ahab she would get Naboth's vineyard for him. She had evil men bring false charges against Naboth. Because of these false charges Naboth was put to death. Then his vineyard was given to Ahab. The man who was supposed to be the shepherd of Israel was now guilty of shedding innocent blood. Following this wicked deed, God sent Elijah to Ahab. When Ahab saw Elijah he asked: "Have you found me, O my enemy?" (I Kings 21:20). Elijah did not answer Ahab's question but gave him the Lord's message. He told him that he and his house would be destroyed just as Jeroboam had been destroyed. Ahab was shocked by this message. Yet he did not understand that the Lord had to judge a wicked king in order to show His grace to Israel.

Ahab and Jehoshaphat, king of Judah, now decided to go into battle to take Ramoth Gilead from Syria. Jehoshaphat wanted to inquire of the Lord before they went into battle. So Ahab sent for the prophets of Israel. These prophets told them to go into battle because they would be victorious. But Jehoshaphat did not trust this message. So they sent for Micaiah the true prophet of the Lord. Micaiah told them the Lord had sent a lying spirit into the prophets of Israel. This lying spirit was sent to convince Ahab to go into battle. The word of Micaiah was rejected and Ahab did go into battle. Ahab was killed with an arrow that was shot at random. In this way Micaiah's prophecy was fulfilled. He said that Israel would be scattered like sheep without a shepherd. You and I must be grateful that we serve a Shepherd who gave His life for His sheep!

## Questions

*Fill in the blanks.*

1. “Now \_\_\_\_\_ the king of Syria gathered all his forces together.” (I Kings 20:1a)
2. “Your silver and gold are \_\_\_\_\_, your loveliest wives and children are mine.” (I Kings 20:3)
3. “Thus says the Lord: ‘Have you seen all this great \_\_\_\_\_? Behold, I will deliver it into your hand today, and you shall know that I am the Lord.’” (I Kings 20:13b)
4. “Then the \_\_\_\_\_ of the king of Syria said to him. ‘Their gods are the gods of the hills. Therefore they were stronger than we.’” (I Kings 20:23)
5. “So Ahab spoke to \_\_\_\_\_, saying: ‘Give me your vineyard, that I may have it for a vegetable garden.’” (I Kings 21:2)
6. “Then \_\_\_\_\_ his wife said to him, ‘You now exercise authority over Israel! Arise, eat food, and let your heart be cheerful; I will give you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite.’” (I Kings 21:7)

## 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:** “And he walked in the way of his father Asa, and did not turn aside from it, doing what was right in the sight of the Lord.” (II Chronicles 20:32)

**Lesson Truth:** By faith King Jehoshaphat led the people to find joy in the Lord. This became their strength.

### Lesson

The kingdom of Judah had turned away from the Lord. This happened when Rehoboam and Abijam were kings. King Asa led the people in some reforms, but he did not get rid of the high places. Now his son Jehoshaphat became king. The Bible says his heart took delight in the ways of the Lord. God showed His Word of grace. He gave Judah a king who found his joy in the Lord.

What a blessing to read that Jehoshaphat led the people back to the Lord. When he was king Judah increased in favor with God. He led the people to serve God as David had done. Because Jehoshaphat sought the Lord he was blessed in his work. The kingdom of Judah prospered. It grew in riches and honor. Jehoshaphat was happy in serving the Lord. He put away worship on the high places because that was idolatry. Because Jehoshaphat loved God, it was joy for him to serve the Lord. His reign as king in Judah pointed to the perfect reign of Christ.

Jehoshaphat saw that the people did not know the law of God. He thought that if they really knew the law of God they would not worship idols. So he sent princes, Levites, and priests to teach the people the law. We must remember that knowing God’s law will also protect us from serving idols. The Lord gave Jehoshaphat peace in the first years he was king. Because he served the Lord, the fear of God fell on the nations around Judah. Pagan nations brought presents to Jehoshaphat.

Jehoshaphat also wanted to be at peace with Israel. But in seeking to end the hatred between Israel and Judah he made a mistake. He made an agreement with the wicked King Ahab. He became so close with Ahab that his son married Ahab’s daughter. Although Judah and Israel were brothers, this did not give Jehoshaphat the right to overlook Ahab’s sins. Ahab led the people of Israel to serve Baal. So Jehoshaphat should not have made agreements with Ahab. The prophet Jehu told him that the Lord was angry because he made an agreement with Ahab.

