

Promise and Deliverance Student Workbook

Volume 9

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

Accepted as a Gift

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 2, Lesson 39

Scripture: II Kings 5:1–6:7

Memory Verse: “And many lepers were in Israel in the time of Elisha the prophet, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.” (Luke 4:27)

Lesson Truth: Naaman had to learn that God’s healing grace must be accepted as a gift.

Lesson

Naaman was the commander of the Syrian army. He was a good commander. The king of Syria honored Naaman. But Naaman had a very bad problem. He was terribly sick. The sickness he had was called leprosy. No one in Syria could find a way to heal Naaman.

Naaman had a young girl from Israel working in his house. This girl felt sorry for Naaman. She told her mistress that Elisha could heal Naaman. This young girl knew that Elisha was a prophet of the Lord. She knew that Elisha could bring the Lord’s grace of healing to her master.

Naaman wanted to find Elisha so he could be healed. He asked the king to make plans for him to go to Israel. The king sent a letter to the king of Israel. He said he was going to send Naaman to Israel to be healed. This made the king of Israel upset. He said the king of Syria was trying to make a quarrel. The king of Israel did not think of the Lord’s grace. He did not think of the Lord’s prophet.

Elisha heard that the king of Israel was upset. He told the king of Israel to send Naaman to his house. He said that Naaman would know there was a prophet in Israel. The king did send Naaman to Elisha. Elisha wanted to find out if Naaman would trust the Word of the Lord. He did not even go out to meet this important man. He told his servant to give Naaman a message. The servant told Naaman to go and wash seven times in the Jordan River. Naaman was very upset. He thought Elisha would do some special thing for him. He decided to go back to Syria. He said he would wash in the rivers of Syria.

Naaman’s servants talked to him. They reminded him that if Elisha had told him to do something hard, he would have done it. They asked why he would not do something simple. Why wouldn’t he wash in the Jordan River? Then Naaman listened to his servants. He went to wash seven times in the Jordan River. Do you

know what happened when Naaman followed the word of Elisha? He was healed of his leprosy! His skin became clean again.

Now Naaman went right back to Elisha's house. He wanted to give Elisha a very large gift. But Elisha would not take anything from Naaman. He wanted Naaman to understand that the Lord's grace is always a free gift. He did not want Naaman to think he could pay for the things the Lord gives.

Elisha's servant wanted the gifts that Naaman tried to give to Elisha. He did not think of helping Naaman understand that God's grace is free. He followed Naaman and asked for some of the gifts. When he came home, he pretended that he did not ask for these gifts. Then Elisha told him that he knew he had followed Naaman's chariot. He told his servant that he would now have Naaman's leprosy. His skin became white and spotted with this awful illness. It is terrible to forget that God's grace is free!

Elisha also loved the sons of the prophets. They asked him if they could build a larger house for themselves. He told them they should go ahead. Then they went to the Jordan River to build a house. Do you know what happened when they were chopping trees for their house? The head of one man's ax fell into the river. He felt bad because he had borrowed this ax. Then Elisha took a stick and threw it into the water. A wonderful thing happened. The iron ax head floated on top of the water. Elisha told the man to pick it up. Elisha showed that Lord can even make iron float. This too was a miracle of God's grace in Christ Jesus. You and I must also learn to accept God's grace in Christ as a gift of His love.

Questions

Fill in the blanks.

1. Now _____ commander of the army of the king of Syria was a great and honorable man in the eyes of his master." (II Kings 5:1a)
2. "Then she said to her mistress, 'If only my master were with the prophet who is in _____! For he would heal him of his leprosy.'" (II Kings 5:3)
3. "Then _____ went with his horses and chariot, and stood at the door of Elisha's house." (II Kings 5:9)
4. "And _____ sent a messenger to him saying, 'Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored to you, and you shall be clean.'" (II Kings 5:10)

5. “But Naaman became _____ and went away and said, ‘Indeed I said to myself, He will surely come out to me and call on the name of the Lord his God.’” (II Kings 5:11a)

6. “So he went down and dipped seven times in the _____ according to the saying of the man of God; and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child.” (II Kings 5:14)

Unsolicited Grace

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 2, Lesson 40

Scripture: II Kings 6:8–8:6

Memory Verse: “So he answered, ‘Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.’” (II Kings 6:16)

Lesson Truth: The Lord showed His grace to His people even when they did not ask for it.

Lesson

Do you know what unsolicited means? It means to get something without asking for it. The story today tells about God giving His grace to both Israel and Syria. He showed them His grace even when they did not ask for it. God did this by sending Elisha, to live in the land of Israel. Elisha was God’s prophet. Elisha showed God’s grace in an unusual way to both Israel and Syria.

The Syrians tried to hurt Israel. They made surprise attacks on Israel with small bands of soldiers. God told Elisha where these small bands of soldiers would attack. Elisha then told the king of Israel. In this way the king of Israel was able to guard the places where the Syrian bands attacked. This made the king of Syria upset. He called his soldiers together. He asked his soldiers who was telling the king of Israel where they were going to attack. His soldiers said it was not one of them who told the king of Israel. They said it was Elisha the prophet who told the king of Israel. They said, “Elisha the prophet even knows the things you talk about in your own bedroom.” The king of Syria thought he had to capture Elisha.

The king of Syria did not understand that the Lord would protect Elisha. He sent his army to Dothan to capture Elisha. Elisha’s servant was afraid of the army of Syria. Elisha told him not to be afraid. He said that there were more with him and his servant than with the Syrians. Elisha knew that God would take care of him. He asked God to make the Syrian soldiers blind. God answered Elisha’s prayer and made the Syrians blind. Then Elisha led them to the king of Israel in Samaria. There he prayed that the Syrians could once again see. The king of Israel wanted to kill the Syrians. Elisha told him not to kill them. He told the king to feed them and send them home. God showed his grace to both Israel and Syria.

Later Ben-Hadad became king of Syria. He sent his soldiers to surround the city of Samaria. The Syrian soldiers would not allow any food to get into Samaria. Pretty soon the people in Samaria began to starve. They were so hungry that they ate dove

manure. Even worse than eating manure they began to eat their own children. This made the king very upset. He blamed Elisha for their troubles because he was a prophet of the Lord. The king said he would take Elisha's life. Then Elisha told them to listen to the Word of the Lord. The Lord said that the very next day people would buy barley and flour at the gate of the city. The captain who helped the king said this could never happen. He said that even if God made windows in heaven to pour out grain it could not happen. Elisha told him that he would see the people buy food but he would not eat any himself.

Do you know what happened? The very next day some men who had leprosy decided to go to the camp of the Syrians. They said if the Syrians feed us we will live and if they kill us we will die. They knew that if they stayed at Samaria they would die. Do you know what they found? They found that God had caused the Syrians to run away. The Syrians left in such a hurry that they did not take their food along. The lepers ate some food and took some gold and silver. Then they decided to tell the people in the city of Samaria. The king sent some soldiers to check if the report of the lepers was true. The soldiers went to check and brought barley and flour back to Samaria. Then the message of Elisha came true. The captain who helped the king, saw the people buy food at the gate of Samaria. He did not eat any because; the crowd of people trampled him to death. God again showed His grace to His people.

