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 Jordan River? With his servant's encouragement he washed himself in the Jordan and was healed of his leprosy. Immediately he returned to Elisha and tried to give him a large gift as payment for his healing. Elisha refused to take anything, because he wanted Naaman to realize that the grace of the Lord always comes as a free gift.

After Naaman went on his way Elisha's servant decided to follow him and ask for some of the gifts he offered to Elisha. This was sad because it would allow Naaman to think that the grace of the Lord could be paid for. When he returned from following Naaman, Elisha told his servant that Naaman's leprosy would now be his. He left the presence of Elisha leprous, as white as snow.

Elisha continued to show his interest in the sons of the prophets. When they asked permission to build a larger house for themselves, he told them to go ahead. As the sons of the prophets began cutting trees to build their house, one of them lost the head of his ax in the Jordan River. This created a problem because the ax was borrowed, so he asked Elisha what could be done. Elisha then threw a stick in the water causing the ax head to float to the surface so the man could pick it up. Elisha showed that even the forces of nature could be made to demonstrate God's grace for His people. In everything we must learn to see and possess the miracle of God's grace in Christ Jesus.

Questions

1. What was Naaman's occupation in Syria? (II Kings 5:1)

2. What did the young girl from Israel do in Naaman's house? (II Kings 5:2)

3. What did the king of Syria do to try to find healing for Naaman? (II Kings 5:5)

4. Who did the king of Syria think would provide healing for Naaman? (II Kings 5:6)

5. How often was Naaman instructed to wash in the Jordan River? (II Kings 5:10)

6. What was Naaman's reaction to Elisha's instruction to wash in the Jordan River? (II Kings 5:11)

7. Who convinced Naaman to go and wash in the Jordan River? (II Kings 5:13)

8. Who decided to ask Naaman for the gifts that Elisha had refused? (II Kings 5:20)

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)
- 3. Where did the Syrian army find themselves when Elisha prayed that their eyes be opened? (II Kings 6:20)

4. What did Elisha instruct the king of Israel to do for the Syrian soldiers? (II Kings 6:22)

5. Who was the king of Syria when they besieged Samaria? (II Kings 6:24)

6. What did the king of Israel threaten to do to Elisha because of the famine in Samaria? (II Kings 6:31)

7. Who discovered that the Syrians had fled? (II Kings 7:3-10)

8. What happened to the officer who doubted Elisha's prediction regarding food in Samaria? (II Kings 7:19-20)

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 Jehoshaphat a serious affliction would come on the people of Judah. God also told Jehoram that he would be afflicted with a serious illness of his intestines that would cause his death.

The judgments of the Lord came swiftly on Jehoram from the house of David. Edom revolted against Judah's rule, and soon after, the Philistines and the Arabians invaded Judah. All the wives and children of king Jehoram except Athaliah and Ahaziah were taken captive. The disease of his intestines struck Jehoram and he died in great pain two years later. His sins left him without honor and when he died no one mourned for him. He was buried in the city of David but not in the tomb of the kings. The Lord brought His judgments against Judah and destroyed the wicked influences of Ahab and Jezebel.

Ahaziah the son of Jehoram and Athaliah became the king of Judah for just one year. He had to flee for his life when Jehu carried out the judgments God pronounced against the house of Ahab. Later he was killed when he tried to escape from Samaria. It is sad that Ahaziah followed the ways of Ahab rather than the ways of Jehoshaphat. Still because he was a son of the house of David, he was given an honorable burial. This was the way God sent persecution on His people in order to cleanse them of their sins. In His love God kept His promise to the house of David.

Questions

1. Who was the king of Syria that was sick? (II Kings 8:7)

2. Who was known as the man of God to the king of Syria? (II Kings 8:7)

3. What emotion did Elisha show when he stared at Hazael? (II Kings 8:11)

4. According to Elisha why did he weep? (II Kings 8:12)

5. How does the Bible characterize the reign of Jehoram king of Judah? (II Kings 8:18)

6. In the days of Jehoram who revolted against Judah? (II Kings 8:20)

7. In whose ways did Jehoram fail to walk according to the letter from Elijah? (II Chronicles 21:12)

8. In whose ways did Jehoram king of Judah walk according to Elijah's letter? (II Chronicles 21:13)

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!" (II Kings 11:14).

