

Promise and Deliverance Student Workbook

Volume 8

Level 3

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: “Now when all Israel saw that the king did not listen to them, the people answered the king saying: ‘What share have we in David? We have no inheritance in the son of Jesse, To you tents, O Israel! Now, see to your own house, O David!’” (I Kings 12:16)

Lesson Truth: God showed His grace to Israel by humbling the house of David.

Lesson

Under Solomon the house of David began to separate itself from the God of the covenant. Because God loved His people, He decided to humble the house of David so His promise could be fulfilled. God would take ten tribes away from the house of David so that He could show His grace to the faithful who remained. The sins of men brought a division in Israel, but this was from the Lord.

After Solomon died the people of Israel went to Shechem to make his son Rehoboam king. They did not go to Jerusalem, the city of David, to crown their new king. Instead, they went to Shechem in the land of Ephraim, a tribe that was jealous of Judah. They also sent for Jeroboam to come from Egypt to lead them as they spoke with Rehoboam. The people complained that Solomon had made their load of taxes too heavy and they asked that Rehoboam make their load lighter. Solomon had turned away from the Lord, and his glory no longer showed the Lord's grace. But the people were not grateful for what Solomon had done. Their message to Rehoboam, which included a condition, showed that they were ready to revolt against the house of David.

When the people asked Rehoboam to reduce their load of taxes; he asked that they come back after three days for his answer. During that three days Rehoboam first asked advice from the older men who had served his father. The older men advised him to grant the people's request so they would be willing to have him as king. Rehoboam then went to the young men with whom he had grown up, and asked their advice. They advised him to deal harshly with the people and to tell them that he would make their tax burden heavier. Rehoboam decided to take the advice of the young men. He refused to humble himself and showed he did not understand the guilt of sin that Solomon brought on David's house. Rehoboam should have humbled himself and asked for a word from the Lord. Then he could have been a king after God's own heart. Instead, he was foolish and brought a revolt against the house of David. Yet God would not forget His promise to David. David would always have a son to sit on his throne. God's covenant is always certain.

Rehoboam's harsh treatment brought the revolt to a head. The people shouted: “What share have we in David? We have no inheritance in the son of Jesse. To your tents, O Israel! Now, see to your own house, O David!” (I Kings 12:16). Then the people left Rehoboam who was of the house of David. Did the people know what it meant to reject the house of David? Didn't they understand that God made a covenant with David? Did they forget that God promised that David would have a son to sit on his throne forever? The truth is they willfully rejected that promise and the covenant God made with David. In response, God could have rejected all of Israel. But God refused to completely abandon the house of David.

6. When Rehoboam refused to listen to the people what was their response? (I Kings 12:16)

7. What happened to the treasurer that Rehoboam sent to talk to the people? (I Kings 12:18)

8. Why did the Lord forbid Rehoboam from fighting the ten tribes? (I Kings 12:24b)

Lesson 2

Unquenchable Fire

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

Scripture: I Kings 12:25–14:20

Memory Verse: “For the Lord will strike Israel, as a reed is shaken in the water. He will uproot Israel from this good land which He gave to their fathers, and will scatter them beyond the river, because they have made their wooden images, provoking the Lord to anger.” (I Kings 14:15)

Lesson Truth: The destruction of the unfaithful in Israel with unquenchable fire is predicted.

Lesson

The title of this lesson, “Unquenchable Fire,” refers to the words of the prophet from Judah when he told of the coming of Josiah. He prophesied that Josiah would burn the bones of those who worshiped idols at the altar at Bethel. The actions of Josiah pointed to the prophecy of John the Baptist that the Christ would come and separate the wheat from the chaff, and burn the chaff with unquenchable fire.

Jeroboam became the king of the ten tribes of Israel. The Lord stopped Rehoboam from going to war against the ten tribes so Jeroboam could begin his reign without hindrance. One of the first things Jeroboam did was to separate the ten tribes from the house of David. He was afraid that if the people continued to worship in Jerusalem they would become loyal to Rehoboam. So Jeroboam introduced idol worship in an effort to keep the people from going to Jerusalem. He set up golden calves at Dan in the north and at Bethel in the south, so the people could worship there rather than at Jerusalem. The tragedy was that by separating the people from the house of David, he also separated them from the revelation of God’s grace. Jeroboam also allowed anyone to be a priest and he changed the times of the festivals.

Jeroboam was so intent on separating the people from David’s house that he slipped back to the idolatrous words of Aaron. When he set up the calves at Dan and Bethel he introduced them with the same words Aaron used when he made the golden calf, by saying: “Here are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up from the land of Egypt” (I Kings 12:28). Just as Moses was rejected as Israel’s shepherd at Sinai, so the house of David was rejected under Jeroboam. In this rejection they were rejecting the covenant itself. For Jeroboam to make a calf to represent the Lord was a deliberate put down of the majesty of the Lord. Most of the people forsook David’s house and the rule of the Lord, but a few remained faithful.

As Jeroboam was busy offering sacrifices at Bethel, God sent a prophet from Judah to pronounce a judgement. This prophet cried out against the altar at Bethel. He said that a son would come from the house of David and would burn the bones of those who worshipped idols on this altar. The prophet said the name of that son of the house of David would be Josiah. This was a prophecy that promised that the names of the idol worshippers would be completely wiped out. When Jeroboam heard this prophecy he was very angry. He cried out in his anger to arrest the prophet. Then God revealed His judgement by making Jeroboam’s hand, that pointed at the prophet, wither. Then Jeroboam asked the prophet to pray for him. When the prophet prayed for Jeroboam his hand was restored.