Later the king of Israel talked to Elisha's servant. He asked this servant to tell him all the great things Elisha had done. The servant told the king that Elisha raised a widow's son from the dead. When the servant was talking this widow came to see the king. She asked the king if she could have her house back. She had been away for a number of years to escape the famine. The king then gave back the widow's house and land. This was the way God showed the king of Israel the great things He did through His prophet Elisha. The king of Israel should have repented. He should have loved God's Word of grace. It is sad that he did not live by God's Word of grace. King Jehoram was wicked like his father, Ahab.

Questions

Fill in the blanks.

1. "And one of his servants said, 'None my lord, O king, but _____, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the words you speak in your bedroom.'" (II Kings 6:12)
2. "Therefore he sent _____ and chariots and a great army there, and they came by night and surrounded the city." (II Kings 6:14a)

3. “So he answered, ‘Do not _____, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.’” (II Kings 6:16)

4. “And there was a great famine in _____; indeed they besieged it until a donkey’s head was sold for eighty shekels of silver.” (II Kings 6:25a)

5. “Then _____ said, ‘Hear the Word of the Lord.’ Thus says the Lord; ‘Tomorrow about this time a seah of fine flour shall be sold for a shekel, and two seahs of barley for a shekel at the gate of Samaria.’” (II Kings 7:1)

6. “For the _____ had caused the army of the Syrians to hear the noise of the chariots and the noise of the horses.” (II Kings 7:6a)

Divine Persecution

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 2, Lesson 41

Scripture: II Kings 8:7-29; II Chronicles 21:1–22:9

Memory Verse: “Behold the Lord will strike your people with a serious affliction, your children, your wives, and all your possessions.” (II Chronicles 21:14)

Lesson Truth: The Lord anointed Hazael from Syria to persecute His people so they would turn from their sins.

Lesson

Have you ever used the word persecution? The title of our lesson used that word. It also used the word divine. Divine is a word that refers to God. Persecution means to punish for religious reasons. So, the title of today’s lesson means that God sent punishment. God sent punishment to His own people. He did this so His people would turn from their sins. We will learn how God sent punishment to His people.

God sent the prophet Elisha to Damascus in Syria. God sent Elisha to Syria to anoint an enemy. Elisha had to anoint Hazael to become king of Syria. Hazael was an evil man that God would use to punish His people. Ben-Hadad was still king of Syria when Elisha came. He was the king, but he was ill. He sent his servant Hazael to ask Elisha if he would get well from his illness. Elisha told Hazael that the king would die. Elisha knew the king would die. He would not die of his illness. Hazael would be put him to death

Elisha looked Hazael straight in the eye when he told him. Then Elisha began to cry. Hazael asked him why he was crying. Elisha said he cried because he knew the terrible things Hazael would do. He cried because he knew how it hurt the Lord to punish His people. Still Elisha anointed Hazael. God chose Hazael to punish His people. God chose Hazael to punish the wicked house of Ahab. God wanted His people to turn from the sins of Ahab and his wicked wife Jezebel.

Ahab and his wicked wife Jezebel ruled Israel. Would God punish only Israel? No, God would also punish Judah. He would punish Judah because the king of Judah married the daughter of Ahab and Jezebel. King Jehoram of Judah married Athaliah the daughter of Ahab and Jezebel. Wicked Athaliah helped Jehoram do terrible things. He killed all his brothers and other princes. Because of these sins God would also punish Judah.

God told Elisha to anoint Hazael to punish both Israel and Judah. God would also anoint Jehu to completely destroy the house of Ahab in Israel. Would God also

completely destroy the house of David in Judah? God would not completely destroy the house of David. God made a covenant with David. He promised that David would always have a son to sit on the throne of Judah. God never breaks his promises! Judah would be punished but not completely destroyed.

How would God punish Judah? God told king Jehoram about His punishment in a letter that came from Elijah. Elijah had gone to heaven some years before. Still the Lord had Jehoram get Elijah's letter at this time. This letter told Jehoram that the people of Judah would suffer terrible things. The letter also told Jehoram that he would die of a disease of his intestines.

The punishments told about in Elijah's letter came quickly. The people of Edom would no longer serve Judah. The Philistines and Arabians attacked Judah. The king's wives and children were captured. Only the king's wife Athaliah and his youngest son Ahaziah were saved. King Jehoram died of the disease in his intestines. It happened just like Elijah's letter said it would.

Jehoram's son Ahaziah became king. He was king for only one year. He was killed as he tried to escape from Samaria. Because he was a grandson of good king Jehoshaphat from David's house, he was given a proper burial. God did send an enemy to persecute both Israel and Judah. Yet because of His promise to David, David's house was not completely destroyed.

Questions

Fill in the blanks.

1. "Then _____ went to Damascus and Ben-Hadad king of Syria was sick." (II Kings 8:7a)
2. "And it was told him saying, 'The man of _____ has come here.'" (II Kings 8:7b)
3. "Then he set his countenance in a stare until he was ashamed, and the man of God _____" (II Kings 8:11)
4. "Jehoram the son of Jehoshaphat began to reign as king of _____" (II Kings 8:16b)
5. "And he walked in the way of the kings of _____ just as the house of Ahab had done." (II Kings 8:18a)

6. “Yet the Lord would not destroy Judah for the sake of His servant _____” (II Kings 8:19a)

Flame and Stubble

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 2, Lesson 42

Scripture: II Kings 9–10

Memory Verse: “And he said, ‘This is the word of the Lord which He spoke by His servant Elijah the Tishbite,’ saying, ‘On the plot of ground at Jezreel dogs shall eat the flesh of Jezebel.’” (II Kings 9:36b)

Lesson Truth: The Lord became a flame to consume the godless house of Ahab like stubble.

Lesson

It is hard to think of the Lord destroying people, as a flame destroys stubble. Still we must remember that God loves His people. Because He loves them He cannot allow them to become totally evil. If they become totally evil they ruin His plan of salvation. This is what happened to Ahab’s family. With Queen Jezebel’s help they became very evil. God could not allow this evil to continue. Do you know what God did to put away the evil of Ahab’s house? He told Elisha to make Jehu king of Israel. Jehu had to destroy the house of Ahab.

Elisha remembered that God told Elijah that Ahab’s house must be destroyed. He called one of the sons of the prophets. He told him to go to Ramoth Gilead to find Jehu. Then he had to pour oil on Jehu’s head. This was a sign that he was the king of Israel. He also told Jehu that he had to destroy Ahab’s house. Now Jehu had to make a decision. Would he wait to have the Lord tell him how to put away Ahab’s house? Or would he bring destruction his own way? Jehu decided to do it his way. This was sad because he did not show the Lord’s grace.