Immediately the captains of the bodyguard arrested her. At the command of Jehoiada they carried her out of the temple and put her to death. When Athaliah died the people rejoiced to see the kingdom restored to David's house. Jehoiada also made a covenant between the Lord, the king,

and the people. This covenant helped the people understand how evil it was to worship Baal, so they tore down the temple of Baal and put the priests of Baal to death. Would the new king continue to serve the Lord?

As long as Joash followed the leadership of Jehoiada he remined fathful to the Lord. Sadly, after Jehoiada died Joash allowed himself to be influenced by evil princes of Judah. Once again Joash permitted idol worship in Judah. In His mercy the Lord sent Zechariah the son of the faithful Jehoiada to warn the people of Judah to stay away from idols or the blessings of the Lord would depart. Shamefully, men from Judah conspired against Zechariah because he spoke the word of the Lord sent Hazael king of Syria to humble Judah. King Joash tried to buy goodwill from Hazael by giving him all the treasures from the temple. Because Judah was humiliated by Syria the people revolted against Joash. When he died he was not honored as a king. He was buried in the city of David but not in the tombs of the kings.

The history of Joash, this seven-year-old king, should help us to be thankful that God in His grace did send His son Christ Jesus to reconcile not only Judah, but also the entire people of God to Himself.

Questions

1. What did Athaliah do when she saw that her son Ahaziah was dead? (II Kings 11:1)

2. How was Jehosheba related to Ahaziah? (II Kings 11:2)

3. What did Jehosheba do to save the life of one of the sons of Ahaziah? (II Kings 11:2)

4. Who reigned over the land of Judah during the time Joash was hidden? (II Kings 11:3)

5. With whom did Jehoiada make a covenant when he showed them the king's son? (II Kings 11:4)

6. What instructions did Jehoiada give to the captains to protect the young king? (II Kings 11:8)

7. In addition to the crown what did Jehoiada give king Joash? (II Kings 11:12)

8. What did Joash (Jehoash) want the priests to do with the money brought to the Lord's house? (II Kings 12:4-5)

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 and their horsemen" (II Kings 13:14). Elisha then instructed Joash to shoot an

arrow out of the east window. After the king shot the arrow, Elisha told him this was the arrow of the Lord's deliverance. He then instructed the king to take the arrows and to strike the ground. The king did so but only struck the ground three times. Elisha then shared his disappointment that the king only struck three times. That meant he would only be victorious over the Syrians three times. If he had struck five or six times, he would have been able to defeat the Syrians until they were destroyed.

The power of the Word of God carried by Elisha was seen when a body was thrown into the tomb of Elisha. As the body touched the bones of Elisha the man revived and stood on his feet. If only Israel would learn to live by the power of that Word. Even though Israel and her kings were unfaithful, the Word of life would be victorious. Because of His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, God showed compassion and mercy to Israel. Would Israel learn to love this compassionate Lord? Are you ready to live in the comfort of knowing that in life and in death you belong to this compassionate Lord?

Questions

1. Who was king in Judah when Jehoahaz became king of Israel? (II Kings 13:1)

2. In the sins of which king of Israel did Jehoahaz follow? (II Kings 13:2)

3. What was the Lord's attitude toward Israel that He gave them into the hands of Syria? (II Kings 13:3)

4. What was the Lord's response to the pleading of Jehoahaz? (II Kings 13:4)

5. Who became king of Israel following the death of Jehoahaz? (II Kings 13:9)

6. What prophet of the Lord lying on his deathbed was the king of Israel allowed to see? (II Kings 13:14)

7. What happened to a dead man when his corpse touched the bones of Elisha? (II Kings 13:21)

8. What words characterize the way the Lord responded to Israel because of His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob? (II Kings 13:23)

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!

