

Promise and Deliverance

Student Workbook

Volume 9

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
Accepted as a Gift

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

Scripture: II Kings 5:1–6:7

Memory Verse: “And he returned to the man of God, he and all his aides, and came and stood before him; and he said, ‘Indeed, now I know that there is no God in all the earth, except in Israel; now therefore, please take a gift from your servant.’” (II Kings 5:15)

Lesson Truth: Naaman had to learn that the Lord’s grace can only be accepted as a gift.

Lesson

When the Lord visits people with His grace they must understand that this grace can only be accepted as a gift. Mankind can never earn the Lord’s grace and it cannot be paid for. This was the truth that Naaman, the Syrian commander, had to learn when he sought out the prophet Elisha to be healed from his leprosy. This is a truth we must all understand. God’s grace is always a gift.

Naaman was an important and respected officer in the Syrian army. His position in life would have been enviable except for one thing: He had leprosy which was an incurable disease. Although he was able to continue to serve as the commander of the Syrian army, he was desperate to find treatment for his disease. Now it happened by the providence of God that he had a young Israelite girl working for him as a servant. This young girl was aware of the power of Almighty God through His servant Elisha, the prophet. One day she said to her mistress that she wished her master, Naaman, could be in Israel and see Elisha. She was convinced that, in the name of the Lord, Elisha could bring healing to her master.

When Naaman heard the testimony from his servant girl he decided to seek Elisha’s help through official channels. He went to the king of Syria and asked him to request the service of healing from the king of Israel. When the king of Israel received the request for healing from the Syrian king, he became upset. He thought the Syrians were only trying to find an occasion to make war with him. He knew he did not have the means to bring healing to a Syrian commander, and he did not think of the Lord or His prophet. So he tore his clothes in anguish.

Elisha heard that the king had torn his clothes and sent a messenger to request that the Syrian commander be sent to him. He said the Syrian would learn that there was a prophet of the Lord in Israel. As Naaman traveled to see Elisha, he did so with great anticipation. He thought the prophet would come out and speak some elaborate incantation over him to bring about healing. Imagine his surprise when Elisha did not even go out to greet him but sent his servant to tell him to wash himself seven times in the Jordan River. Naaman left in anger because he was convinced that if washing himself in a river could cure him, then he could better wash in the rivers of Damascus.

This Syrian commander almost lost his opportunity to be healed. His servants saved the day when they reasoned with him that he surely would have listened to the prophet if he had told him to do something very difficult. Why, they asked, wouldn’t he do something simple like wash himself in the

Lesson 2

Unsolicited Grace

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

Scripture: II Kings 6:8–8:6

Memory Verse: “So it happened just as the man of God had spoken to the king, saying: ‘Two seahs of barley for a shekel, and a seah of fine flour for a shekel, shall be sold tomorrow about this time in the gate of Samaria.’” (II Kings 7:18)

Lesson Truth: In order to bring His people to repentance, the Lord showed His grace even when His people did not ask for it.

Lesson

Elisha, the prophet of the Lord, was sent to reveal the lovingkindness of the Lord, not only to Israel, but also to her enemies. The enemy of Israel at this time was the country of Syria. The Syrians were attacking Israel in surprise skirmishes rather than by gathering a large army. Even though the king of Israel did not ask for the Lord’s protection, He sent it anyway because He loved His people.

Each time the Syrians would plan a raid with a band of soldiers, Elisha would tell the king of Israel where they were going to attack. With this information the men of Israel would be there to drive off the Syrians. This made the king of Syria terribly upset because he was certain that there was a traitor in his camp. He thought one of his soldiers was telling Israel where they were going to attack. However, one of his servants knew the truth. He knew that the Lord gave Elisha the prophet this information. He told the king of Syria that the Lord helped Elisha know everything. He even knew what the king talked about in the privacy of his own bedroom.

This unbelieving king did not know the power of Almighty God. He thought he could stop the security leak if he just captured Elisha. He sent a large army to go to Dothan, the place where Elisha lived, to capture the prophet. The Syrian army surrounded the city of Dothan expecting to capture Elisha. When Elisha’s servant saw this army, he was dreadfully afraid. He said, “Alas, My master! What shall we do?” (II Kings 6:15). Then Elisha told him a wonderful thing. He said, “Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them” (II Kings 6:16). This servant would see the salvation the Lord would provide.

Elisha prayed that the Lord would close the eyes of this large army. When the Lord answered Elisha’s prayer, he led the whole army to the king of Israel in the city of Samaria. The king of Israel did not understand the humiliation of his enemies. He wanted to kill them because he believed they were his prisoners rather than men who had been taken by the Word of the Lord. At Elisha’s command the soldiers of Syria were fed and sent home. The Word of the Lord’s grace conquered Israel’s enemies and put them to shame.