Jehu drove his chariot very fast to Jezreel. He was going to find king Jehoram. Jehoram was a son of Ahab and Jezebel. He was at Jezreel taking care of wounds he got in battle. The watchman on the wall told Jehoram that someone was coming. Jehoram sent two messengers to see who was coming. Neither messenger came back to Jehoram. They stayed with Jehu. Finally Jehoram went out to meet Jehu. He asked Jehu if he came in peace. Jehu did not want to talk about peace. He said there could not be peace as long as the people followed the wickedness of Queen Jezebel. When Jehoram heard this he knew there was trouble. He turned around to run for his life. As he turned around Jehu shot him in the back with an arrow. The arrow went through his heart and he died. Jehu had his body thrown on the field of Naboth. This was the field that Ahab took from Naboth. God’s words to Elijah came true. Ahab’s house was punished on the field he took from Naboth.

Now Jehu drove into Jezreel. Wicked queen Jezebel was looking from a window. She called Jehu a murderer. She asked if he came in peace. Jehu called out, asking if anyone was on his side. Some men said they were on his side. Jehu told them to push Jezebel out the window. They did what Jehu told them. Jezebel's body landed on the ground. Then the horses of Jehu's chariot trampled her. God's word to Elijah about Jezebel also came true. The dogs ate her flesh before she was buried.

Many of Ahab's grandsons lived in Samaria. Jehu told the commanders at Samaria they could fight alongside Ahab's grandsons if they wanted. Or they could send him the heads of Ahab's grandsons in a basket. The commanders were afraid of Jehu. They had the grandsons of Ahab killed. Then they sent the heads of these grandsons in baskets to Jehu. Jehu went on to kill everyone from Ahab's house.

Jehu then pretended he wanted to worship Baal. He told all the prophets of Baal to come to this worship. He made sure that no prophets of the Lord were with them. Then he had his soldiers kill all the prophets of Baal. Jehu was used by God to destroy Ahab's house. He was also used to destroy Baal worship. But he did not show the Lord's grace. Jehu was used by the Lord to put away evil from Israel. But he did not put away the calf worship at Dan and Bethel. He did not understand that God wanted him to worship only the Lord!

Christ Jesus will also come to destroy evil. He will come like a flame, burning stubble. But He will be much different than Jehu. Christ Jesus will show God's grace. He will not only destroy evil but will also restore those who love Him!

Questions

Fill in the blanks.

1. "And _____ the prophet called one of the sons of the prophets, and said to him, 'Get yourself ready, take this flask of oil in your hand, and go to Ramoth Gilead.'" (II Kings 9:1)
2. "Now when you arrive at that place, look there for _____ the son of Jehoshaphat, the son of Nimshi." (II Kings 9:2a)
3. "Thus says the Lord God of Israel: 'I have anointed you _____ over the people of the Lord, over Israel.'" (II Kings 9:6b)
4. "You shall strike down the house of _____ your master, that I may avenge the blood of My servants the prophets, and the blood of all the servants of the Lord at the hand of Jezebel." (II Kings 9:7)

5. “And he said, “This is the word of the Lord which he spoke by His servant _____ the Tishbite, saying, on the plot of ground at Jezreel dogs shall eat the flesh of Jezebel.” (II Kings 9:36b)

6. “Thus Jehu destroyed _____ from Israel.” (II Kings 10:28)

The Struggle of the Spirit

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 2, Lesson 43

Scripture: II Kings 11–12

Memory Verse: “And he brought out the king’s son, put the crown on him and gave him the Testimony; they made him king and anointed him, and they clapped their hands and said, ‘Long live the king.’” (II Kings 11:12)

Lesson Truth: The Spirit of the Lord wanted young Joash to be a king that would remind the people of Christ Jesus.

Lesson

Athaliah was the daughter of king Ahab and his wicked wife Jezebel. She worshipped Baal the same way as her father and mother. Athaliah hated the house of David. She hated to be reminded that the Lord made a covenant with David. This wicked queen wanted to destroy everyone from David’s house. She thought that if she destroyed David’s house she would destroy God’s covenant.

Ahaziah was the king of Judah. He was the son of wicked queen Athaliah. Ahaziah died when the Baal worshippers of Ahab’s house were killed. Since her son was dead Athaliah thought this was the time to destroy David’s sons. It did not make any difference that the sons of David were her grandsons. She hated the covenant of the Lord so bad that she would kill her own grandsons. She thought she could do away with the covenant God made with David. But that could not happen. God always keeps His promises. His covenant with David was a promise. God promised that David would always have son on the throne. How could God keep His promise if Athaliah killed all of David’s sons?

This is what happened. Athaliah’s daughter Jehosheba believed the Lord’s promises to David. She was married to Jehoiada the high priest. God used Jehosheba to save one of the sons of David’s line. She hid the little baby Joash from the wicked queen Athaliah. She and Jehoiada took care of little Joash for six years. They hid him from Athaliah. When Joash turned seven years old, Jehoiada thought it was time to make him king. Then a son from David’s line would be king of Judah once again. Jehoiada told the captains of the army to get ready to make Joash the king. He also told them to be ready to capture the wicked Athaliah.

Jehoiada put the royal crown on Joash’s head. He gave him the law of God. Then he anointed him with oil. The people cried for joy and shouted, “Long live the King.” Athaliah heard all the noise. She came to the temple to see what was happening.

There she saw little king Joash with the royal crown on his head. He was standing by the pillar where the kings always stood. Athaliah became very upset. She cried treason, treason! Treason meant that someone did wrong to his country. Athaliah thought that Joash and Jehoiada did wrong to Judah. The soldiers caught Athaliah and brought her out of the temple. Then they put this wicked woman to death. After this Jehoiada made a covenant with the Lord, the people and the new king. They promised that they would serve the Lord.

Joash (Jehoash) was a good king as long as Jehoiada lived and gave him advice. Joash even made plans to repair the temple. God kept His promise to David. A son of David was again the king of Judah. But Jehoiada grew old and died when he was 130 years old. After Jehoiada died Joash allowed the people to worship idols. The Lord loved His people so much that he sent a prophet to warn them. He sent Zechariah to tell the people the Lord would depart from them if they worshipped idols. Zechariah was the son of Jehoiada. He wanted the people to serve the Lord.

Do you know what the people of Judah did? They stoned Zechariah to death in the outer court of the temple. These wicked people even got permission from king Joash to stone Zechariah. Still the Lord wanted His people to serve Him. So He sent Hazael the king of Syria to punish Judah. King Joash then did a sinful thing. He gave Hazael all the treasures from the temple. Everything that was devoted to the Lord now belonged to an unbelieving king. That is the story of Joash who became king when he was seven years old. It is sad that he forgot God after Jehoiada died. You and I should be very thankful that our Lord Jesus Christ was not unfaithful like Joash. Christ Jesus has made things right between God and Judah. He has also made things right between us and our God. God wanted a king that would be like Christ. Joash was not that kind of king!

Questions

Fill in the blanks.