Jeroboam then asked the prophet to eat and drink with him. The prophet told him he was not

Lesson 3

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: “Now Judah did evil in the sight of the Lord, and they provoked Him to jealousy with their sins which they committed, more than all that their fathers had done.” (I Kings 14:22)

Lesson Truth: The Lord was provoked to jealousy when the people of Judah withdrew their hearts from Him.

Lesson

After the glorious kingdom of David and Solomon was divided, there was a lot of distrust and fighting between the two kingdoms. The kingdom of Judah continued with a son of David on the throne. For that reason the Lord had a special relationship with Judah. The promised Redeemer would come from David’s line. Because of this special relationship, the Bible tells us, the Lord was provoked to jealousy by the sins of Judah. Kings Rehoboam and Abijam led Judah to commit horrible abominations. Then the Lord in His grace gave them King Asa who brought repentance and reforms.

During the reign of Rehoboam, the people of Judah turned from a deep love and affection for the God of the covenant to become indifferent. At first Rehoboam served the Lord, and his kingdom became stronger. The Lord allowed him to rule in the city of David. Jerusalem was the city where the Lord chose to put His name. Rehoboam could have lived with the Lord’s blessings in this city and kingdom. But He became proud and no longer gave himself completely to the Lord. Under this kind of leadership the people also broke away from the Lord. We read that they provoked the Lord to jealousy with their sins, which they committed, more than their fathers had done.

It is hard to imagine, but these people, who had been chosen by the Lord, now built high places, sacred pillars, and wooden images to serve other gods. Yes, there was estrangement in Judah. The people forgot their love and affection for the God of the covenant and served idols. No wonder God was jealous. In His jealous love, the Lord decided to punish Judah. He allowed Shishak, the king of Egypt, to attack Judah with a large army. He first attacked the fortified cities and then plundered Jerusalem, by taking the treasures from the temple. He took the gold and the silver that had been gathered by David and the people as well as the beautiful golden shields that Solomon made for worship. In spite of the attacks by Shishak, Rehoboam continued to turn away from the Lord.

All the years that Rehoboam was king there was warfare between Israel and Judah. When he died the Lord allowed Abijam his son to become king. The Lord continued to be merciful to the house of David by putting a son on the throne. But Abijam did not have a heart that was true to the Lord like David had. Still the Lord recognized the kingdom that continued David’s line. Abijam took four hundred thousand men and went against Israel that had eight hundred thousand men. He told the men of Israel that because they rejected David’s house they had rejected the Lord. When the men of Judah found themselves caught between the army of Israel, they called on the name of the Lord. God gave the victory to Abijam and the four hundred thousand, because they trusted the Lord in the time of their distress. Abijam did not fully return to the Lord, yet there was hope

in God's covenant with David.

God then showed his grace to Judah by making Asa the son of Abijam king. Asa was a good king who feared the Lord. He put away the idol worship from the land and urged the people to seek the Lord. Judah prospered in the time of Asa, which showed that the Lord was with his people in the covenant. Asa also showed that he trusted the Lord in times of war. When he was confronted by an army from Ethiopia of more than a million men, he confessed that the Lord could help the weak as well as the strong. The Lord gave Judah a complete victory over this large army. As Asa returned from the war he was met by the prophet Azariah, who told him that the people of Judah did not live close to the Lord. In response Asa continued with his reformation. The people joined Asa and promised that anyone who did not serve the Lord would be put to death.

In this way Judah returned to the Lord. Yet Asa did not seek the Lord for the answer to every question. When Baasha from Israel began to oppress Judah, Asa brought the treasures from the temple to the king of Syria to convince him to fight for Judah. God showed his grace in King Asa, yet even under Asa Judah did not return fully to the Lord.

Questions

1. What was important about the city where Rehoboam was allowed to reign? (I Kings. 14:21)
2. What emotion was provoked in the Lord because of Judah's sins? (I Kings 14:22)
3. What kind of people were in the land of Judah that did according to abominations of other nations? (I Kings 14:24)
4. How did Shishak from Egypt plunder Jerusalem? (I Kings 14:26)

5. What was the relationship between Jeroboam and Rehoboam all their days? (I Kings 14:30)

6. Why was sinful Abijam given a lamp in Jerusalem? (I Kings 15:4)

7. What were some of the reforms that Asa brought to Judah? (I Kings 15:12)

8. Despite his godliness what did Asa fail to do in his reforms? (I Kings 15:14)

Lesson 4

Israel Forsaken

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

Scripture: I Kings 15:25–16:34

Memory Verse: “And he did evil in the sight of the Lord, and walked in the way of his father, and in his sin by which he made Israel to sin.” (I Kings 15:26)

Lesson Truth: God forsook Israel because they rejected the house of David. Yet He later sought them in His grace.

Lesson

The kingdom of Judah provoked the Lord to jealousy by their abominations. Yet, because of His covenant with David the Lord provided him a son to sit on the throne. In His jealousy the Lord punished Judah in order to bring them to repentance. At the same time Israel completely rejected the house of David under Jeroboam. The result of this rejection was to have God forsake Israel.