Later when Ben-Hadad became king of Syria, the Syrians once again invaded Israel and besieged the city of Samaria. They surrounded the city and did not allow any food to enter. This brought on a severe famine in Samaria. In fact, it was so severe that the people were purchasing manure for food

and even eating their own children. The king should have humbled himself before the Lord, but instead he blamed the Lord and His prophet Elisha for all the trouble that came upon Samaria. Then an amazing thing happened. Even though the king and the people did not humble themselves and cry out for mercy, Elisha prophesied that the Lord would show them His grace. Elisha promised that the very next day a measure of flour or two measures of barley would be sold for a shekel at the gate of Samaria. Upon hearing this promise the king kept silent, but the captain who was with the king mocked this promise. He said that even if the Lord made windows in heaven it would still be impossible. Elisha told the captain that because of his unbelief he would see the food sold at the gate of Samaria, but he would not eat of it.

Some lepers outside the city were the ones who discovered the salvation of the Lord. They decided to go into the camp of the Syrians because they reasoned that maybe the Syrians would give them something to eat. If they stayed near Samaria they would die. When they came to the Syrian camp, they found the armies had fled and left all the spoils behind. After the lepers had eaten, they decided to tell the guards on the wall of Samaria. When the king heard this report, he sent soldiers to investigate. They found the report of the lepers was true. The Lord had caused the Syrians to flee leaving all their supplies and food. Then the prophecy of Elisha came true. Flour and barley were sold in the gate of Samaria for a shekel. The captain saw it with his eyes, but he did not eat of the food because he was trampled to death before he could eat of it. This deliverance of God's people pointed ahead to the deliverance that Christ Jesus would bring to all that believe.

Some time later the king asked Elisha's servant to tell him all the great things Elisha had done. This servant told the king that Elisha had brought the son of the Shunamite to life after he had been dead. As he was speaking the Shunamite woman returned from a seven-year exile to escape the famine. The king then commanded that the woman's land should be restored to her. The Lord in His grace helped the king of Israel see what He had done through His prophet Elisha. Still, it is sad to know that king Jehoram did not truly repent. He went the way of his father Ahab.

Questions

1. Where did Elisha live when he told Israel's king of the planned attacks of the Syrians?
(II Kings 6:13)

2. With what words did Elisha encourage his servant when the Syrian army surrounded them?
(II Kings 6:16)

Lesson 3

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: “Moreover the Lord stirred against Jehoram the spirit of the Philistines and the Arabians who were near the Ethiopians.” (II Chronicles 21:16)

Lesson Truth: To cleanse His people from their sins, the Lord sent enemies to persecute them.

Lesson

It seems strange that the Lord would use an enemy to persecute His people so they would repent from their sins. Yet that is what happened when the Lord sent Elisha to anoint Hazael to be king of Syria. Hazael would take the throne of Syria by treachery, but would be used by the Lord to persecute the house of Ahab the wicked king of Israel. The Lord would punish the sins of the house of Ahab.

Elisha went to Damascus to fulfill the task that was originally given to Elijah. That task was to anoint Hazael to be king of Syria. This is how the anointing of Hazael came about. Elisha went to Damascus at the Lord’s command. When Ben-Hadad the king learned that Elisha was in Damascus he sent his servant Hazael to inquire of Elisha if he would get well from his illness. Elisha assured Hazael that Ben-Hadad could surely recover from his illness. He also knew that Hazael would use the occasion of Ben-Hadad’s illness to kill him and take the throne. Elisha then did two unusual things as he talked with Hazael. He stared at him until he became uncomfortable, and then he began to weep.

Hazael asked him why he was weeping. Elisha said it was because he knew that Hazael would take the throne of Syria and would commit horrible atrocities against the people of Israel. Yet Elisha anointed Hazael as king of Syria. The Lord had His prophet anoint an enemy of His people to be used as His instrument to chastise His people. Elisha wept because he knew how it grieved the Lord to chastise His people so severely. Even though Hazael was anointed by the Lord to chastise His people, he was still held responsible for the sin of rejoicing at the misery he would bring on Israel.

God used Hazael to judge Israel, but the kingdom of Judah also came under that judgment. The reason was that king Jehoram of Judah married Athaliah the daughter of Ahab king of Israel and his wicked wife Jezebel. This daughter of Ahab and Jezebel turned out to be a disaster for the house of David. It almost seemed that Satan was going to be successful in destroying the house of David so the promise of God to David could not be realized. Yet this could not happen because God’s promises are forever certain. The house of David would have to be cleansed of the influences of Ahab and Jezebel. But because of His covenant there would always be a son of David preserved for the throne of Judah.