1. “When _____ the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she arose and destroyed all the royal heirs.” (II Kings 11:1)
2. But _____, the daughter of Joram, sister of Ahaziah took Joash the son of Ahaziah and stole him away from among the kings sons who were murdered.” (II Kings 11:2a)
3. “So he was hidden with her in the house of the Lord for six years, while _____ reigned over the land.” (II Kings 11:3)

4. “And he brought the king’s son, put the _____ on him, and gave him the Testimony; they made him king and anointed him, and they clapped their hands and said, ‘Long live the king.’” (II Kings 11:12)

5. “When she looked, there was the king standing by a _____ according to the custom.” (II Kings 11:14a)

6. Then _____ made a covenant between the Lord, the king, and the people, that they should be the Lord’s people.” (II Kings 11:17a)

Extreme Long-suffering

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 2, Lesson 44

Scripture: II Kings 13; 14:23-29

Memory Verse: “When He slew them, then they sought Him; and they returned and sought earnestly for God.” (Psalm 78:34)

Lesson Truth: The Lord dealt with His people with compassion and mercy because of His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Lesson

Do you know what it means to be long-suffering? The title of today’s lesson tells us that the Lord was long-suffering to Israel. It means that God waited a long time to punish Israel for their sins. Why did God wait a long time before he punished Israel? He waited because years before He promised Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob that he would always be their God. Now when the children of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob did sinful things God waited for them to repent. God sent prophets to warn them. God was very long-suffering!

The story today is about two kings of Israel. They were Jehoahaz and Joash. Jehoahaz became king of Israel after Jehu. Jehu was the king who destroyed the house of Ahab. God commanded Jehu to put to death everyone of Ahab’s family. Ahab’s family had to be put to death because they were very wicked. Now Jehu’s son Jehoahaz became king. He should have told the people to served God. But instead he allowed the people to worship idols. He let them worship calves. God became angry when the people worshipped idols. So God allowed Hazael the king of Syria to punish Israel.

When Hazael punished Israel, king Jehoahaz thought about God. He called on God’s name in prayer. He pleaded with the Lord to take away his punishment. Do you know what happened? The Lord heard the prayer of Jehoahaz. He delivered Israel from the Syrians. God was long-suffering with His people. He was long-suffering because He remembered the promise He made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Still Jehoahaz allowed the people to worship idols.

Joash became king after Jehoahaz. Joash also allowed the people to worship idols. Yet God started to take away the punishment of the Syrians. This is what happened. The prophet Elisha was very sick. He was ready to die. King Joash went to see Elisha. He knew that Elisha spoke the Word of the Lord. He knew that the Word of the Lord was Israel’s strength. Joash cried over Elisha. He said to him, “O my father,

my father! the chariots of Israel and their horsemen!” (II Kings 13:14). This meant that Joash knew the strength of Israel was the Word of God. The Lord still did not reject His people. He permitted Elisha to tell Joash about defeating the Syrians. Elisha gave Joash the Word of the Lord by using a sign.

The sign that Elisha used was a bow and arrow. Elisha told Joash to shoot an arrow out the window to the east. Elisha even put his hands over Joash’s hands when he shot the arrow. Elisha told Joash that the arrow he shot was the arrow of the Lord’s deliverance. God would help Israel defeat the Syrians. Elisha then told Joash to strike the ground with his arrows. Joash struck the ground three times. Elisha felt bad that he only struck the ground three times. This meant that Joash would defeat the Syrians only three times. He should have struck the ground five or six times. Then he would have defeated the Syrians until they were destroyed. There was power in the Word that Elisha brought.

How do we know there was power in the Word that Elisha brought? Because Elisha brought the Word of the Lord. After Elisha died and was buried someone put a dead body in Elisha’s grave. Do you know what happened? The dead man came back to life when his body touched Elisha’s bones. This showed the power of the Word of God that Elisha spoke when he was alive. God wanted Israel to live by the power of that Word.

God was long-suffering with His people. He did not completely destroy His people. He remembered His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. We must be very thankful that God remembered His covenant. He kept some faithful people who brought forth Christ Jesus. God also shows he is long suffering with us. He sent Christ Jesus to be our Savior.

Questions

Fill in the blanks.

1. “_____ the son of Jehu became king over Israel in Samaria.” (II Kings 13:1b)
2. “And he did evil in the sight of the Lord and followed the sins of _____ the son of Nebat, who had made Israel sin.” (II Kings 13:2a)
3. “Then the anger of the Lord was aroused against _____ and He delivered them into the hand of Hazael king of Syria.” (II Kings 13:3a)

4. “So _____ pleaded with the Lord, and the Lord listened to him, for He saw the oppression of Israel, because the king of Syria oppressed them.” (II Kings 13:4)

5. “_____ had become sick with the illness of which he would die.” (II Kings 13:14a)

6. But the _____ was gracious to them, had compassion on them, and regarded them, because of His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.” (II Kings 13:23a)

Sanctified and Made a Blessing

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 2, Lesson 45

Scripture: Jonah 1–4

Memory Verse: “For You cast me into the deep, into the heart of the seas, and the floods surrounded me; all Your billows and Your waves passed over me.” (Jonah 2:3)

Lesson Truth: The Lord sanctified Jonah in the depths of the sea before he could be a blessing.

Lesson

God chose Jonah to bring a message to the city of Nineveh. But Jonah was not ready to bring this message. Before he could be a blessing, Jonah had to be sanctified. God had to make Jonah holy. The story of Jonah is about the way that God set apart His prophet. God would not allow Jonah to hide from Him. The Lord used the forces of nature to change Jonah so he could be a blessing.

Why do we learn about Jonah in the middle of our study of the kings of Israel? Because Jonah was sent to tell king Jeroboam II that God would allow him to take back some of Israel’s land. Jonah liked to bring that message to the king. He liked to do things that helped Israel. He was a loyal Israelite. But God’s prophet was very unhappy with the next message he was told to bring. God told Jonah to go to Nineveh and warn them that their city would be destroyed. Nineveh was the capital city of Israel’s enemy, Assyria. Jonah did not want to warn them. He was afraid they might repent, and God would spare them. Do you know what Jonah did? He tried to run away from God.

Instead of going to Nineveh as God told him, Jonah went to Joppa. Joppa was the opposite direction of Nineveh. At Joppa he got on a ship that was going to Tarshish. The Lord would not allow His prophet to run away in disobedience. How was He going to stop Jonah and help him become a blessing? Do you know what the Lord did? He sent a great wind to make a terrible storm on the sea. The storm was so bad that the ship nearly broke apart. The sailors became afraid and each one cried out to his god. In the meantime, Jonah was asleep in the lower part of the ship.

The sailors were sure that the storm came from the gods. So, the captain woke Jonah and asked him to call on the name of his God. The sailors also cast lots to see who the cause of the storm was. The lot pointed to Jonah. Then the sailors asked him who he was and where he came from. He told them he was a Hebrew who served

the God who made the sea and the dry land. He also told the sailors he was trying to run away from God. This made the sailors even more afraid. They asked Jonah what they should do. He told them to throw him into the sea then the sea would become calm.