The Lord again commanded Jonah to go to Nineveh. This time Jonah went as he was commanded. But he was still reluctant to bring the message of God's mercy to Israel's unbelieving enemies. What should have taken Jonah three days to accomplish, he did in just one day. Just one day he warned the people of Nineveh that the city would be destroyed. Then an amazing thing happened. The people of Nineveh repented in sackcloth and ashes. Even the king sat in sackcloth and proclaimed a fast. It seemed that the people of Nineveh repented out of fear that they would be destroyed. God showed respect for that temporary repentance and did not destroy the city of Nineveh. This was a clear demonstration of God's mercy! Is there any question that God will show mercy to those whose hearts hope in Him?

Jonah had to learn one more lesson. As he sat opposite the city to watch its destruction. It hurt him to see the Ninevites repent. He felt so bad that he asked the Lord to take his life so he would not have to see the salvation of Israel's enemies. Then God caused a plant to grow up in the night that gave shade for Jonah. The plant also disappeared in a night so that Jonah's shade was taken away. When Jonah complained that the plant withered, God showed him his sin. He asked Jonah if he had an attachment to the plant for which he did not work, why shouldn't God have compassion on Nineveh who depended on Him for grace? How grateful we must be that our Lord Jesus was not disobedient, but was wholly sanctified to pay the penalty of our sins.

Questions

1. Whom did the Lord command to go to Nineveh? (Jonah 1:1)

2. From whom was the prophet of the Lord trying to escape? (Jonah 1:3)

3. Who awoke Jonah and asked him to call on the name of his God? (Jonah 1:6)

4. What was Jonah's testimony when the sailors determined he was the cause of their trouble? (Jonah 1:9)

5. What happened when the sailors threw Jonah into the sea? (Jonah 1:15)

6. From where did Jonah cry out to the Lord? (Jonah 2:2)

 What was Jonah's response the second time the Lord told him to go to Nineveh? (Jonah 3:2-3)

8. When Jonah was displeased that the Lord saved Nineveh what did he ask the Lord to do? (Jonah 4:3)

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 prosperous and militarily strong. He defeated the enemies of Judah and forced them to pay

tribute and fortified the walls of Jerusalem. His fame spread throughout the world for the Lord was with him in a marvelous way. Then Uzziah became proud just like his father Amaziah. He became proud because he was convinced that he was the Lord's favorite. The Lord would never judge him!

Uzziah's pride became evident when he went to the temple and decided that he could offer incense on the altar of incense. He knew that God reserved that task for the priest only. His pride was so entrenched that he would not listen to the priests when they reminded him that he was not to offer incense. In his anger at the priests' reminder, he threatened them with the censor that was in his hand. At that demonstration of self will and pride the Lord humbled him. The Lord sent the dreaded disease of leprosy to appear on his forehead even as he threatened the priests. When he saw the leprosy Uzziah hurried to leave the temple as the priests ushered him out. He lived his final days as a leper. These kings rebelled against the Lord in pride. Still, He did not forsake Judah because of His covenant with David.

Questions

1. How old was Amaziah when he became king in Judah? (II Chronicles 25:1)

2. What did Amaziah do to the men who murdered his father? (II Chronicles 25:3)

3. How do we know that Amaziah was willing to listen to the law of Moses? (II Chronicles 25:4)

4. What act of revenge did Amaziah carry out against the people of Edom? (II Chronicles 25:12)

5. What question did the prophet of the Lord have for Amaziah? (II Chronicles 25:15)

6. We are told that Uzziah sought the Lord in the days of Zechariah. How long did he prosper? (II Chronicles 26:5)

7. What warning did the priests share with king Uzziah? (II Chronicles 26:18)

8. How long did king Uzziah's leprosy last? (II Chronicles 26:21)

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!