In spite of this agreement with Ahab, Jehoshaphat sought the Lord in his heart. Because of this Jehu the prophet said the Lord would not take His favor away from him. So Jehoshaphat went ahead with reforming Judah. He told the people they were to obey God's law. He wanted them to obey God's law in every part of life as well as in worship. He appointed judges to judge justly in all of Judah. He told these judges to remember they were judging for the Lord. Then he made higher court in Jerusalem. At this higher court Amariah the high priest judged the things of the Lord. And Zebadiah judged the things of the king. Under Jehoshaphat the people were led in the fear of the Lord. In this king, the people saw something that pointed to the promised Messiah.

Jehoshaphat also led the people in the way of faith. The Moabites and Ammonites along with the people from Mount Seir decided to attack Judah. Jehoshaphat knew he could not fight such a large army in his own strength. Once again, he looked for help from the Lord. He called all of the people of Judah together at Jerusalem. Then he stood before the people and prayed to the God of their fathers. He asked God to keep their land safe from the people who attacked them. God then sent his Spirit upon Jahaziel the prophet. Jahaziel told the king and the people to go out meet the enemy. He told them they would see the salvation of the Lord the next day. This is when Jehoshaphat led the people in the way of faith. He bowed before the Lord and all the people bowed with him. In faith they thanked the Lord for saving their land before they saw the victory.

Jehoshaphat then showed his faith in the power of God. He had singers march ahead of the army to sing of the holy majesty of the Lord. They were confident the victory would come from the Lord. It would not come from the army. They marched as if Judah had already won the victory. God did send a great victory. He had one group of the enemy kill another group until they were all destroyed. The destruction of Judah's enemies was the Lord's answer to the faith of the king and his people. The people then showed their joy by praising the Lord in thankfulness. They did this in the valley of Berachah. Berachah means the valley of praise. They praised the Lord with Jehoshaphat leading the way.

This joy was marred by disobedience. Jehoshaphat disobeyed when he made another agreement with the house of Ahab. The king should have known there could not be any fellowship between Christ and sin. In His love, God again sent a prophet to warn Jehoshaphat. This time he obeyed and refused to help Israel in building ships. His love for the Lord claimed his whole life.

## Questions

*Fill in the blanks.*

1. "Now the Lord was with \_\_\_\_\_ because he walked in the ways of his father David." (II Chron. 17:3)

2. “Therefore the \_\_\_\_\_ established the kingdom in his hand; and all Judah gave presents to Jehoshaphat.” (II Chron. 17:5)
3. “And his \_\_\_\_\_ took delight in the ways of the Lord; moreover he removed the high places and wooden images from Judah.” (II Chron. 17:6)
4. “Then he set \_\_\_\_\_ in the land throughout all the fortified cities of Judah, city by city.” (II Chron. 19:5)
5. “It happened after this that the people of \_\_\_\_\_ with the people of Ammon and others with them besides the Ammonites came to battle against Jehoshaphat.” (II Chron. 20:1)
6. “And \_\_\_\_\_ feared, and set himself to seek the Lord, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah.” (II Chron. 20:3)

## 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:** “But the angel of the Lord said to Elijah the Tishbite, ‘Arise, go up to meet the messengers of the king of Samaria, and say to them, ‘Is it because there is no God in Israel that you go to inquire of Baal-Zebub, the god of Ekron?’” (II Kings 1:3)

**Lesson Truth:** God wanted the people to believe, so in His grace He sent judgment on Ahaziah.

### Lesson

Ahaziah, the son of Ahab and Jezebel, became the king of Israel. He did evil in the sight of the Lord. He followed in the ways of his father and mother. God sent Elijah to pronounce judgment on Ahaziah. This judgment was an act of God’s grace, so the people would believe.

Baal worship and calf worship continued in Israel when Ahaziah became king. It did not seem to make any difference that Elijah had warned the people. The wonder of the contest on Mount Carmel seemed to have no affect. Ahaziah still worshipped idols. At this time Moab rebelled against Israel. Before Ahaziah could do anything about this rebellion he was injured. He fell through the lattice from his upper room. The injury was so bad he did not know if he would recover. God sent this injury to Ahaziah to see if he would submit to the Lord. Would Ahaziah seek the Lord’s grace in this injury?