The sailors tried to row the ship, but they could not do it. So, they threw Jonah into the sea. Jonah knew he was the guilty one. He was ready to die because he knew that God was righteous. But God was not finished with Jonah. The Lord sent a great fish to swallow His prophet. Jonah spent three days and three nights in the belly of this fish. While he was in the belly of the fish Jonah changed. His prayer shows that God made him holy. He was sanctified while he was in the fish. God showed His grace to Jonah. In that same way He shows His grace to us through Christ Jesus. The Lord then commanded the fish to spit Jonah out on the dry ground.

Now the Lord again commanded Jonah to go to Nineveh. This time he went as he was told. Still, he was unhappy that God would warn Israel's enemies. He should have preached for a number of days in Nineveh. But he preached only one day. Then an amazing thing happened. The people of Nineveh believed Jonah's words of warning. They repented and sat in sackcloth. The king asked the people to fast. In His mercy God spared the city of Nineveh. This made Jonah feel bad. He even asked the Lord to take his life. He felt that bad because the Lord showed mercy to Israel's enemy.

God then taught Jonah one more lesson. He caused a plant to grow up overnight. He also caused this plant to die the next night. Jonah complained that the plant died. Then God reminded Jonah that he loved the plant that just came in one night. God asked Jonah if the Lord shouldn't love a city filled with people who act like children. Yes, God sanctified His prophet Jonah. He did this so Jonah could be a blessing. God can also make us holy in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. He can do this to make us a blessing!

Questions

Fill in the blanks.

1. "Now the word of the _____ came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, 'Arise go to Nineveh that great city and cry out against it.'" (Jonah 1:1-2)
2. "But Jonah arose to flee to _____ from the presence of the Lord." (Jonah 1:3)

3. “But the _____ sent out a great wind on the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship was about to be broken up.” (Jonah 1:4)

4. “So he said to them, ‘I am a _____, and I fear the Lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land.’” (Jonah 1:9)

5. “So they picked up _____ and threw him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging.” (Jonah 1:15)

6. “When my _____ fainted within me, I remembered the Lord, and my prayer went up to You, into Your holy temple.” (Jonah 2:7)

Self-complacency

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 2, Lesson 46

Scripture: II Kings 14:1-22; 15:1-7; II Chronicles 25–26

Memory Verse: “And he did what was right in the sight of the Lord, according to all that his father Amaziah had done.” (II Kings 15:3)

Lesson Truth: The Lord remembered His covenant with David even when sons of David became proud as kings of Judah.

Lesson

Our lesson today is about two kings of Judah. The names of the kings are Amaziah and Uzziah. These kings were from David’s line. God blessed these kings. Then a sad thing happened. They became proud. The title of today’s lesson says they became self-complacent. That means they were pleased with themselves. They were pleased with themselves even when they did evil. Our lesson tells us that God made these kings humble. God brought them down because He remembered David.

Amaziah was a good king at first. The Bible tells us he did what was right in the sight of the Lord. He obeyed Moses’ law when he punished those who killed his father. He also obeyed God’s prophet when he told him not to take the soldiers of Israel into battle. But Amaziah changed after his battle with the Edomites.

The Lord was with him, so he won the battle against Edom. Then he became proud and he wanted revenge. He had ten thousand Edomites thrown to their death from the top of a huge rock. Then he did something even more shameful. Amaziah brought back gods from Edom. He set up these idol gods for God’s people to worship. He was so proud that he forgot that God’s grace cannot be shared with idols. God sent a prophet to remind Amaziah that these idols did not save Edom. How could they save Judah?

In his pride Amaziah told the prophet to be quiet. He asked the prophet if he was the king’s advisor. Then the prophet said he would be quiet. He warned Amaziah that the Lord had decided to destroy him. In spite of this warning Amaziah told the king of Israel he wanted to fight him. The king of Israel answered him in a parable. He told about a thistle and a cedar tree. A wild beast trampled the thistle. But Amaziah was so proud he would not listen. He went to battle against Israel anyway. The army of Israel defeated Judah and Amaziah was taken prisoner.

Still the Lord was gracious. He allowed Amaziah to live for a number of years. During those years, men planned to overthrow him. He finally left Jerusalem and

went to Lachish. At Lachish he was caught and put to death. Amaziah was punished for his pride. But God remembered His covenant with David for the sake of Christ Jesus.

After Amaziah died the people made his son Uzziah king. Uzziah was only sixteen years old when he was made king. At first, he was a good king. He did what was right in the sight of the Lord. This young king followed the Lord in the days of Zechariah. As long as he followed the Lord he prospered. But Uzziah also became proud. He became proud because he thought he was the Lord's favorite. God blessed him in wars against his enemies. He was also blessed as he made Jerusalem stronger with his new inventions. Uzziah became famous because of his wisdom and strength. He knew God favored him.

As he prospered, Uzziah forgot where his blessings came from. He began to think that he brought his own blessings. This was dangerous because all his blessings came from God. Uzziah became proud. His pride made him do a very wicked thing. He did a task that God had said only priests could do. God said that only the priests could offer incense on the altar. But Uzziah thought he was so wise and rich that he could do whatever he wanted. He went into the temple to offer incense on the altar.

God's priests tried to stop him. But he became angry with the priests. Then God decided that He would humble Uzziah. God sent the terrible disease called leprosy on Uzziah. The priests saw it on his forehead. They told him he should leave the temple. Uzziah hurried away from God's house. He knew the Lord brought the leprosy. He was a leper the rest of his life. He had to live in a house away from other people. He could not go to the temple. Yet God was gracious. God gave him a wise son to sit on the throne of Judah. Uzziah became proud but God did not forget His covenant with David.

Questions

Fill in the blanks.

1. "Amaziah was _____ years old when he became king, and he reigned twenty-nine years in Jerusalem." (II Chronicles 25:1)
2. "And he did what was _____ in the sight of the Lord, but not with a loyal heart." (II Chronicles 25:2)
3. "Now it was so, after _____ came from the slaughter of the Edomites, that he brought the gods of the people of Seir, set them up to be his gods and bowed down before them and burned incense to them." (II Chronicles 25:14)

4. “Now all the people of Judah took _____, who was sixteen years old and made him king instead of his father Amaziah.” (II Chronicles 26:1)

5. “But when he was _____ his heart was lifted up to his destruction, for he transgressed against the Lord his God by entering the temple of the Lord to burn incense on the altar of incense.” (II Chronicles 26:16)

6. “And while he was angry with the priests, _____ broke out on his forehead, before the priests in the house of the Lord, beside the incense altar.” (II Chronicles 26:19b)

Wayward Children

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 2, Lesson 47

Scripture: II Kings 15:32–16:20; II Chronicles 27–28

Memory Verse: “Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign; Behold a virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.” (Isaiah 7:14)

Lesson Truth: In the days of Jotham and Ahaz the Lord called His wayward children to return to Him. He did this because of His covenant with David.

Lesson

Do you know what a wayward child is? A wayward child is one who does not obey his parent’s instructions. God’s people in the kingdom of Judah were wayward. They did not obey God’s law. When Ahaz was king they even rejected God’s promise of a Savior. Still God called His wayward children to return to Him. He called them to return because He remembered His covenant with David.