Under the influence of his wicked wife, Athaliah, Jehoram led the people into idol worship. Then the Lord sent a letter from the prophet Elijah to Jehoram. Elijah had ascended into heaven years before and yet the Lord had Jehoram receive this letter at this time. In this letter from Elijah, God told Jehoram that because he walked in the ways of his father-in-law Ahab instead of the ways of his father

Lesson 4

Flame and Stubble

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

Scripture: II Kings 9–10

Memory Verse: “Know now that nothing shall fall to the earth of the word of the Lord which the Lord spoke concerning the house of Ahab; for the Lord has done what He spoke by His servant Elijah.” (II Kings 10:10)

Lesson Truth: God cleansed His people when He consumed the godless house of Ahab like stubble.

Lesson

After Elijah escaped from the evil intent of Jezebel, he went to Mount Horeb. There God spoke to him and assured him that the wickedness of Ahab and Jezebel would be destroyed in the land of Israel. He told Elijah that Hazael, Jehu, and Elisha would be anointed to carry out this destruction. The evil of the house of Ahab would be consumed like flames consume stubble. Now Elisha had succeeded Elijah and he knew that it was time to anoint Jehu to be king of Israel. Jehu would be anointed to destroy the house of Ahab.

Elisha called one of the sons of the prophets and instructed him to take a flask of oil and go to anoint Jehu to be king of Israel. Jehu was at Ramoth with a number of military commanders when the son of the prophets arrived. He told Jehu he had a message for him and then poured the flask of oil on head. He told Jehu that the Lord God of Israel anointed him to strike down the house of Ahab. By striking down the house of Ahab he would avenge the blood of the Lord’s prophets.

His fellow commanders recognized Jehu as the new king, but now he was tested. Would he wait for instructions from the Lord or would he decide to go his own way in destroying the house of Ahab? It is sad that Jehu decided to go his own way in bringing about the destruction of Ahab’s house. He would surely destroy the house of Ahab, but he was not the servant of God’s grace. That is not the way the Lord Jesus Christ will bring judgment. He will bring judgment in complete submission to the Father so that grace is evident.

Jehu set out for Jezreel immediately because he knew that is where he would find king Jehoram. As he approached Jezreel the watchman on the wall of the city could see it was Jehu coming because of the way he drove. When king Jehoram was told that Jehu was coming he sent out two messengers to inquire if Jehu was coming in peace. Both messengers stayed with Jehu instead of returning to Jehoram. So, the king went out himself to meet Jehu and asked if he was coming in peace. Jehu’s response was to the point when he answered, “What peace, as long as the harlotries of your mother Jezebel and her witchcraft are so many?” (II Kings 9:22). Then Jehoram knew there was trouble and he turned to flee for his life. As he turned to flee Jehu shot him in the back with an arrow so that he died. His body was discarded in the field that Ahab had taken from Naboth. This was the judgment God had promised would come on the house of Ahab.

As Jehu rode into the city of Jezreel, wicked queen Jezebel called out to him from a window asking if the one who murdered his master came in peace. Jehu called out for anyone who was an ally to push her out the window. Some eunuchs responded and pushed her. When her body hit the ground, the horses pulling Jehu's chariot trampled her. The dogs ate her body before Jehu could arrange her burial.

Jehu also cleansed the city of Samaria of everyone who belonged to Ahab's house. He asked his commanders to send the heads of seventy of Ahab's grandsons to him in baskets. Then he went on to destroy the brothers and nephews of Ahaziah king of Judah because they were related to Ahab through Athaliah his daughter. He also killed all the prophets of Baal when he tricked them into gathering for a proclaimed assembly for Baal. The Lord used Jehu to destroy Ahab's house and Baal worshippers. Yet he did not put away the worship of calves at Dan and Bethel. He continued the sins of Jeroboam.

Jehu did not carry out the Lord's calling with an obedient heart. How grateful we must be that Christ Jesus was faithful to God the Father in all things. One day the godless will be consumed like stubble by His flame. Still the Lord in His grace continued to seek Israel as His People.

Questions

1. Where did Elisha tell a son of the prophets to go with a flask of oil to anoint a king? (II Kings 9:1)
2. Who was this son of the prophets instructed to anoint as king? (II Kings 9:2-3)
3. Who from the house of Ahab was the Lord going to cut off? (II Kings 9:8)
4. Where was Jehoram when Jehu went to find him to kill him? (II Kings 9:15)

5. What was Jehu's challenge to the elders who raised Ahab's seventy sons? (II Kings 10:1-2)

6. How did the elders who raised Ahab's sons respond to Jehu's challenge? (II Kings 10:4)

7. Whose word did Jehu follow in destroying the house of Ahab? (II Kings 10:10)

8. From whose sins did Jehu not depart even though he destroyed Ahab's house? (II Kings 10:31)

Lesson 5

The Struggle of the Spirit

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

Scripture: II Kings 11–12

Memory Verse: “Then Jehoiada made a covenant between the Lord, the king, and the people, that they should be the Lord’s people, and also between the king and the people.” (II Kings 11:17)

Lesson Truth: The faithful high priest Jehoiada wanted Joash to lead the people as a type of the Christ.