Jeroboam set up calf worship at Dan and at Bethel. In setting up the calf worship Jeroboam separated himself from the house of David and from the covenant promise made to David. Because of this sin the Lord sent Ahijah the prophet to announce that the House of Jeroboam would be utterly destroyed. This destruction came when Baasha assassinated Jeroboam’s son Nadab. Nadab had become king after Jerobam and followed his father’s ways by making Israel sin. Although Baasha did evil in the sight of the Lord, he was used to utterly destroy the house of Jeroboam.

Under the leadership of Jeroboam, Nadab, and Baasha the kingdom of Israel persisted in its rejection of the promises of the house of David. This rejection resulted in confusion in the kingdom of Israel. When people submit to the authority of Christ, they will also submit to the authority of those Christ has placed over them. Israel rejected the authority of Christ and therefore they also rejected the authority of the kings. Baasha did not want to rule in the name of the Lord. He chose to lead the people away from the Lord by way of calf worship. So the same judgement that came on Jeroboam was brought on the house of Baasha. When Baasha’s son Elah was drunk at a banquet, Zimri came and killed him. Zimri also completely wiped out the entire household of Baasha. This was the judgement for a king that forsook the God of David.

Zimri was king for only seven days when the army made Omri king in his place. Omri did not use his power to bring the people back to the Lord. In fact his zeal for idol worship was greater than that of the previous kings of Israel. Omri also built the city of Samaria to compete with Jerusalem in strength and honor. Jerusalem was a symbol of service to the Lord according to His Word. While Samaria was a symbol of life lived in freedom from the Lord. As the people drifted father and father from the Lord, a complete break with the Lord had to follow.

This complete break with the Lord came when Ahab the son of Omri became king. Ahab, with the coaching of his wicked wife Jezebel, led the people in the worship of the Baals. The Baals were made as a way to worship the forces of nature. These pagans really thought the forces of nature were independent from God. This kind of worship showed a complete rejection of God. Ahab led Israel in the final rejection of the Lord’s grace. That’s how Israel’s complete break with the Lord came about.

The break with the Lord was seen in the way the people persisted in their resistance to the Lord's grace. One indication of this resistance came when they decided to rebuild the walls of Jericho. They did not recall the curse that Joshua had placed on Jericho, that anyone who tried to rebuild these walls would have his sons die. This is exactly what happened when Heil began rebuilding the walls. Heil's entire family was wiped out. The tragedy was that Ahab and the people relied on fortified cities and not on the God of Israel. It was sad that Israel wanted to live exactly like the people of the other nations; so Israel was forsaken.

Questions

1. How did Baasha get to be king of Israel? (I Kings 15:27-28)
2. What was the relationship between Asa and Baasha? (I Kings 15:32)
3. Who was made king in Israel after Baasha? (I Kings 16:6)
4. According to whose word did Zimri destroy the house of Baasha? (I Kings 16:12)
5. In the thirty-first year of Asa who became king of Israel? (I Kings 16:23)

Lesson 5

The Word of Grace Concealed

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

Scripture: I Kings 17

Memory Verse: “So she went away and did according to the word of Elijah; and she and her household ate for many days. The bin of flour was not used up, nor did the jar of oil run dry, according to the word of the Lord which He spoke by Elijah.” (I Kings 17:15-16)

Lesson Truth: God concealed his Word of grace when he sent Elijah to Cherith and Zarephath.

Lesson

Elijah the prophet was sent by God to Ahab the king of Israel. The land of Israel, along with King Ahab, was placed in the hands of Elijah as the messenger of the Word of God. The Word of God was brought as a message against the Baal worshippers in Israel.

When Ahab married the wicked Jezebel from Sidon, she brought the worship of Baal to Israel. Baal worshippers believed that the forces of nature caused the fields to bring forth fruit. Israel should have known that only God Almighty causes the fields to produce. As a direct confrontation with the Baals, God sent Elijah to tell Ahab that there would not be dew or rain on the earth except by his word. This stopping of the rain and dew would make it clear that the blessings of the field did not come from the forces of nature, but from the Word of God’s grace. Blessings are always from the Lord, not from Baal.

After Elijah gave Ahab this message, the Lord told him to hide at the brook Cherith. This was a sign that the Word of God’s grace was not available to the people of Israel. This Word of grace was concealed with Elijah at the brook. Yet Elijah experienced the power of this Word of grace in a miraculous way. He drank water from the brook and God sent ravens to bring bread and meat for Elijah. This was a miracle because the ravens by nature were birds that devoured all the food they could get. Once again God showed Elijah that He controlled the forces of nature. Elijah could be fed by ravens because he lived by the Word of grace. At the time when there was terrible sin in the land of Israel, God was taking steps to once again bring His Word of grace to His people. He would not allow his people to break all ties with Judah and the promises of the house of David.

The drought in Israel became so bad that the brook Cherith dried up. This meant that Elijah had to find another place to dwell. God was not yet ready to reveal his Word of grace to Israel, so he told Elijah to go to Zarephath. Zarephath was a town of Sidon where the Lord said Elijah would find a widow who would provide for him. Elijah must have felt bad that he was not sent to a widow in Israel so God’s grace could be revealed. He knew that the Word of grace was concealed from Israel. When Elijah arrived at Zarephath he saw a woman picking up sticks. He wondered if this was the woman who would provide for him. So, he asked her for some water and a bite of bread. She then told of her own needs for bread, indicating that all she had left was a handful of meal and a little oil. Then Elijah tested her, he asked that she first bring him some bread and then use the rest for herself. He added the promise from the Lord that her meal and oil would never run out. The woman responded with faith and brought bread for Elijah. She must have been filled with joy at seeing the miracle of meal and oil that never ran out. This was the widow with whom Elijah stayed. The Word of grace brought by Elijah was all-powerful! This Word of grace can be

6. What tragic thing happened to the son of the widow with whom Elijah stayed? (I Kings 17:17)

7. What question did Elijah have for the Lord regarding the widow's son? (I Kings 17:20)

8. How did the Lord answer Elijah's prayer for the widow's son? (I Kings 17:22)

Lesson 6

The Word of Grace Revealed

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

Scripture: I Kings 18

Memory Verse: “Then you call on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the Lord; and the God who answers by fire, He is God.” So all the people answered and said, ‘It is well spoken.’” (I Kings 18:24)

Lesson Truth: God revealed His Word of grace so His people would again believe.