Jotham became king in Judah after Uzziah. He was a good king. The Bible tells us he did what was right in the sight of the Lord. The country of Judah prospered when Jotham was king. Jotham became mighty because he walked before the Lord. Still the people worshipped idols on the high places. In the time of Jotham two kings got together and began to invade Judah. These kings were Rezin king of Syria and Pekah king of Israel. God allowed these invasions of Judah so the people would return to Him.

God punished Judah for their idolatry in another way. He gave them a very wicked king. The Lord sometimes punishes His people by allowing them to walk in their sins. This is what happened when Ahaz became king. Ahaz led the people into more idol worship. He served the Baals in sinful ways. He even sacrificed his own children to idols. He followed idols just like the kings of Israel. It is sad that the people of Judah worshipped idols just like the Canaanites. Would the Lord forget His sinful people? No He would not! Because of His covenant His Word of grace had to be victorious.

God would never break His covenant. Still in the time of king Ahaz the Lord sent two evil kings to punish Judah. Rezin attacked Judah from the south. Pekah attacked Judah from the north. Many people from Judah were killed and many were taken as prisoners. Things looked very bad in Judah. Just at this time God showed that He would not destroy all of Judah. God warned the soldiers of Israel not to make slaves

of the people from Judah. The soldiers listened to the warning. They sent the people back to Judah. God's Word was like a covering to protect His people.

The Lord also showed His love for His people by sending the prophet Isaiah. Isaiah was sent to talk to the wicked king Ahaz. He told Ahaz that both Syria and Israel would be destroyed. Ahaz did not need to fear if he would trust the Lord. The prophet even offered Ahaz a sign from the Lord. But this wicked king did not want a sign. He did not want any word from the Lord. He did not want the Lord's help. The Lord then reminded Ahaz that his house made the Lord weary.

Still God would not forget His promise to David. Even if Ahaz, a son of David, rejected Him, God would not forget. The Lord said He would give a sign even if Ahaz did not want it. Do you know what sign the Lord gave? He gave a sign that we know came true when Jesus was born. He said a virgin would give birth to a Son. She would call His name Immanuel. Immanuel means God is with us. That is just what happened, when Christ Jesus was born. His mother Mary named Him Immanuel.

God remembered His covenant, but Ahaz continued to do evil. Ahaz saw an altar in Damascus. This altar was made for an idol. Ahaz told the high priest to make an altar just like that. Then do you know what he did? He worshipped at the altar made like the idols. He pushed the Lord's altar aside. Ahaz did not want anyone to worship the Lord. He even locked the doors of the Lord's house. Ahaz rejected the Lord. He rejected the Lord's promise. But the Lord did not reject His people. He sent enemies so His people would be reminded to return to Him. God wanted his wayward children to return!

Questions

Fill in the blanks.

1. "So _____ became mighty, because he prepared his ways before the Lord his God." (II Chronicles 27:6)
2. Ahaz was _____ years old when he became king." (II Chronicles 28:1a)
3. "And he did not do what was right in the sight of the Lord as his father _____ had done." (II Chronicles 28:1b)

4. “He burned incense in the valley of the Son of Hinnom, and burned his _____ in the fire, according to the abominations of the nations whom the Lord had cast out before the children of Israel.” (II Chronicles 28:3)

5. “Moreover the Lord spoke again to _____ saying: ‘Ask a sign for yourself from the Lord your God’” (Isaiah 7:10-11)

6. “Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall His name _____ “ (Isaiah 7:14)

A Return to the Lord

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 2, Lesson 48

Scripture: II Kings 18:1-8; II Chronicles 29–31

Memory Verse: “Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.” (Isaiah 55:7)

Lesson Truth: Hezekiah led the people of Judah to return to the Lord.

Lesson

The people of Judah had become very wicked. King Ahaz led them to worship idols. He also closed the doors of the Lord’s house. The Lord was very angry that Ahaz led the people to worship idols. But the Lord did not forget His people in Judah. Do you know what the Lord did for His people? He made Hezekiah king in Judah in place of his father Ahaz. Hezekiah was a very good king who served the Lord. The Bible tells us that he trusted in the Lord God of Israel. It tells us that he served the Lord more than any other king of Judah. Hezekiah led the people to return to the Lord.

One of the first things Hezekiah did when he became king was to open the doors of the Lord’s house. The doors that Ahaz had closed were now opened and repaired. Hezekiah respected the Lord’s house so much that he overlaid the doors with gold. He wanted the people to serve the Lord again. He wanted them to put away all the idols and worship only the Lord. Hezekiah trusted the Lord to help him. He called the priests and Levites to come to the temple. He told them that because the people had forsaken the Lord they were punished. Hezekiah wanted the priests and Levites to take all the idols out of the temple. Then the people could once again worship the Lord.

Good king Hezekiah also wanted to renew the covenant. He remembered the promise and agreement God made with David. Hezekiah wanted the people to remember that promise. Then the Lord would no longer be angry with His people. The priests helped Hezekiah and took all the idols out of the Lord’s house. They repaired the broken vessels and furniture and even made themselves holy. Then they told Hezekiah that everything was ready.

Hezekiah called the leaders of Jerusalem to come to the temple. He had the priests offer burnt offerings and sin offerings for the people. The leaders and the people confessed their sins and renewed the covenant. In faith they wanted to accept the

Lord's grace. The king also said that they should worship the Lord by bringing freewill offerings. The hearts of the people were so grateful that they could worship the Lord again that they brought many offerings. They brought so many offerings that the priest could not keep up with the work of taking them. What a joy that the people could worship the Lord again!

Hezekiah also wanted to celebrate the Passover feast. This was the feast that helped the people remember that the angel of death passed over the children of Israel when they were in Egypt. The Passover had not been celebrated for a long, long time. The king set the time for the second month of the year. He then sent messengers to the land of Israel to invite them to the Passover. He wanted all of God's people to remember the Lord. It is sad that the people in Israel made fun of Hezekiah's messengers. Only a few people from Israel came to the Passover feast. In Judah the people were excited to come and nearly all the people came. The people were touched by this feast and promised to serve the Lord.

The hearts of the people of Judah were so thankful that they went through the land and destroyed all the idols. God's favor rested on His people once again. Hezekiah also instructed the priests and Levites to serve according to the directions of David. He reminded the people to bring their tithes and their offerings of first fruits. The king set the example as to how this was to be done. Then the Spirit of the Lord Jesus Christ caused the people to listen to the words of Hezekiah. They brought so many gifts that special rooms had to be made to store them. The Lord used good king Hezekiah to show His grace to His people. What a joy to know that after the wickedness of Ahaz the Lord's grace gained the victory when Hezekiah was king.

Questions

Fill in the blanks.