Lesson

How breathtakingly close the wicked queen Athaliah came to destroying the royal seed of David. When she learned that her son, Ahaziah, had been put to death by Jehu she determined to destroy all the sons of David’s line. She was willing to kill all the royal seed even though these young men were her own grandsons. Athaliah’s hatred for the covenant that the Lord made with David was so intense that she even hated her own flesh and blood. Still without knowing it she was used as a tool in the Lord’s hand to bring judgment against David’s house. David’s house had yielded to the idol worship of Israel when they intermarried with the children of Ahab and Jezebel.

How would the covenant the Lord made with the house of David be fulfilled if all of David’s sons would be destroyed? We know that the Lord would not break His covenant with David. Again, the Lord provided a way to keep His covenant. Ahaziah’s sister Jehosheba who was the daughter of Athaliah was married to Jehoiada the high priest. Jehoiada was a faithful servant of the Lord and so was his wife Jehosheba. When Athaliah commanded that all the sons of David be put to death; Jehosheba hid Joash the infant son of Ahaziah. She hid this one son of David in the house of the Lord for six years. Through the life of this child God would keep His covenant with David.

When Joash was seven years old Jehoiada was convinced that it was time to make him king. It was time to end the reign of wicked queen Athaliah. Jehoiada asked for the support of the military captains and shared his plan to make Joash a son from David’s line the king of Judah. They came to the temple without weapons so they would not arouse suspicion. At the temple Jehoiada gave them the weapons stored at the temple that had belonged to David. He also instructed the captains to guard the new king very closely and to be ready to arrest Athaliah when she came to the temple to find out what caused the excitement.

After everything was ready Jehoiada brought out seven-year-old Joash and placed the crown on his head and made him the king of Judah. He also gave him the law of God as a reminder that God’s people must live in obedience to the law. When the ceremony was complete the people clapped their hands and shouted: “Long live the king!” At the royal palace Athaliah heard the shouting and clapping and hurried to the temple to see what the cause of this commotion was. As she entered the temple, she saw Joash standing next to the temple pillar with the crown on his head. Athaliah knew what had happened and in desperation she tore her clothes and cried out, “Treason! Treason!” (II Kings 11:14).

Lesson 6

Extreme Long-suffering

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

Scripture: II Kings 13; 14:23-29

Memory Verse: “But the Lord was gracious to them, had compassion on them, and regarded them, because of His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and would not destroy them or cast them from His presence.” (II Kings 13:23)

Lesson Truth: The Lord showed compassion to Israel because of His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Lesson

Learning of the mercy and compassion of our covenant God is a source of comfort for today’s Christian. It is a real comfort to know that because of His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob He did not utterly destroy His people when they worshipped idols. The lesson today tells us how extremely long-suffering the Lord was during the reigns of Jehoahaz and Jehoash kings of Israel.

God had instructed Jehu to destroy the house of Ahab because of the abominations he and his wicked wife Jezebel brought to Israel. Jehu carried out the destruction of Ahab’s house with a vengeance, but he did not get rid of the calf worship that had been introduced by Jeroboam. Following Jehu his son Jehoahaz became king in Israel. Sadly, we are told that he did evil in the sight of the Lord and continued to worship idols as his father had done. He treated the Lord God of heaven as if He was no different than the gods of the other nations. The only difference in the mind of Jehoahaz was that the Lord happened to be the “god” of Israel.

The Lord became angry with Jehoahaz and Israel because of this attitude. In His anger He delivered Israel into the hands of the Syrians. Because of the oppression of the Syrians, Jehoahaz called on the name of the Lord. He pleaded with the Lord to free Israel from the Syrian armies. In His mercy and compassion the Lord listened to the pleading of Jehoahaz and gave Israel a deliverer. The deliverer was not sent because Jehoahaz had repented and would cleanse Israel of idol worship. The Lord sent a deliverer only because He remembered His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. God knew that the Lord Jesus Christ would come from a faithful remnant of His people.

Joash (Jehoash) became king of Israel following Jehoahaz. God’s Word tells us that he also did evil in the sight of the Lord because he did not depart from the idol worship that Jeroboam brought to Israel. Joash walked in the sinful ways of his fathers but he did not dare to forget God’s Word completely. Because he did not break the tie to God’s Word completely the Lord showed mercy and did not utterly reject His people. Again, God remembered His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The Lord showed His mercy by allowing Joash to hear the promise of deliverance from the mouth of Elisha.