Lesson

The Lord God is a God of mercy. He concealed His Word of grace with Elijah for nearly three years. But His Word of grace did not remain concealed forever. At the time He appointed, He told Elijah to reappear and to reveal his Word of grace. By concealing His Word of grace, the Lord wanted Ahab to understand that Israel could only be blessed if it depended on that Word of grace.

God revealed His Word of grace when He told Elijah to show himself to Ahab. This happened after Elijah had been hidden for nearly three years. All the time Elijah was hidden Ahab had been looking for him. He did not look for Elijah so he could confess his sins; rather he wanted to find Elijah so he could wring from him that word that would end the drought. On the day that Elijah appeared Ahab had sent his servant Obadiah to search for pasture for his livestock. The drought was so bad that the animals were in danger of dying. Elijah presented himself to Obadiah as he was searching and told him to tell Ahab that he had returned. But Obadiah was afraid to let Elijah out of his sight. He thought Elijah would disappear again and Ahab would hold him responsible. When Elijah satisfied his objections, Obadiah was ready to submit to God’s intention to speak His Word of grace to His people.

When Elijah finally met Ahab, he was accused of being the one who troubled Israel. Ahab showed the sinful nature of mankind when he tried to blame God for withdrawing His grace. Elijah responded by correcting this accusation. He told Ahab that it was his sins and the sins of his father’s house that were responsible for Israel’s troubles. The drought in Israel was God’s way of teaching His people that all things occur by the Word of the Lord.

Elijah longed for a revelation from the Lord that would make the people forget the Baals and serve the God of heaven. How could God reveal Himself in such a powerful way? This revelation took place on Mount Carmel when Elijah asked Ahab to gather the people on the mountain. He insisted that the prophets of Baal and Astarte also meet him on the mountain. When everyone was on the mountain, Elijah asked the people to make a choice. He asked them to choose to worship the God who would answer by fire and consume the sacrifice on the altar. Elijah asked the prophets of Baal to be first to prepare a sacrifice and to call on their god to consume the sacrifice by fire. He allowed them to call on Baal until late in the day and even made fun of their god. Elijah then prepared a sacrifice to the Lord at the time of the evening sacrifice.

He built an altar of twelve stones for the twelve tribes of Israel and prepared the bull for the sacrifice. Then he commanded that water be poured over the sacrifice until it was soaked and the trenches around the altar were filled. Elijah prayed that the Lord would reveal Himself as the God of the covenant and the God who alone could answer by fire. Suddenly a fire fell from heaven and

consumed the sacrifice, the wood, the stones, and even the water. The children of Israel saw the miracle of God's grace. In the presence of God's stunning revelation, the people fell on their faces and confessed: "The Lord, He is God! The Lord, he is God!" (I Kings 18:39). Would the people forsake the Baals and truly serve God?

Elijah wanted to remove the abomination of Baal worship from Israel, so he had the people kill all the prophets of Baal at the brook Kishon. The Lord's grace had gained the victory among His people. Elijah then told Ahab to prepare for rain as he bowed before the Lord in prayer requesting that God send the rain. Elijah bowed himself seven times pleading for God to send the rain that he knew God intended to send. Then in a burst of God-given strength he ran ahead of Ahab's chariot all the way to Jezreel, as God sent a heavy rain. The Word of God's grace that had been concealed with Elijah, was now revealed on Mount Carmel and in the rain.

Questions

1. What were conditions like in Samaria when Elijah went to present himself to Ahab? (I Kings 18:2)
2. What did Obadiah fear would happen to him if he told Ahab he had seen Elijah? (I Kings 18:9)
3. What act of obedience to the Lord did Obadiah do when Jezebel tried to kill the prophets of the Lord? (I Kings 18:13)
4. What choice did Elijah ask the people to make? (I Kings 18:21)

Lesson 7

Stillness with God

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

Scripture: I Kings 19

Memory Verse: “It shall be that whoever escapes the sword of Hazael, Jehu will kill; and whoever escapes the sword of Jehu, Elisha will kill. Yet I reserved seven thousand in Israel, all whose knees have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him.” (I Kings 19:17-18)

Lesson Truth: God revealed the stillness of the struggle in a still small voice.

Lesson

It is hard to imagine that Elijah would be filled with despair so soon after the great victory on Mount Carmel. The Lord had answered by fire and consumed Elijah’s sacrifice and the prophets of Baal had been destroyed. Yet when Ahab told his wicked wife Jezebel about the contest on Mount Carmel and the destruction of the prophets of Baal, she threatened to take Elijah’s life. Elijah ran away in despair until God again gave him assurance in a still small voice.