It is sad to know that Ahaziah did not humble himself before God. He would not submit to anyone. In Ahaziah we see the fruits of the sins of Ahab and Jezebel. Do you know what he did? He sent messengers to Baal-Zebub the god of Ekron. He wanted Baal-Zebub to tell him if he would get better. This was a very wicked thing for Ahaziah to do.

God did not forget Ahaziah. He told the Angel of the Lord to speak to Elijah. He was the one who spoke to Abraham, Issac, and Jacob. This Angel told Elijah to meet the messengers of Ahaziah. It was God’s grace that sent Elijah to make Ahaziah think. Elijah asked the messengers from Ahaziah: “Is it because there is no God in Israel that you are going to inquire of Baal-Zebub the god of Ekron?” (II Kings 1:3). Elijah knew that there was a God in Israel. He knew that God was bound to Israel by His covenant. The Angel of the Lord and Elijah wanted Ahaziah to submit to

this covenant God. But Ahaziah did not submit to the covenant God of Israel. Instead, he decided that Elijah had to be captured. He wanted to quiet the voice of God's prophet.

Do you know what Ahaziah did? He sent a captain with fifty men to capture Elijah. They found Elijah sitting on the top of a hill. The captain called Elijah the man of God. He said, "Man of God, the king says you must come down!" (II Kings 1:9). Elijah answered, "If I am a man of God then let fire come down from heaven and consume you and your men" (II Kings 1:10). Do you know what happened? Fire did come down from heaven! It consumed the captain and his men. The fire consumed another captain and fifty men that the king sent to capture Elijah. It was terrible to have fire from heaven consume these men. But it was even worse to show disrespect for God's name. The grace of God had to win the victory. So this disrespect for God's name had to be done away with. The Bible says that our God is a consuming fire. He sent His fire to consume the soldiers, so the people would see His grace.

The king was determined to capture Elijah. So he sent a third captain and fifty men to get him. The third captain understood that God was protecting Elijah. He submitted to the Word of the Lord. Because of this he and his men were not consumed. The Angel of the Lord then told Elijah to go along to the king. Elijah went along and met King Ahaziah. He asked the king if he didn't realize there was a God in Israel. The God of Israel would tell the king what would happen. The injuries of Ahaziah would not get better. He would die of these injuries. This judgment against Ahaziah was a judgment of grace. God could not allow this wicked king to stand in the way of His mercy to His people.

## Questions

*Fill in the blanks.*

1. "\_\_\_\_\_ the son of Ahab became king over Israel in Samaria." (I Kings 22:51)
2. "He did \_\_\_\_\_ in the sight of the Lord, and walked in the way of his father and in the way of his mother and in the way of Jeroboam the son of Nebat who made Israel sin." (I Kings 22:52)
3. "Now \_\_\_\_\_ fell through the lattice of his upper room in Samaria, and was injured." (II Kings 1:2a)

4. “So he sent messengers, and said to them, ‘Go inquire of \_\_\_\_\_ the god of Ekron, whether I shall recover from this injury.’” (II Kings 1:2b)
  
5. “But the angel of the Lord said to \_\_\_\_\_ the Tishbite, ‘Arise, go up to meet the messengers of the king of Samaria.’” (II Kings 1:3a)
  
6. “Is it because there is no \_\_\_\_\_ in Israel that you are going to inquire of Baal-Zebub, the god of Ekron?” (II Kings 1:3b)

## Ascension

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

**Scripture:** II Kings 2

**Memory Verse:** “Then it happened, as they continued on and talked, that suddenly a chariot of fire appeared with horses of fire, and separated the two of them; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.” (II Kings 2:11)

**Lesson Truth:** God exalted Elijah by taking him to heaven in a whirlwind, because he was the bearer of the Word of God.

### Lesson

Elijah brought the Word of God to Israel. He urged the people to leave Baal worship and serve the God who answered by fire. Now Elijah’s work on earth was finished. The Lord was ready to take him away. Elijah was not going to die. He was going to be taken to heaven in a whirlwind. God was going to exalt Elijah. Would Israel still have the Word of God’s grace when Elijah was taken away?