1. "Now it came to pass in the third year of Hoshea the son of Elah, king of Israel that _____ the son of Ahaz, king of Judah began to reign." (II Kings 18:1)
2. "And he did what was right in the sight of the Lord, according to all that his father _____ had done." (II Kings 18:3)
3. "He trusted in the _____ so that after him was none like him among all the kings of Judah, nor who were before him." (II Kings 18:5)

4. “In the first year of his reign, in the first month he opened the _____ of the house of the Lord and repaired them.” (II Chronicles 29:3)

5. “Now it is in my heart to make a _____ with the Lord God of Israel, that His fierce wrath may turn away from us.” (II Chronicles 29:10)

6. “And Hezekiah sent to all Israel and Judah, and also wrote letters to Ephraim and Manasseh that they should come to the house of the Lord in Jerusalem, to keep the _____ to the Lord God of Israel.” (II Chronicles 30:1)

No Longer a People

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 2, Lesson 49

Scripture: II Kings 15:8-31; 17:1-41

Memory Verse: “You only have I known of all the families of the earth; therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities.” (Amos 3:2)

Lesson Truth: The Lord rejected the kingdom of Israel because they only pretended to be His people. Yet He kept His covenant with a faithful few who returned from captivity.

Lesson

The Bible lesson today is sad. It is sad because it tells about the end of the kingdom of Israel. God rejected the Northern Kingdom because of their sins. He allowed them to be carried into captivity. The children of Israel were no longer a people. They were separated from David’s house. They were also separated from the promise given to David’s house. Still God did not break His covenant with His people. The promise of His covenant would be fulfilled through a few faithful people. These faithful few would return from captivity along with captives from Judah.

The end of the kingdom of Israel is sad because the people became so sinful. The ten tribes became a separate nation when they rebelled against Rehoboam. In rejecting Rehoboam and the house of David they rejected the Lord’s grace. Jeroboam the first king of the ten tribes brought calves for the people to worship. All of the kings following Jeroboam allowed calf worship to continue. The people worshipped idols just like the evil nations around them. The kings became greedy for power. In this way the nation of Israel forgot the God of David. So God said they would no longer be a people.

During the time of the last six kings of Israel there was disorder and confusion. The people were lawless and disobedient. Assassins killed four of the last six kings. Zechariah was king for only six months and Shallum for only a month. The people of Israel became lawless because they no longer served the Lord. Pekah was the second to last king of Israel. When he was king the Assyrians invaded the land. They carried many of the children of Israel into captivity. Hoshea was the last king of Israel. The Assyrians surrounded the city of Samaria when he was king. After three years the city was captured. Hoshea was taken prisoner and many more people were carried away as captives. The children of Israel were no longer a people. This is very sad. It is sad because these were God’s chosen people.

The kingdom of Israel was gone. At this time the kingdom of Judah remained. Later they too would be carried away. Yet God would keep His covenant with faithful people in captivity. Some of these faithful people from Israel and Judah would return to the land of Israel. The Lord did not break His covenant with the house of David. But He did reject the ten tribes of Israel. He rejected them because they were no longer His people. They only pretended that they were His people. The ten tribes rejected the house of David. They also rejected the claims of the Lord's covenant. The Lord wanted Israel to live in His grace. He became angry when His people rejected His grace. That is why they could no longer be a people. We must remember that the Lord will also show His anger today if we reject His grace.

For some time the land of Israel had very few people. Later the king of Assyria brought people from other lands to Israel. These people from other lands married Israelites that had been left in the land. The children from these mixed people became known as the Samaritans. It was through the Samaritans that God showed He had not forgotten the Land of Israel. The Samaritans turned away from idolatry and accepted the law of Moses. Later Christ Jesus brought the gospel to the Samaritans. He visited with the Samaritan woman at the well and talked to the people of Sychar. The apostles also brought the gospel to the Samaritans. Many of the Samaritans accepted the Lord's grace, which their fathers had rejected. Yes, the end of the kingdom of Israel is a sad story. Still we must remember that God kept His covenant. His promises are always certain for those who believe!

Questions

Fill in the blanks.

1. "Now the king of _____ went throughout all the land, and went up to Samaria and besieged it for three years." (II Kings 17:5)
2. "In the ninth year of _____ the king of Assyria took Samaria and carried Israel away to Assyria, and placed them in Halah and by the River of the Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes." (II Kings 17:6)
3. "For so it was that the children of _____ had sinned against the Lord their God, who had brought them up out of the land of Egypt." (II Kings 17:7a)

4. “Yet the _____ testified against Israel and against Judah, by all His prophets, every seer, saying, “Turn from your evil ways and keep My commandments and My statues, according to all the law which I commanded your fathers, and which I sent to you by My servants the Prophets.” (II Kings 17:13)

5. “Nevertheless they would not hear, but stiffened their _____ like the necks of their fathers who did not believe in the Lord their God.” (II Kings 17:14)

6. “And the _____ that I have made with you, you shall not forget, nor shall you fear other gods.” (II Kings 17:38)

The Intercession of the Mediator

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 2, Lesson 50

Scripture: II Kings 18:9–19:37; II Chronicles 32:1-23

Memory Verse: “That they may know that You, whose name alone is the Lord, are the Most High over all the earth.” (Psalm 83:18)

Lesson Truth: The Lord heard the prayer of Hezekiah when he prayed as a mediator for the deliverance of the people of Judah.

Lesson

Did you notice the words, intercession and mediator in the title of today’s lesson? They are good words to describe what king Hezekiah did for the kingdom of Judah. Intercession means to plead for something in prayer. Mediator means someone who goes between. Good king Hezekiah stood between God and the people of Judah. He pleaded with God for their deliverance from the king of Assyria.

The ten tribes that had been the kingdom of Israel no longer existed. The Lord allowed them to be carried into captivity. Hezekiah was king in Judah when Israel was carried into captivity. He was a good king who feared the Lord. He brought back the worship of the Lord in Jerusalem. The Lord allowed Judah to remain a nation when Israel was carried away captive. But just eight years later the Assyrians came back to invade Judah. Then Hezekiah became a mediator who prayed for his people.

Hezekiah was man of faith. He encouraged the people when the Assyrians invaded Judah. He told them that there was one greater with Judah than with Assyria. The Assyrians could only trust in an arm of flesh, but Judah could trust in the Lord God. Hezekiah had the people prepare for war. He told them to stop up the wells so the Assyrians could not get water. He also had them dig water lines underground to Jerusalem. Still the king of Assyria soon captured most of Judah.

Hezekiah then showed his faith was weak. He agreed to pay a tribute to the king of Assyria. The king of Assyria demanded a huge tribute. Yet after Hezekiah paid the huge tribute the king of Assyria broke his word. He sent soldiers to surround Jerusalem. Now Hezekiah knew that he had to trust the Lord for deliverance.

The king of Assyria sent a leader of his army to make fun of Hezekiah. This leader was called a Rabshakeh. He told the people on the wall of Jerusalem not to trust in Egypt. He also told them they could not trust the Lord God. The Rabshakeh said that the Lord God was no different than idol gods. He said the Lord God could not

save Judah and Jerusalem. This did not show respect for the God of heaven. Hezekiah tore his clothes when he heard what the Rabshakeh said. He sent some messengers to Isaiah the prophet. He wanted the messengers to ask if the Lord God would fight for Judah.