Right at this time when king Ahaz and Judah rebelled against the Lord in idolatry, the Lord showed that He intended to keep His covenant with David. He sent Isaiah the prophet to give the people a beautiful promise of the coming Savior. Isaiah told Ahaz to request a sign from the Lord that would assure him that he did not need to fear the kings of Syria and Israel. But Ahaz did not want any word from the Lord so he would not ask for a sign. Ahaz was making God weary with his steadfast refusal hear the Word of the Lord. In spite of this refusal the Lord said He would give a sign anyway. This was the sign: "Behold the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel" (Isaiah 7:14). Immanuel means God is with us.

God showed that He would keep His covenant with David in the sign He gave. But wicked king Ahaz rejected the promised Immanuel. He became so hardened in his rebellion that he instructed Urijah the high priest to build a replica of an altar to idol that he saw in Damascus. When this altar was built, he pushed aside the altar of the Lord. Even when an enemy crushed Ahaz, he did not turn to the Lord. Yet our covenant keeping God promised that Syria, Israel, and Assyria would be judged. His sign would appear. Immanuel would come! God called His wayward people to return to Him!

Questions

1. How long did Jotham reign as king in Jerusalem? (II Chronicles 27:1)

2. What was the difference between Jotham and the people of Judah? (II Chronicles 27:2)

3. In whose ways did Ahaz king of Judah follow? (II Chronicles 28:2)

4. Into whose hands was Ahaz delivered because of his sins? (II Chronicles 28:5)

5. What did Ahaz do with articles and with the doors from the house of the Lord? (II Chronicles 28:24)

6. How were God's people different from the ox and the donkey in the days of Ahaz? (Isaiah 1:2-3)

7. Who did the Lord send to meet Ahaz and assure him that Syria and Israel would be defeated? (Isaiah 7:3)

8. What was the name of the Son the virgin would conceive? (Isaiah 7:14)

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 to the faith. Although the king of Israel allowed Hezekiah's messengers to deliver the message of invitation to the Passover, the people greeted them with scorn and ridicule. The people of Israel had become so committed to worshipping idols that they were not interested to return to Jerusalem for the Passover feast. Only a small number from a few tribes humbled themselves before the Lord and came to Jerusalem. In Judah it was different. The power of grace was seen as the people came as one man.

The feast was celebrated for seven days and then extended for an additional seven days as the people rejoiced in this service of the Lord. At the end the priests were able to bless the people because the Lord heard their prayer. The favor of the Lord rested on His people once again. The people were so touched by this feast that they went through the land and did away with all the traces of idolatry. Hezekiah also regulated the services of the priests and Levites according to the instructions given by David. He called on the people to bring in the first fruits and tithes and set the example himself as to how this was to be done. The response of the people was remarkable as they brought so many offerings that special rooms had to be made to contain them. The Spirit of the Lord Jesus Christ moved the people through the words of King Hezekiah. The Lord's grace had gained the victory under the leadership of Hezekiah who served as a type of the Mediator, Christ Jesus!

Questions

1. How long did Hezekiah reign in Jerusalem? (II Chronicles 29:1)

2. Hezekiah did what was right in the sight of the Lord according to which of his fathers? (II Chronicles 29:2)

3. What did Hezekiah ask the priests and Levites to do in preparation for restoring the worship of the Lord in the temple? (II Chronicles 29:4-5)

4. Who did Hezekiah bring to the Lord's house to restore the worship of the Lord? (II Chronicles 29:20)

5. Who did Hezekiah invite to come to Jerusalem to keep the Passover feast? (II Chronicles 30:1)

6. What attributes of the Lord did Hezekiah say would keep the Lord from turning His face from His people? (II Chronicles 30:9)

7. What did the people of Israel do to put away idol worship after they celebrated the Passover? (II Chronicles 31:1)

8. What kind of king was Hezekiah as he reigned in Jerusalem? (II Chronicles 31:20-21)

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 house of David. Still the ten tribes were all too eager to separate from the house of David. They did not want to live by the promise that the Lord had given to David's house. The Lord promised that David would have a son on the throne forever. When Israel rejected this promise, they rejected the Christ through whom this promise to David would be fulfilled. They rejected the grace that is only available in the Christ the son of David. The Lord rejected the Northern Kingdom in anger. Because the Lord wanted to give His full favor to His people Israel, He became angry when it was rejected. We must remember that the Lord will also be moved to anger today if we reject His grace.