Elijah traveled with Elisha from Gilgal. He did not know that the Lord told Elisha that he would be taken away. He asked Elisha to stay at Gilgal as he went on to Bethel. He told Elisha that the Lord sent him to Bethel. But Elisha would not leave his side. Elisha said as the Lord lives and as my soul lives I will not leave you. When they came to Bethel the sons of the prophets met them. God had also told them that Elijah was to be taken away. They asked Elisha: “Do you know that the Lord is going to take your master away from you today?” Elisha did not want to talk about his master being taken away. He also knew that Elijah didn’t want to talk about his leaving. So he asked the sons of the prophets to be quiet. They all had to wait on the Lord to see what would happen to Elijah.

At Bethel Elijah again asked Elisha to stay behind. He said the Lord had sent him to Jericho and Elisha did not have to go with him. But again, Elisha said he would not leave Elijah’s side. At Jericho Elijah asked Elisha one more time to stay behind. He said the Lord sent him to the Jordan River. Elisha answered, as before that he would not leave his side. He was going to stay with Elijah to the end. When they came to the Jordan River, they could not get across. The water was too deep. Elijah then took his robe and struck the water of the river. Do you know what happened? God sent a miracle and the water of the river divided. Elijah and Elisha were able to walk across on dry ground. Now Elijah was separated from Israel. He was ready to be taken to heaven.

Elijah then asked Elisha what he could do for him before he was taken away. More than anything Elisha wanted the Spirit of the Lord to stay in Israel. So, he asked Elijah for a double measure of his spirit. Elijah knew that this was not a gift he could give to Elisha. He knew that only God could fill someone with the Spirit of the Lord. So, he said to Elisha, "If you see me when I am taken away, God will give you what you ask."

Then it happened! A chariot of fire suddenly came, with horses of fire. The chariot and horses separated the two and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind. Elisha saw Elijah when he was taken away. Now he knew that the Spirit of the Lord and of Elijah would be in him. As Elijah was taken away, his robe fell from him. Elisha picked up Elijah's robe and went back to the Jordan River. He struck the water with Elijah's robe and said, "Where is the Lord God of Elijah?" (II Kings 2:14). Once again, the Lord sent a miracle. The water of the Jordan River divided, and Elisha walked through on dry ground. Now he knew that he would have to fight the battle that Elijah had fought. Elisha knew the Word of the Lord would win the victory.

At Jericho the men told Elisha that the water was bad. He then asked for some salt and threw it into the water and said: "Thus says the Lord: 'I have healed this water; from it there shall be no more death or barrenness.'" Elisha was now the one who brought the Word of the Lord.

From Jericho Elisha went back to Bethel. As he came near Bethel a terrible thing happened. Some young people came and mocked Elisha. They said to him: "Go up, you bald head! Go up, you bald head!" (II Kings 2:23). It was very wicked for these youth to mock Elisha. But it was even worse for them to mock the Word and Spirit of the Lord. Elisha wanted the Word of the Lord to be honored. So he cursed the youth in the name of the Lord. Do you know what happened? The Lord sent two female bears from the woods to destroy these children. This was a terrible punishment of the Lord on the people of Bethel. The Word of the Lord is a blessing to those who believe. But it is a terror to those who do not believe.

## Questions

*Fill in the blanks.*

1. "And it came to pass, when the Lord was about to take up \_\_\_\_\_ into heaven by a whirlwind, that Elijah went with Elisha from Gilgal. (II Kings 2:1)
2. "Then Elijah said to \_\_\_\_\_, "Stay here, please, for the Lord has sent me on to Bethel." (II Kings 2:2a)

3. “But \_\_\_\_\_ said, ‘As the Lord lives, and as your soul lives, I will not leave you!’” (II Kings 2:2b)
  
4. “And so it was, when they had crossed over, that Elijah said to \_\_\_\_\_, ‘Ask! What may I do for you, before I am taken away from you?’” (II Kings 2:9a)
  
5. “\_\_\_\_\_ said, ‘Please let a double portion of your spirit be upon me.’” (II Kings 2:9b)
  
6. “And \_\_\_\_\_ went up by a whirlwind into heaven.” (II Kings 2:11b)

## The Whole Earth Is Mine

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

**Scripture:** II Kings 3

**Memory Verse:** “For thus says the Lord: 'You shall not see wind, nor shall you see rain; yet that valley shall be filled with water, so you, your cattle, and your animals may drink.'" (II Kings 3:17)

**Lesson Truth:** The Lord deals with His people with grace, so they can be a blessing to the whole earth.

### Lesson

Today our story is about God’s anger against Israel. God became angry with Israel when king Jehoram totally destroyed Moab for no good reason. King Jehoram had to learn that the whole earth belonged to the Lord. Even the land where unbelieving people live is the Lord’s.