Elijah most likely knew that he could not get the wicked queen Jezebel to honor the name of the Lord. Since Ahab had also seen the power of the Lord displayed on the mountain, wouldn’t he at least try to uphold the Lord’s name? Wouldn’t he resist Jezebel in her attempt to destroy the prophet of the Lord? It was apparent that Ahab had given in completely to the evil Jezebel. So when she told Elijah that she would make him like the prophets of Baal by the next day, he ran away into the desert. There he took refuge under a broom tree. Did Elijah forget that God’s grace would triumph? Was his faith so weak that he was no longer certain that God’s grace would be victorious? An angel of the Lord talked to Elijah under the broom tree and told him twice over to arise and eat. After he had eaten, he was ready to travel for forty days and forty nights to the mountain range of Horeb.

Once Elijah arrived at Horeb he went into a cave to spend the night. There the Word of the Lord came to him and asked him, “What are you doing here Elijah?” (I Kings 19:9). His answer showed his despair and his weak faith 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). Then God told him to go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord. The Lord once again assured Elijah that He is God, and that no idol gods can stand before Him. First the Lord passed by in a mighty wind that splintered the rocks, but Elijah noticed the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there came an earthquake, but Elijah noticed the Lord was not in the earthquake. Then came a consuming fire, but Elijah noticed the Lord was not in the fire either. After the noise of this display, a deep silence followed.

Then Elijah took a step forward and wrapped his face in his mantle and drank in the stillness. In the stillness of the Lord, he could hear the assurance that His grace will triumph and save the world. In that stillness Elijah was asked again what he was doing there. By asking that question a second time the Lord wanted Elijah to realize that his faith had become weak. Once he knew how weak his faith had become, he could again receive comfort and assurance from the Lord.

Lesson 8

Like Sheep without a Shepherd

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

Scripture: I Kings 20:1–22:40

Memory Verse: “Then a man of God came and spoke to the king of Israel, and said, ‘Thus says the Lord: Because the Syrians have said, ‘The Lord is the God of the hills, but He is not God of the valleys.’ Therefore I will deliver all this great multitude into your hand, and you shall know that I am the Lord.’” (I Kings 20:28)

Lesson Truth: God rejected Ahab, the unfaithful shepherd, for the sake of His grace to His people.

Lesson

Ahab was an unfaithful shepherd of the Lord’s sheep. Because he was unfaithful the Lord had to reject him as king. An unfaithful shepherd would stand in the way of the Lord bringing His grace to His people. Ahab was unfaithful when he dealt with the Syrian king Ben-hadad. He was also unfaithful when he shed the innocent blood of an Israelite.

Ben-hadad, king of Syria attacked Israel and demanded unreasonable booty from Israel. When he demanded Israel’s silver and gold and the fairest of the royal wives and children, king Ahab agreed. But when he insisted that he also be allowed to plunder the city, Ahab refused. For once this weak king listened to the advice of the elders and showed some strength when he said, “Let not the one who puts on his armor boast like the one who takes it off” (I Kings 20:11). The Lord then sent one of His prophets to Ahab to tell him that God would deliver the Syrian army into his hand. Ahab believed the prophet, but he did not see the miracle of God’s grace in this deliverance. The army of Israel invaded the Syrians when Ben-hadad was drunk. In a surprise attack the Syrians were defeated and Ben-hadad barely escaped.

It was obvious that the Lord gave Israel this victory. The Syrians even acknowledged that the Israelites gained the victory through some unknown power. They thought it was because the God of Israel was the God of the hills. Therefore, they planned to attack Israel in the valleys the next time. Again, the Lord sent His prophet to Ahab to tell him that God would deliver this great multitude into his hands. God brought these victories because He wanted Israel to understand that He is faithful to His covenant. In a major defeat the Syrians lost one hundred thousand men, plus an additional twenty-seven thousand who died under the wall of Aphek.

Ahab should have killed the king who wanted to destroy Israel. However, Ahab was weak and did not understand that even the Lord’s enemies must honor His name. So he made an agreement with Ben-hadad and allowed him to live. Ahab showed that he was not an adequate shepherd for the Lord’s sheep and did not function as a shield for them. Then Ahab was given the awful prophecy that his life and the lives of the Israelites would be taken in place of Ben-hadad and the Syrians. The Lord had delivered Ben-hadad into Ahab’s hands so that divine judgment could be executed on him, but he chose to let him go. So instead, judgment came on Ahab.

Lesson 9

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: “therefore the Lord established the kingdom in his hand; and all Judah gave presents to Jehoshaphat, and he had riches and honor in abundance. And his heart took delight in the ways of the Lord.” (II Chronicles 17:5-6a)

Lesson Truth: By faith, the people of Judah found that their joy in the Lord gave them strength.

Lesson

When Rehoboam and Abijam were kings in Judah the people turned their affection for the Lord to indifference. This indifference continued during the reign of Asa even though he brought many reforms to Judah. The blessings of Almighty God on Judah become evident when Jehoshaphat, the son of Asa, was king. By faith Jehoshaphat found real joy in the Lord.