The messengers came back from Isaiah with good news. Isaiah told them the Lord heard the Rabshakeh make fun of the Lord's name. The Lord would never allow an evil ruler to make fun of His name. Then Hezekiah and the people again put their faith in the Lord God. At that time the king of Ethiopia decided to fight the king of Assyria. For that reason, the king of Assyria wanted Jerusalem to surrender. He sent a letter to Hezekiah and again made fun of the Lord's name. Hezekiah took this letter to the temple and spread it out before the Lord.

Hezekiah then prayed that the Lord would take the side of his people. He knew the Lord would not allow the Assyrians to make fun of His name. Hezekiah became the intercessor for God's people. He became the mediator. He stood between God and His people. God heard Hezekiah's prayer of faith.

God sent Hezekiah an answer to his prayer through Isaiah the prophet. Isaiah said the virgin daughter of Zion has despised the Assyrians. This meant God would again protect Jerusalem like a father protects his young daughter. Isaiah said God would put a hook in the nose of Assyria and a bridle in her lips. The Assyrians would know what this meant because they led prisoners away like animals.

God did answer Hezekiah's prayer. One night God sent an angel into the Assyrian camp. This angel put to death one hundred eighty five thousand men of Assyria. But that was not the end for the king of Assyria. He went back to Nineveh the capital city. There his sons put him to death while he worshipped an idol. Judah and Jerusalem were free for a time. Later they too were carried away captive. Did God forget His covenant with David? No, God kept His covenant through faithful people in captivity. The covenant was filled completely in Christ Jesus.

Questions

Fill in the blanks.

1. "Now it came to pass in the third year of Hoshea the son Elah king of Israel that _____ the son of Ahaz king of Judah began to reign."
(II Kings 18:1)
2. "He trusted in the _____ of _____, so that after him was none like him among all the kings of Judah, nor who were before him." (II Kings 18:5)

3. “But do not listen to _____, lest he persuade you, saying, ‘The Lord will deliver us.’ (II Kings 18:32b)

4. “And so it was, when Hezekiah heard it that he _____, covered himself with sackcloth, and went into the house of the Lord.” (II Kings 19:1)

5. “Now therefore, O Lord our God, I pray, save us from his hand that all the _____ of the earth may know the You are the Lord God, you alone.” (II Kings 19:19)

6. “That they may know from the rising of the sun to its setting that there is none besides _____. I am the Lord, and there is no other.” (Isaiah 45:6)

The Need for a True Mediator

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 2, Lesson 51

Scripture: II Kings 20; II Chronicles 32:24-33

Memory Verse: “Hear my prayer O Lord, and give ear to my cry; do not be silent at my tears; for I am a stranger with You, a sojourner, as all my fathers were.” (Psalm 39:12)

Lesson Truth: Because of his own sins, Hezekiah could not be the mediator for God’s people. We know we need the true Mediator Christ Jesus.

Lesson

King Hezekiah of Judah was a good king. He did away with idol worship in Judah. Hezekiah taught the people to worship the Lord again. He stood as a mediator between God and the people of Judah. Yet he was not the true Mediator. Today’s lesson tells how God showed His favor to this good king. It also tells how Hezekiah failed to trust God completely. He thought Babylon could help protect him from Assyria. This helps us know that we need the true Mediator, Christ Jesus.

The Assyrians were trying to conquer Judah. Just at that time Hezekiah the king of Judah became sick. He was so sick that Isaiah the prophet said he would die. Isaiah told Hezekiah to make his house ready for his death. This made Hezekiah very sad. He wanted to help his people fight the Assyrians. He did not want them to forget God. So Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and he prayed. He asked the Lord to let him live so he could help God’s people. Hezekiah cried in real sorrow!

Do you know what happened? The Lord heard Hezekiah’s prayer. God sent Isaiah the prophet back to Hezekiah. Isaiah now told Hezekiah that he would get well. He told him the Lord had seen his tears. Isaiah even told Hezekiah that he would go back to the temple in three days. God would allow Hezekiah to deliver His people from Assyria. Isaiah said God would give Hezekiah fifteen more years to live. Hezekiah asked Isaiah how he would know that this promise was true? Isaiah told Hezekiah he could ask for sign. He asked if Hezekiah would like to have the shadow on the sundial go ahead or go backward. Hezekiah said if the shadow went backward, he would know this was a sign from God.

God gave Hezekiah the sign he asked for. The sundial went ten degrees backward. Hezekiah knew the Lord gave him a special favor. He got well from his sickness. Then he sang a song of praise to the Lord. He praised the Lord for making him well.

The Lord then delivered Judah from the Assyrians. Hezekiah was allowed to be the deliverer of Judah. Would Hezekiah always trust the Lord?

Some officials from Babylon came to visit Hezekiah. They gave him gifts from their king. They gave him the gifts because Hezekiah had been sick. They also asked Hezekiah if he would be their friend. They wanted Hezekiah to help them fight Assyria. Hezekiah then did a bad thing. He began to trust in his own power. He thought that Babylon and Judah together could defeat Assyria. It is sad that Hezekiah forgot that only God could protect Judah.

Hezekiah was a good king of Judah. Even this good king thought he could be safe if Babylon helped him. Because of this we know he could not be the perfect deliverer of Judah. Isaiah the prophet told Hezekiah that one-day all the treasures of Judah would be carried away. The treasures would be carried to Babylon. He told Hezekiah that the people would also be carried away. Even sons of Hezekiah would be taken to serve in Babylon. This was the punishment because Hezekiah made friends with Babylon. Yet Isaiah said this would happen after Hezekiah died.

Then Hezekiah showed that he was humble before God. He told Isaiah the word of the Lord was good. Even a word of the Lord that told of punishment and captivity was good. Hezekiah believed that God's people would be delivered. He believed that the true Mediator would come. He believed the promise that God made to David. Hezekiah had to believe God's promises by looking a long way ahead. We can look back to the coming of Christ Jesus. We should be thankful that God's promised Son did come. He is the true Mediator our Lord Jesus Christ. He delivered His people from their sins. The true Mediator also delivered Hezekiah from his sins.

Questions

Fill in the blanks.

1. "In those days _____ was sick and near death. And Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz, went to him and said to him, "Thus says the Lord "Set your house in order, for you shall die and not live."" (Isaiah 38:1)
2. "Then _____ turned his face to the wall, and prayed to the Lord." (Isaiah 38:2)
3. "Go and tell _____, Thus says the Lord, the God of David your father: 'I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears; surely I will add to your days fifteen years.'" (Isaiah 38:5)

4. “And this is the _____ to you from the Lord, that the Lord will do this thing which He has spoken.” (Isaiah 38:7)

5. “Behold, I will bring the shadow on the _____, which has gone down with the sun on the sundial of Ahaz, ten degrees backward.” (Isaiah 38:8a)

6. “So _____ said to Isaiah, “The word of the Lord which you have spoken is good!”” (Isaiah 39:8)