Elisha was on his deathbed when Joash the king of Israel came to see him. Joash not only wept over Elisha’s face, but he also realized that Elisha spoke the Word of the Lord. He acknowledged that the strength of Israel was found in that Word when he said, “O my father, my father, the chariots of Israel

Lesson 7

Sanctified and Made a Blessing

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

Scripture: Jonah 1–4

Memory Verse: “And he said, ‘I cried out to the Lord because of my affliction, and He answered me. Out of the belly of Sheol I cried, and You heard my voice.’” (Jonah 2:2)

Lesson Truth: Jonah became a blessing only after he was sanctified in the belly of a great fish.

Lesson Explanation

It was the prophet Jonah who told king Jeroboam II that the ancient borders of Israel would be restored. This was the kind of message from the Lord that Jonah was ready to bring. But when the Lord commanded him to warn the city of Nineveh that she would be destroyed, he rebelled. Jonah was a prophet of the Lord who thought that the message of God’s grace and mercy should be only for the children of Israel. That is why he rebelled when God commanded him to bring a warning to the enemy of Israel. Jonah was afraid that God would extend His mercy to the hated Assyrians.

Assyria, the enemy of Israel, was a world power who took things from subject nations in order to beautify Nineveh its capital. The Ninevites had to learn that they could not destroy the world that belonged to the Lord in order to satisfy their pride. For that reason, God commanded Jonah to go to Nineveh and warn them that if they continued to plunder the earth they would be destroyed. This command Jonah refused to obey. He would not warn an enemy of Israel. Instead, he went the opposite direction to Joppa where he boarded a ship bound for Tarshish. What would Almighty God do to teach His wayward prophet that he could not run from God?

Jonah had to be sanctified if he was going to be the blessing God wanted him to be. How did the Lord sanctify Jonah? He sent a great wind on the sea that produced a violent storm. The storm was so severe that the sailors could no longer control the ship. They did everything they could, calling on the names of their gods to save them from the storm. Meanwhile Jonah slept in the hold of the ship. The captain woke Jonah and asked him to call on the name of his God. At the same time the sailors cast lots to determine who on the ship was the cause of this disaster. The lot fell to Jonah the prophet who was trying to run from the Lord. In answer to the sailor’s questions Jonah told them he was a Hebrew who served the God who made the sea and the dry land.

Jonah’s response made the sailors tremble with fear, and they asked him what they should do. Jonah told them to throw him overboard and assured them that then the sea would become calm. Was the Lord going to destroy Jonah for his rebellious spirit? No, the Lord would sanctify Jonah and make him become the blessing he was supposed to be. The Lord prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah after he was thrown overboard. The prophet spent three days and three nights in the belly of this great fish. In that time Jonah was sanctified. The old disobedient Jonah died and a new Jonah, sanctified in Christ Jesus, was spit onto dry ground. Jonah must have felt very small before the saving grace of God!

Lesson 8

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: “But when he was strong 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)

Lesson Truth: Amaziah and Uzziah, kings of Judah, became self-complacent. The Lord continued to look with favor on the kingdom of Judah because of His covenant with David.

Lesson

The lesson today is a lesson we should take to heart. God’s Word helps us understand what can occur if we should ever become self-complacent. Today’s lesson is about Amaziah and Uzziah kings of Judah that became self-satisfied and proud. Their pride and self-complacency brought about their downfall. In spite of the downfall of these kings God remembered His covenant with David.

When Amaziah became king of Judah it is encouraging to read that he did what was right in the sight of the Lord. The thing that caused him to change and become proud was his success in fighting the Edomites. Amaziah should have known that his success against the Edomites was not of his doing but the blessing of the Lord. Before he went out to battle the Lord sent a prophet to warn him not to allow soldiers from Israel to be part of his army. The prophet told Amaziah that the Lord was not with Israel and that the soldiers from Israel would cause him to fall before his enemies. At this point Amaziah listened to the man of God and sent the Israelite soldiers home even though it cost him one hundred talents of silver. He then went into battle with the Edomites and the Lord gave him success.

Following his success against the Edomites, Amaziah became proud and self-assured. This pride was evident in the way he took revenge on the men of Edom. He had ten thousand Edomites put to death by having them pushed from a high rock. His pride was also evident when he brought back the gods of the Edomites and set them up to be worshipped. He forgot that the Lord will not share devotion with any other god. The grace of the Lord will not tolerate having His people serve other gods. For the sake of His covenant with David, the Lord would humble Amaziah.