The people of Judah had worshipped idols and placed the God of heaven on a level with other gods by worshipping in the high places. King Asa brought many reforms to Judah, but he did not remove the high places. Therefore, it is with real thankfulness to the Word of God’s grace that we learn of King Jehoshaphat who found his joy in the Lord. The Lord blessed Jehoshaphat in his work because he sought the Lord. Here was a king who experienced God’s favor, and life in all of Judah prospered. Jehoshaphat was happy in the Lord’s service because he truly knew the Lord. He continued the reformation in Judah that his father Asa had begun. He tried to get rid of the practice of worshipping on the high places. He was a king that knew that people worshipped idols because they were ignorant of the law of the Lord. In order to put away this ignorance Jehoshaphat sent Levites and priests through the land of Judah to teach the law of God. He knew the law of God would be their protection from idol worship. The Lord gave Jehoshaphat peace in the first years of his reign and the fear of the Lord fell on the nations around Judah.

Jehoshaphat also wanted peace with Israel, so he made an alliance with King Ahab. But this was a mistake because Ahab was steeped in the sin of Baal worship. He became so involved with Ahab that his son Jehoram married Athaliah the daughter of the wicked Ahab and Jezebel. It was true that Israel and Judah were brothers, but this did not give Jehoshaphat the right to overlook the sins of Ahab. Yet Jehoshaphat sought the Lord in his heart; therefore, the prophet Jehu told him the Lord would not take away His favor. Because he knew he enjoyed God’s favor he pressed on with reformation in Judah. He appointed judges in Judah to judge justly in keeping with God’s law. He also set up a higher court in Jerusalem where Amariah judged the things of the Lord and Zebadiah judged the things of the king. Under Jehoshaphat, Judah again feared the Lord. His reign pointed to the reign of the promised Messiah.

Jehoshaphat also led the people of Judah in the way of faith. This happened when the people of Moab, Ammon, and Mount Seir came with a great multitude to attack Judah. The king knew he could not be victorious over this large army in his own strength. So he sought refuge with the Lord. He called all the people to Jerusalem and stood before them in prayer to Almighty God. He asked that the Lord keep the inheritance safe now that they were being attacked. Then the Spirit of the Lord came on Jahaziel the prophet who told them to go out the next day and see the

Lesson 10

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: “So Elijah answered and said to the captain of fifty, ‘If I am a man of God, then let fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty men.’ And fire came down from heaven and consumed him and his fifty.” (II Kings 1:10)

Lesson Truth: God wanted the people to believe so He sent His judgment of grace.

Lesson

God wanted the people of Israel along with King Ahaziah to be sorry for their sins and come to salvation in Christ. He sent The Angel of the Lord with instructions for Elijah the prophet to confront the messengers of Ahaziah with the Word of the Lord’s grace.

Ahaziah, the son of wicked king Ahab, became king in Israel after his father. We are told he did evil in the sight of the Lord and walked in the ways of his wicked parents. Baal worship and calf worship continued in Israel when Ahaziah was king. The wonders and word of the Lord brought by Elijah and the other prophets seemed to have no effect on this king. As a result, the Lord turned against Ahaziah and made his life and his reign useless. We are made aware of the futility of his reign when he decided to bring Moab back into the service of Israel. Before he could make Moab submit, he fell through a lattice in his upper room and was seriously injured. In his attempt to find out what would happen to him as a result of this injury, we see how completely this king rejected the word of the Lord.

Instead of sending messengers to Elijah, the prophet of the Lord, to inquire about his future, he sent them to Baal-Zebub the god of Ekron. Even when Ahaziah turned away from God so callously, the Lord still showed His mercy. He appeared to Elijah as the Angel of the Lord and told him to confront the messengers of Ahaziah. He told Elijah to ask the messengers: “Is it because there is no God in Israel that you are going to Baal-Zebub the god of Ekron?” (I Kings 1:3). Elijah then told them to inform the king that he would not recover from his injury, but he would die. God sent this injury to Ahaziah to get him to submit to the Lord. But he would not humble himself before the Lord. He inherited the fruit of the sins of his father’s house, so he turned to Baal-Zebub instead of to the Lord.

How tragic that Ahaziah forgot that there was a God in Israel. He forgot that God was bound to Israel by His covenant. Ahaziah could have known that God lives among His people and that one day, when the Word became flesh, He would become one of us. Instead, he sent his messengers to inquire of Baal-zebub the god of Ekron. Ahaziah rejected the salvation of the Lord!

When the messengers came back early, Ahaziah asked why they had returned. They told him that a man had met them and asked why they were going to Ekron to inquire, instead of to the Lord. The king knew it was Elijah who had met them, and rather than submit to the Word of the Lord, he sent soldiers to capture him. He sent a captain with fifty men to capture Elijah. They called Elijah, “Man of God” and said, “The king commands you to come down. Elijah answered: “If I am a man of God, then let fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty men” (II Kings 1:9-10). A fire did come down from heaven and consumed the fifty men and another

squad of fifty men that the king sent. It was tragic to have these men consumed by fire from heaven, but we must remember that the Lord's grace had to be victorious in Israel. This contempt for God had to be removed from among the people. The Bible tells us that our God is a consuming fire. He wants to be the God of His people, so unrighteousness must be removed.

The king sent a third captain with fifty men to capture Elijah. This captain submitted to the Word of the Lord, and he and his were men spared from the consuming fire. The Angel of the Lord then told Elijah to go along with this captain to meet the king. He told the king he would not recover from his injury but would die. Ahaziah had to be rejected as the king of God's people. In this way God would show His mercy by saving a remnant of faithful people. Elijah must have grieved for his people. He loved them in spite of their sins and wanted to see them turn to the Lord in faith.