For a number of years the king of Moab paid tribute to Israel. Each year he would give Israel one hundred thousand lambs and the wool from one hundred thousand rams. The king of Moab paid this tribute as long as Ahab was king. When Ahab died, the king of Moab rebelled and would no longer pay this tribute. When Jehoram became king he decided he would make the king of Moab pay the tribute. He gathered a large army to fight against Moab.

Then Jehoram sent word to Jehoshaphat the king of Judah. He asked Jehoshaphat to join him in the fight against Moab. Jehoshaphat agreed to join Jehoram to fight the Moabites. The sad thing about this battle was that Jehoram thought he had to fight to save the honor of Israel. He should have thought more about the Lord’s honor. Jehoram became so proud of the nation of Israel that he wanted Moab to honor his nation. He treated the Lord almost like the other nations treated their gods. He acted like the Lord was a national god instead of the God of heaven and earth.

King Jehoram and king Jehoshaphat made the king of Edom go along with them into battle. They decided to go through the desert to attack Moab. These kings thought there would be water in the desert streams in the early spring so they could go attack from the south. But after they marched through the desert for seven days they could not find any water. The armies were dying of thirst. If the Moabites attacked them now they would be defeated. Then Jehoram complained that the Lord brought the three kings together to give them into the hand of Moab.

Jehoshaphat, the king of Judah, was different. He asked if there was a prophet of the Lord with the army. He wanted to ask him what to do. He was told that Elisha was with the army. This was the same Elisha that had poured water on the hands of Elijah. The three kings went to talk to Elisha. Elisha told Jehoram to go and talk to Baal. Baal was the god of his parents. He said he would not even talk to the kings if Jehoshaphat had not been with them. Elisha respected Jehoshaphat because he was a son of David. He respected Jehoshaphat because of God's covenant with David.

Elisha then told the three kings that God would save them from thirst. He would give them the victory over the Moabites. Elisha told the kings to make the valley full of ditches. He told them that God would not send wind or rain. Yet He would fill the ditches with water. Then the soldiers and animals could drink. The next morning the ditches were filled with water just as Elisha said. When the Moabites saw the water, it looked like it was blood. They thought the armies of Israel and Judah had killed each other. So, the Moabites went to pick up the things the soldiers had left. When they did this the men of Israel attacked and defeated them. God showed His favor to Israel for the sake His covenant with David.

Elisha was also guilty of thinking the cities and towns of Moab had to be totally destroyed for Israel's honor. He told Jehoram to throw stones on the good fields. He told him to stop the springs of water and to cut down all the good trees. Elisha and Jehoram both forgot that the land of Moab belonged to the Lord. The destruction they did to Moab was not from the Lord.

The king of Moab became afraid of the men of Israel. He decided that a burnt offering to his god might help. Do you know what he offered to his god on the city wall? He offered his oldest son. This was the son who was to become king. The Bible tells us that is when God became angry with Israel. Israel forgot that all the things they destroyed in Moab belonged to the Lord.

## Questions

*Fill in the blanks.*

1. "Now \_\_\_\_\_ the son of Ahab became king over Israel at Samaria in the eighteenth year of Jehoshaphat king of Judah, and reigned twelve years." (II Kings 3:1)
2. "And he did \_\_\_\_\_ in the sight of the Lord, but not like his father and mother." (II Kings 3:2a)

3. “Now \_\_\_\_\_ king of Moab was a sheep breeder, and he regularly paid the king of Israel one hundred thousand lambs and the wool of one hundred thousand rams.” (II Kings 3:4)
  
4. “But it happened when \_\_\_\_\_ died, that the king of Moab rebelled against the king of Israel.” (II Kings 3:5)
  