Amaziah then challenged the king of Israel to face him in battle. Joash, the king of Israel, answered him with a parable about a thistle and a cedar tree. He said that a beast trampled the thistle, which indicated that Judah and Amaziah would be defeated. Then we are told that Amaziah would not listen, because it came from God, so that He could give this proud king into the hands of his enemies. Israel defeated Amaziah. Later they made a conspiracy against him in Jerusalem, so he fled to Lachish. He was pursued at Lachish and put to death. Still God did not forget His covenant with David.

Uzziah was just sixteen years old when he was made the king of Judah following Amaziah. Again, it is a comfort to know that he did what was right in the sight of the Lord. He was blessed beyond most of the kings of Judah and reigned in Jerusalem for fifty-two years. The Lord made Uzziah very

Lesson 9

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: “But a prophet of the Lord was there, whose name was Oded; and he went out before the army that came to Samaria, and said to them: ‘Look, because the Lord God of your fathers was angry with Judah, He has delivered them into your hand; but you have killed them in a rage that reaches up to heaven.’” (II Chronicles 28:9)

Lesson Truth: Under the leadership of Ahaz the people of Judah became wayward. Because of His covenant God called them to return to Him.

Lesson

It is sad that God’s chosen children became wayward. These were the children of Judah who were sons of David that became idolatrous under the leadership of king Ahaz. Yet even during this period of following after other gods the Lord called His wayward children to return to Him. It was at this time in the history of Judah that Isaiah the prophet gave them the promise of Immanuel, which means God with us. Because of His covenant with David, God promised that Immanuel would come.

The story of this lesson begins with Jotham who became king of Judah following his father Uzziah. It is encouraging to read that Jotham did what was right in the sight of the Lord. Yet the people did not do away with idol worship in the high places. Because of this the Lord allowed both Syria and Israel to invade the land of Judah. The enemies were sent to remind the people to worship the Lord only.

In spite of the invasions of Syria and Israel the people of Judah did not return to the Lord. The Lord then punished His people by giving them the kind of king they really wanted. Ahaz the son of Jotham was made king. He was an idolatrous king who worshipped the Baals in the most hideous ways. He went so far as to sacrifice his own sons to idols. He filled the land of Judah with high places for idol worship. Judah looked like the land of Canaan when the Canaanites lived there. Still the Lord would not completely forsake Judah. Because of His covenant, His Word of grace had to be victorious.

How would the Lord call His wayward people to return to Him? This time He did this by allowing the invasions of Syria and Israel, which began in the days of Jotham, to continue. Syria invaded Judah from the south and Israel from the north. Israel so completely defeated Judah that one hundred twenty thousand men were killed. Two hundred thousand men women and children were carried away as captives to become slaves in Israel. When the Israelites were ready to make slaves of the people of Judah the Lord sent a prophet to remind them that they were also guilty. The prophet Oded reminded the Israelites that it was only because the Lord wanted to chastise Judah that they were given into the hand of Israel. He warned Israel not to make the people of Judah their slaves. They were advised to return them to their own land, or the fierce anger of the Lord would fall on Israel. The soldiers of Israel listened to this advice and returned the captives from Judah. The Word of the Lord from Oded was like a shield over the people of Judah. This was the way the Lord showed His love for His wayward people!

Lesson 10

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: “For if you return to the Lord, your brethren and your children will be treated with compassion by those who lead them captive, so that they may come back to this land; for the Lord your God is gracious and merciful, and will not turn His face from you if you return to Him.” (II Chronicles 30:9)

Lesson Truth: Hezekiah served as a type of the Mediator as he led the people to return to the Lord.

Lesson

God surely punished His people by giving them a king such as Ahaz. Ahaz encouraged the people to follow other gods and even closed the doors of the temple of the Lord. Yet the Lord is gracious and merciful. He showed his grace and mercy to the kingdom of Judah when He gave them Hezekiah as king. Hezekiah was a son of Ahaz but was entirely different from his father. While Ahaz was known as a king who did evil in the sight of the Lord, Hezekiah was a king who feared the Lord as David had done. Second Kings describes Hezekiah as one who trusted in the Lord so that there was not another king, either before him or after him, who trusted God so completely.

Hezekiah was the king who restored the worship of the Lord. One of his first public acts was to repair and open the doors to the Lord’s house. These were the doors that his father Ahaz had closed and locked. As a sign of his reverence for the things of the Lord Hezekiah had these doors overlaid with gold. Because the Lord caused Hezekiah’s heart to seek Him, we know that His relationship with Judah was not finished. Hezekiah also understood his responsibility as king. He knew that as king he was a mediator between God and His people. His task was to lead the people back to the Lord.