Questions

1. How long did Ahaziah reign as king over Israel? (I Kings 22:51)
2. In what way was Ahaziah like his father and mother? (I Kings 22:52)
3. Who rebelled against Israel after the death of Ahab? (II Kings 1:1)
4. Whom did the Angel of the Lord send to meet the messengers of the king? (II Kings 1:3)
5. What dire prediction did Elijah make concerning Ahaziah? (II Kings 1:4)

Lesson 11

Ascension

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

Scripture: II Kings 2

Memory Verse: “And so it was, when they had crossed over, that Elijah said to Elisha, ‘Ask! What may I do for you before I am taken away from you?’ Elisha said, ‘Please let a double portion of your spirit be upon me.’” (II Kings 2:9)

Lesson Truth: The Lord exalted Elijah when he was taken up to heaven because he was the bearer of God’s Word.

Lesson

God had been gracious to Israel by sending them the prophet Elijah. Elijah committed his whole life to bringing the Word of God to Israel. He confronted the prophets of Baal and King Ahab with the truth of God’s Word. Now his work on earth was finished, and the Lord was going to take him away. The lesson today is about Elijah being taken to heaven in a whirlwind, and about Elisha succeeding him as prophet.

Because Elijah bore God’s Word, the Lord decided to exalt him and show that the Word of God would be victorious. The Lord revealed to his plans not only to Elijah, but also to Elisha and the school of the prophets. However, Elijah did not know this, so when he and Elisha were leaving Gilgal, he asked Elisha to stay behind. He explained that the Lord had sent him to Bethel. But Elisha refused to leave Elijah’s side. When they came to Bethel, the sons of the prophets came out to meet them and asked Elisha: “Do you know that the Lord will take away your master from over you today?” Elisha answered by saying, “Yes, I know, keep silent!” (II Kings 2:3). He didn’t want to talk about it. It is likely that Elisha and the sons of the prophets were wondering if God’s Spirit would remain with His people when Elijah was taken away. They would have wait on the Lord.

When they arrived at Bethel, Elijah again asked Elisha to stay behind, because he had to go to Jericho. Again, Elisha refused to leave his side. At Jericho the same thing happened, Elijah asked Elisha to stay behind as he went to the Jordan River. But as before Elisha insisted that he would remain with Elijah to the end. When they came to the Jordan River, it was full of water and too deep to cross. So, Elijah took his robe and folded it and struck the water. The Lord sent His Spirit with a miracle and the waters of the Jordan parted so that they could walk through the river on dry ground. Now Elijah was ready to be taken to heaven. But before he departed, he asked Elisha what he could do for him. Elisha so wanted the Spirit of God to remain with His people that he asked Elijah for something that only the Lord could give him. He said: “Please let a double portion of your spirit be upon me” (II Kings 2:9). Elijah knew that only the Lord could grant Elisha’s request, so he said if you see me when I am taken from you, your request will be granted.

Then Elisha saw what no one had ever seen before; he saw chariots of fire and horses of fire as he was separated from Elijah. As Elijah was carried up to heaven in a whirlwind, Elisha cried out: “My father, my father, the chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” (II Kings 2:12). Elijah’s robe fell from him as he was taken up and Elisha picked it up. He had seen the exaltation of the Word of God as Elijah was taken to heaven, so he knew that Elijah’s promise would be fulfilled. He would be given the Spirit that was in Elijah. With this promise he returned to the Jordan River and struck

Lesson 12

The Whole Earth Is Mine

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

Scripture: II Kings 3

Memory Verse: “And Elisha said, ‘As the Lord of hosts lives, before whom I stand, surely were it not that I regard the presence of Jehoshaphat king of Judah, I would not look at you, nor see you.’” (II Kings 3:14)

Lesson Truth: In order to bless the whole earth, the Lord visited His people with His grace.

Lesson

To understand the story of II Kings 3, it is helpful to look at the statement in verse 27. In this verse we read that there was great indignation against Israel. It seems that the Lord became angry with Israel. The Lord became angry because Israel destroyed Moab in a spirit of national pride that showed they did not understand that the whole earth belongs to the Lord. Following the advice of Elisha, the Israelites threw stones on every good piece of land in Moab. They stopped all the springs of water, and they cut down all the good trees. They so completely devastated the land that they provoked the king of Moab to offer his son as an offering on the city wall.

The events of this lesson occurred when Jehoram became the king of Israel. Jehoram followed his brother Ahaziah as king. During his reign, Jehoram filled the land of Israel with a spirit of national pride. Although he did not permit the worship of Baal, he taught the people to worship the Lord as a national god by way of the calves at Dan and Bethel. Just as other nations had their gods, so Israel too had their god named, Jehovah.

This spirit of national pride with a national god was seen in the way Israel dealt with Mesha, the king of Moab. Mesha had been paying a tribute of one hundred thousand lambs and the wool of one hundred thousand rams to Israel for some years. After king Ahab died Mesha refused to pay this tribute. Ahaziah wasn't successful in getting Mesha to continue to the tribute. Now when Jehoram became king, he decided that he would force Mesha to pay the tribute by going to war. He was convinced this had to be done to restore Israel's honor. It is sad that Jehoram was not first of all concerned with the Lord's honor, rather than with the national honor. If he had been concerned with the Lord's honor, he would have understood that the whole earth belonged to the Lord. Then he would not have felt it necessary to utterly destroy the land of Moab.