When the people of Israel were carried into captivity some were left behind in the land of Israel. These people who were left behind married with the strangers whom the king of Assyria brought to live in the land of Israel. It was from these mixed races of people that the Samaritans were born It was through the Samaritans that we understand that God did not completely forget the land of Israel. The Samaritans later rejected idolatry and accepted the law of Moses. The Lord Jesus Christ revealed Himself to the Samaritans when He spoke to the people of Sychar and when He visited with the woman at the well. The apostles also proclaimed the gospel to the Samaritans and many of them accepted the grace, which their Israelite fathers had rejected. We are grieved to learn that the children of Israel were no longer a people. Yet we rejoice to know that the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ was again revealed in the land of Israel to the Samaritans.

Questions

1. What was the word of the Lord spoken to Jehu? (II Kings 15:12)

2. Who assassinated Shallum and claimed the throne of Israel? (II Kings 15:14)

3. What price did Menahem pay to Pul king of Assyria to strengthen his kingdom? (II Kings 15:19)

4. Who conspired against Pekahiah and killed him in Samaria? (II Kings 15:25)

5. What did Tiglath-Pileser do to the people of the land including Galilee and Naphtali? (II Kings 15:29)

6. Why were the children of Israel carried into captivity? (II Kings 17:7)

7. What was the reaction of the children of Israel to the words of the prophets? (II Kings 17:14)

8. What was the Lord's response to the sins of Israel? (II Kings 17:18)

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.

The beginning of the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy was evident when the king of Assyria heard that the Ethiopians were going to attack him. He knew that he could not afford to allow Jerusalem to remain as threat to his back, so he sent a letter to Hezekiah demanding surrender. In that letter

the blasphemy against God was astounding. He told Hezekiah, he should not be fooled by his God, because no god had been able to deliver his people from the king of Assyria. Hezekiah immediately took this letter to the temple and spread it before the Lord. He became a type of Christ as he pleaded with the Lord to save Judah from the hand of Assyria. He asked that Judah be saved so that all the kingdoms of the earth might know that God is the Lord God and that he is God alone.

In answer to this prayer the Lord sent Isaiah to assure Hezekiah that the Assyrians would never enter Jerusalem. The Lord would defend the city and the land of Judah for His own sake and for the sake of His servant David. Then just as Isaiah had predicted an angel of the Lord came and defeated the huge army of Assyria. In one night one hundred eighty-five thousand men in the camp of Assyria were killed. This made the king of Assyria return to his own country but that was not the end for the one who blasphemed the name of the Lord. As the king went to worship in the temple of his god Nisroch, his own sons came and put him to death. It is sad that later Jerusalem and the land of Judah were carried into captivity. Still God kept His covenant with David through people who were faithful in captivity and were allowed to return to Jerusalem. The true fulfillment of God's covenant to David came through Christ Jesus our Lord. Deliverance for all the people of God comes through the Christ.

Questions

1. What part of Judah had Sennacherib already conquered? (II Kings 18:13)

2. How did Hezekiah in his fear try to avoid war? (II Kings 18:14-16)

3. Whom did the king of Assyria send along with a great army against Jerusalem? (II Kings 18:17)

4. What question did the Rabshakeh ask of Hezekiah's men to shake their confidence? (II Kings 18:25)

5. To whom did the Rabshakeh compare Jehovah God? (II Kings 18:35)

6. What did Hezekiah do when he was told the words of the Rabshakeh? (II Kings 19:1)

7. What words of comfort did Isaiah speak for Hezekiah? (II Kings 19:6)

8. What assurance did the Lord give concerning the city of Jerusalem? (II Kings 19:32)

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 Mianasseh 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 Jerualem, 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)