5. “And the king of Israel said, ‘Alas! for the \_\_\_\_\_ has called these three kings together to deliver them into the hand of Moab.’” (II Kings 3:10)
  
6. “But \_\_\_\_\_ said, ‘Is there no prophet of the Lord here, that we may inquire of the Lord by him?’” (II Kings 3:11a)

## The Word of Life

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

**Scripture:** II Kings 4

**Memory Verse:** “He returned and walked back and forth in the house, and again went up and stretched himself out on him; then the child sneezed seven times, and opened his eyes.” (II Kings 4:35)

**Lesson Truth:** Elisha brought the Word of the Lord that provided life for His people.

### Lesson

Elisha brought the Word of Life to God’s people. Four stories from II Kings 4 tell us how he brought that Word. In each story life was saved when Elisha spoke the Word of the Lord.

The first story is about a widow. After her husband died she was not able to pay all her debts. She cried out to Elisha to help her. She said the creditor was going to take her sons as slaves to pay the debt. Elisha knew that the power of the Word of God could help this widow. He asked what she still had in the house. She said that all she had left in the house was a small jar of oil. Elisha told her to borrow vessels from her neighbors. He told her to get as many vessels as she could. He knew the Lord would do a wonderful thing for this widow. Elisha told her to pour the oil from her small jar into all the vessels she had collected.

The widow and her two sons did as Elisha commanded. They poured the oil from the small jar until all the vessels were full. Elisha then told the widow to sell the oil and pay the creditor. He said that she and her sons could live from the money that was left over. In this way Elisha brought the Word of Life to this widow and her two sons.

The second story is about a noble woman from the town of Shunem. She was a woman who loved the Lord. She invited Elisha to her home for meals when he was at Shunem. She even convinced her husband to build a room for Elisha. She wanted to have a place where he could stay when he was in town. Elisha told his servant to ask this woman what they could do for her to thank her. She told the servant that they did not need to speak to the king for her. She said that she had everything she needed.

Elisha then asked his servant what they could do for this woman. The servant knew that she longed to have a child. Elisha then brought the Word of Life to this woman

from Shunem. He promised that within a year she would have son. These words amazed the woman so much. She asked him not to lie about something so wonderful. Yet she did believe this Word of Life. A year later she had a son.

A few years later a sad thing happened to her son. He died after he had been out in the hot sun with his father. The woman went out to find Elisha. She would not leave his side until he went home with her. Elisha found the lad lying dead on his bed. Elisha's servant was not able to wake him with his master's staff. The servant was not under the control of the Word of the Lord. Elisha went into the room where the child lay. There he struggled in faith and stretched himself over the boy. When he did this a second time the boy sneezed seven times and then awoke. The boy returned from the dead by the power of the Word of grace.

The last two stories in this chapter tell about Elisha feeding God's people. The men at the school of the prophets were short of food. Elisha told them to make a large pot of stew from wild vines and herbs. When the stew was cooked, they found they could not eat it. Elisha put some flour in the pot. This made it so they could eat the stew. He also commanded his servant to feed one hundred men with twenty small loaves. His servant did not believe there would be enough to feed everyone. But Elisha told him there would be enough and some left over.

Each time again the Word of the Lord took care of His people. Each time there was a need Elisha brought the Word of Life. In this way God provided for His people. In just this way Christ Jesus will provide for all our needs. The Lord will supply the needs of those who live in His favor.

## Questions

*Fill in the blanks.*

1. "A certain \_\_\_\_\_ of the wives of the sons of the prophets cried out to Elisha." (II Kings 4:1)
2. "Then he said, 'Go borrow \_\_\_\_\_ from everywhere.'" (II Kings 4:3a)
3. "Now it came to pass, when the vessels were \_\_\_\_\_ that she said to her son, 'Bring me another vessel.'" (II Kings 4:6a)
4. "Now it happened one day that Elisha went to \_\_\_\_\_ where there was a notable woman." (II Kings 4:8a)

5. “Then he said, ‘About this time next year you shall embrace a \_\_\_\_\_.’”  
(II Kings 4:16)
  
6. “When \_\_\_\_\_ came into the house, there was the child  
lying dead on his bed.” (II Kings 4:32)