Jehoram sent messengers to ask Jehoshaphat the king of Judah to join him in the war against Moab. Jehoshaphat was ready to join the battle because he was afraid that if Moab could rebel against Israel then Edom could rebel against Judah. He also forced the king of Edom to join in this battle against Moab. These three kings with their armies decided to march through the desert to attack Moab from the south. They thought there would surely be water for the soldiers and animals in the streams in the early spring as they went through the desert. However, they were mistaken. By the time they reached Moab the armies were parched with thirst. King Jehoram was the first to become afraid. He said the Lord brought the three kings together to deliver them into the hand of Moab. He tried to blame God for their trouble.

King Jehoshaphat from Judah still desired to look to the Lord for an answer to their problems. He asked if there was a prophet of the Lord with the army; so they could inquire of the Lord what to

do. He was told that Elisha, a prophet who poured water on the hands of Elijah, was with the army. When the three kings went to speak with Elisha, he immediately told Jehoram to go and consult with the gods of his parents. In fact Elisha said: “Were it not that I regard the presence of Jehoshaphat king of Judah, I would not look at you, nor see you” (II Kings 3:14). Elisha had respect for this son of David, because of the covenant the Lord made with David.

Elisha then told the kings to make the valley full of ditches. He said the Lord would bring water for the armies and he would deliver the Moabites into their hands. Early the next morning the ditches were filled with water that came by way of Edom. Then the Lord caused the Moabites to see the water as blood. They concluded that the three kings fought and destroyed one another and decided to go after the spoil. When they came for the spoil, the men of Israel, Judah, and Edom attacked them and conquered Moab. The Lord gave the victory for the sake of His covenant with David.

In a spirit of national pride, with the advice of Elisha, the men of Israel and Judah utterly destroyed Moab. They threw stones on every good field. They stopped all the springs of water, and they cut down all the good trees. When the king of Moab saw all the destruction he decided to offer his oldest son on the city wall as a sacrifice to Chemosh, the god of Moab. Then we read that there was great indignation against Israel. The Lord was angry that Israel did not understand that the land they destroyed belonged to Him! Israel, including Elisha, had to learn that purpose of God’s earth is for blessing and salvation, not for destruction to restore a nations honor.

Questions

1. What wicked king of Israel was Jehoram’s father? (II Kings 3:1)

2. In whose sins did Jehoram persist? (II Kings 3:3)

3. Who was the king of Moab when Jehoram became king in Israel? (II Kings 3:4)

4. What was the occupation of the King of Moab? (II Kings 3:4)

Lesson 13
The Word of Life

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

Scripture: II Kings 4

Memory Verse: “Now it happened one day that Elisha went to Shunem, where there was a notable woman, and she persuaded him to eat some food. So it was, as often as he passed by, he would turn in there to eat some food.” (II Kings 4:8)

Lesson Truth: Elisha brought the Word of the Lord, which is the Word of Life.

Lesson

Today the lesson includes four stories in the life of Elisha, the prophet of the Lord. Each of these stories tells how Elisha brought the Word of life to the people to whom he prophesied. Elisha was gripped by the Word of the Lord and showed how this Word could bring life.

It happened that a widow of one of the men from the school of the prophets confronted Elisha. She told him that her husband, who feared the Lord, had died and now the creditor was coming to take her two sons as slaves to satisfy the debt. In response, Elisha asked what she still had in the house. When she informed him that all she had was a small jar of oil, Elisha knew that God’s marvelous grace would make use of that oil.

Elisha told her to borrow as many vessels as she could and bring them into her house. He then told her to fill these vessels from her little jar of oil. This must have seemed like an unreasonable thing to suggest, to fill large vessels with the oil from a small jar. But the widow believed and did just as Elisha commanded. She and her sons filled all the vessels with oil from the small jar. She then went back to Elisha and asked him what she should do with the oil. He told her to sell the oil and pay the creditor. Then she and her sons could live from the money that remained. The lives of this widow and her sons were saved by a miracle of God’s grace. The life-giving power of the Word of the Lord was revealed.

Another time Elisha was passing through the little town of Shunem when the Bible tells us that a notable woman invited him for a meal. This woman recognized that Elisha spoke the Word of the Lord’s grace. She convinced her husband that they should build a room for Elisha to stay, whenever he came to Shunem. Elisha realized that the Lord wanted him to bring the blessing of His Word to this house. So, he sent his servant to ask the woman what could be done for her. She responded that she lived among her own people and really did not need anything. Elisha then asked his servant what could be done for her. His servant pointed out to Elisha that this woman did not have a child. When Elisha heard this he knew what the Lord wanted to give her. He prophesied that within a year she would have a son.

The woman was so overwhelmed with the thought of having a son that she urged Elisha not to lie about something she wanted so badly. However, she did believe the Word of the Lord, spoken by Elisha, and at the appointed time she bore a son. Yet the Lord tested the faith of the woman from Shunem. When the boy was few years old he died from sunstroke after being in the field with his father. The woman knew she had to find Elisha to learn why the Lord would give her a son only to take him from her. When she found Elisha, she shared with him that she would much sooner never have had a son than to be given a son only to have him die. Elisha immediately sent his

4. Who was to be in the house when the widow poured the oil into the vessels? (II Kings 4:4)

5. What would Elisha do at the home of the woman from Shunem each time he passed by? (II Kings 4:8)

6. What one thing did the woman from Shunem lack that only the Lord could provide? (II Kings 4:14)

7. What was the Shunammite woman's response when her son was restored to her alive? (II Kings 4:37)

8. What did Elisha add to the stew at the school of the prophets to make it edible? (II Kings 4:41)