In leading the people back to the Lord Hezekiah called the priests and Levites to the temple court. There he reminded them of the sins Judah had committed and said he wanted to renew the covenant with the Lord. He instructed the priests and Levites to prepare for renewing the covenant by sanctifying themselves and by cleansing the temple. After the preparations were made Hezekiah brought the rulers of the city to the house of the Lord where the covenant was to be renewed. Following the offering of burnt offerings and sin offerings the people bowed before the Lord along with Hezekiah in a humble confession of sins. In faith they wanted to accept the Lord’s grace. Then they praised the Lord until joy stirred their hearts. In a grateful response they brought freewill offerings as Hezekiah requested until the Levites had to help the priests with the many offerings. The worship of the Lord had been restored, but Hezekiah also wanted to keep the Passover.

It had been years and years since the Passover had been kept in Judah and Israel. In keeping with the law, Hezekiah set the Passover for the second month rather than the usual first month. They had been so busy with the restoration of the worship of the Lord in the first month that Hezekiah set aside the second month for this celebration. He also remembered the land of Israel and invited the people of Israel to come to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. Hezekiah wanted the people of Israel to return

Lesson 11

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: “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.” (Hosea 4:6)

Lesson Truth: The Lord rejected those who only pretended to be His people, because He is faithful to His covenant.

Lesson

The lesson today tells about the end of the ten tribes or the Northern Kingdom as a nation. God rejected the nation of Israel because they had turned away from Him in both their political and religious life. Even though God rejected the nation of Israel He did not break the covenant He made with His people. God would no longer reveal Himself to a nation that had rejected Him. However, there were a few faithful people who returned to Israel along with captives from the kingdom of Judah. It was through these faithful few who returned that God’s covenant was fulfilled.

The last few decades that the kingdom of Israel was in existence were filled with disorder and confusion sometimes called anarchy. The reason for this confusion was that the kings led the people farther and farther into idolatry. The Bible said of the kings the Israel that they did evil in the sight of the Lord because they did not depart from the sins Jeroboam who made Israel to sin. It was the sin of Jeroboam who led the people of Israel into calf worship that set the pattern for Israel’s history. It was Israel’s hard-hearted continuance of calf worship that caused their rejection and captivity.

Four of the last six kings of Israel were assassinated. Zechariah reigned for only six months and Shallum for only one month. Such was the disorder and confusion under the last kings of Israel with each one trying to gain power for himself instead of serving the Lord. It was during the reign of Pekah the second to the last king of Israel that the Assyrians invaded and began carrying the people into captivity. Hoshea killed Pekah and reigned nine years as the last king of Israel. His reign ended when Assyria besieged Samaria for three years and Hoshea was taken prisoner. At that time, the people were carried into captivity and the nation of Israel ceased to exist.

This was a sad conclusion for a nation that had been chosen as God’s special people. This was the nation that the Lord delivered from the land of Egypt. It was the chosen people with whom the Lord made a covenant. Because God is a covenant-keeping God, He could not allow the people to reject the claims of the covenant. Instead, he allowed them to be carried into captivity knowing that there would be a few faithful people who would return. God’s covenant would be fulfilled through these faithful few.

Another cause for the misery of the Northern Kingdom was that the ten tribes had broken with the house of David. The division of God’s people into two kingdoms had come as a judgment against the

Lesson 12

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

Lesson Truth: The Lord heard the prayers of Hezekiah when he pleaded as a mediator that the people of Judah would be delivered from the Assyrians.

Lesson

The Lord was gracious to the kingdom of Judah by giving them Hezekiah who was a God-fearing king. Hezekiah became king in Jerusalem after his father Ahaz. Ahaz had been one of the most evil kings of Judah. His ambition was to fill Jerusalem with the idolatries of the surrounding nations. Unless the Lord had seen fit to give Judah a God-fearing king the house of David may have met the same end as the land of Israel. The people of Israel had been carried into captivity because they had forsaken the God of Israel and served idols. God would now keep His covenant with the house of David through the faithful people in Judah. Hezekiah was one of the faithful people who feared the Lord.

As king in Jerusalem Hezekiah brought many reforms and reinstated the worship of the Lord. Still eight years after Samaria was destroyed the king of Assyria was back to invade the land of Judah. Hezekiah prepared for war with Assyria by having the people stop the wells and divert the water to Jerusalem. In faith Hezekiah also assured the people that there was one greater with the land of Judah than with Assyria. He noted that Assyria would only be armed with the arm of flesh, but the Lord God would be with Judah. What a blessing to see Hezekiah stand firm in his faith.

In spite of Hezekiah’s faith, the king of Assyria soon captured most of Judah. Then this good king wavered in his faith and offered to pay tribute money to the Assyrians. In response to this offer the king of Assyria demanded a huge tribute from Judah. Hezekiah made every effort to pay this tribute. He even took the gold with which he had paneled the doors of the Lord’s house. But once the Assyrians received the tribute, they broke their word and sent an army to surround Jerusalem. The Assyrian commander called the Rabshakeh then called out to Hezekiah’s representatives in the hearing of the people on the wall. He mocked and ridiculed Hezekiah and the people of Judah telling them not to trust in Egypt nor in the Lord God of Judah. As the Rabshakeh went on to blaspheme the name of the God of heaven Hezekiah commanded the people on the wall to keep silent.

When Hezekiah heard the words that the Rabshakeh had said, he tore his clothes and put on sackcloth. He then went to the temple of the Lord and there he prayed. He sent messengers to Isaiah the prophet to inquire of the Lord. The messengers returned with the answer that the Lord had indeed heard the blasphemies of the Rabshakeh. Hezekiah had struggled in faith as he went to the temple and had pleaded for deliverance as a mediator between God and His people.

Lesson 13

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 the word of the Lord, O kings of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem. Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: ‘Behold, I will bring such a catastrophe on this place, that whoever hears of it, his ears will tingle.’” (Jeremiah 19:3)

Lesson Truth: Judgment came on Manasseh, the king of Judah, but even then God showed the power of His grace.

Lesson

When Manasseh was king of Judah he led the people to forsake the Lord. He rebuilt the high places for idol worship that his father Hezekiah had torn down. This turning away from the Lord made the land of Judah and God’s people ready for judgment. Even though Manasseh the king felt the power of God’s grace and repented, the people of Judah continued in their sinful ways. The triumph of grace in the life of Manasseh points to the triumph of grace in the death and resurrection of Christ.

Manasseh was made king in Jerusalem when he was twelve years old and he reigned for fifty-five years. He was king after his father, the good king Hezekiah, but he did not continue with his father’s reforms. Instead, Manasseh led the people to rebel against the Lord by introducing widespread idol worship. He placed an image he had carved into the temple of the Lord. The temple in which the Lord had said to David and Solomon: “In this house and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, I will put My name forever” (II Chronicles 33:7). Manasseh not only profaned the temple, but he also profaned the sacrifices that God had instructed the people to use for reconciliation. He made the sacrifices that should have pointed to the remission of sins through the Lord Jesus Christ into a pagan ritual. He did this by having his sons pass through the fire. In this way Manasseh provoked the Lord to His face in open rebellion. How could the Lord tolerate such rebellion?

The Lord allowed the people of Judah to remain in their own sins as they became ripe for judgment. Sin against the Lord always destroys a people, yet the Lord showed that grace is more powerful than sin. He showed this in the life of wicked king Manasseh. This demonstration of the power of grace pointed to the victory of grace in Christ Jesus our Lord. How did the Lord show His grace?

He did this in a remarkable way by having Assyria defeat Judah and Jerusalem. In this defeat the Assyrians took king Manasseh with a hook in his nose, bound with bronze fetters to Babylon. Although Manasseh ignored the prophets sent to warn him when he was in Jerusalem, he now thought about the God of his father Hezekiah. In his affliction Manasseh humbled himself and begged God in prayer to remove his guilt and restore him. Then an amazing thing happened! God heard his prayer.

Manasseh was not only allowed to return to Jerusalem, but he was also allowed to return to his throne. He became a king who ruled both himself and the people in the name of the Lord. He tried to rid Judah and Jerusalem of the idols he had once introduced. But such is the nature of sin that when the

king wanted to reform, the people continued to sacrifice on the high places. The grace of the Lord had done its work in Manasseh so that he died a man of faith. Yet the consequences of his early years of sinfulness remained. Because this king, who later repented, brought in sorcery and idol worship he was responsible for the spiritual decline in Judah.

It was evident that Judah remained under the Lord's judgment when He gave them Amon as king. Amon was a godless king who led the people into further idolatry in the two years he reigned as king. His servants who were later killed by the people killed Amon. In this way we see the disintegration of the land of Judah. Even though grace gained the victory over Manasseh, his sins contributed to the downfall of the kingdom of Judah. In spite of Manasseh's conversion, the land of Judah remained under judgment and showed the utter need for the redeeming work of Christ Jesus our Lord. In that same way you and I must trust in the redeeming work of Christ Jesus, because we also are under judgment.

Questions

1. How old was Manasseh when he became king in Jerusalem? (II Chronicles 33:1)
2. Where did Manasseh build altars that were very offensive to the Lord? (II Chronicles 33:4)
3. How did Manasseh profane the sacrifices of fire to the Lord? (II Chronicles 33:6)
4. Who seduced Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to do great evil? (II Chronicles 33:9)

5. What was the response of Manasseh and the people when the Lord spoke to them? (II Chronicles 33:10)

6. What instruments did the Assyrians use to carry Manasseh into captivity? (II Chronicles 33:11)

7. What change came over Manasseh when he was afflicted? (II Chronicles 33:12)

8. Why was it good that Amon ruled for only two years? (II Chronicles 33:22)