

FINAL STUDY NOTES – 2 Kings Chapters 12-13! 4/13-14/2026

CLASSROOM LOCATION AND ZOOM – SIGN IN INFORMATION:

Phil Twente: <https://www.ptwente.com> - Previous Audio/notes ptwente@gmail.com cell 714 425 9221
NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE ONLINE (ZOOM) STUDY!

MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM PACIFIC DAYLIGHT SAVINGS Time (US and Canada)
THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY WILL BE MEETING ON ZOOM ONLY UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!
MEETING ID - 878 5864 4763 Passcode: 087484

Join Zoom Meeting -

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87858644763?pwd=b25tUzhkaTE0UzIrSnpkVmZEWGJVQT09>

Meeting ID: 878 5864 4763 - Passcode: 087484

One tap mobile: +16699006833,87858644763# US (San Jose) +13462487799,,87858644763# US (Houston)
Dial by your location: +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose); +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston); +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma); +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C); +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago); +1 929 436 2866 US (New York). Meeting ID: 878 5864 4763
Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kbUX7eWEpN>

TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM PACIFIC DAYLIGHT SAVINGS Time (US and Canada).
TUES MORNING MTG PLACE: 1201 KEY WEST, CORONA DEL MAR (shown as 1201 KW, Corona del Mar, CA 92625) on Global Positioning System (GPS) in automobiles. For driving directions, suggest using (waze.com/live map) or *MapQuest* (mapquest.com), AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!

MEETING ID# - 853 0915 0746 - Passcode: 715340

Join Zoom Meeting -

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85309150746?pwd=Tk5oVjN0TzdpWjE3UC9Oam05a21uQT09>

Meeting ID: 853 0915 0746 - Passcode: 715340

One tap mobile; +16699006833,,85309150746# US (San Jose) +12532158782,,85309150746# US
Dial by your location: +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose); +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma); +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston); +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C); +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago); +1 929 436 2866 US (New York). Meeting ID: 853 0915 0746
Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kkW7uQ2Q6>

OPENING PRAYER

Review: 2 KINGS – Chapter 10 – Ahab’s Seventy Sons Killed; Ahaziah’s Forty-Two Brothers Killed; The Rest of Ahab’s Family Killed; Worshipers of Baal Killed; Death of Jehu. Chapter 11 – Athaliah Reigns in Judah; Josiah Crowned King of Judah; Death of Athaliah.

THIS WEEK: 2 KINGS – Chapter 12 – Jehoash (Joash) Repairs the Temple – (vs. 1-16); Hazael Threatens Jerusalem – (vs. 17-18); Death of Jehoash (Joash) – (vs. 19-21); Chapter 13 – Jehoash Reigns in Israel – (vs. 1-9); Death of Elisha – (vs. 10-21);– Israel Recaptures Cities from Syria – (vs. 22-25).

2Ki 12:1 In the seventh year of Jehu, Jehoash (Joash) became king, and he reigned forty years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Zibiah of Beersheba.

- We were told in the previous chapter that Jehoash was only seven years old, when he began to reign. He had been hidden by his nurse when he was a year old, when Athaliah had killed all the royal seed. When he was seven years old, Jehoiada the priest brought him out and had a coronation ceremony. They crowned him as the king over Judah! When Athaliah cried, “Treason! Treason!” they took her out and killed her. Jehoash began to reign.

2Ki 12:2-3 Jehoash did what was right in the sight of the LORD all the days in which Jehoiada the priest instructed him. [3] But the high places were not taken away; the people still sacrificed and burned incense on the high places.

- **During the lifetime of Jehoiada, he was under the influence of this priest.** However, at the death of Jehoiada, we find that there was a real downward trend by Jehoash. The young princes of Judah came to him, and they desired to return to the pagan worship, which he allowed them to do. Idolatry was again introduced into the southern kingdom of Judah, by Jehoash in his later years, after the death of Jehoiada.
- **The son of Jehoiada, Zechariah, came to Jehoash, and rebuked him for allowing the return of idolatry.** He had the high priest, Zechariah, the son of Jehoiada put to death, because of the rebuke for his evil deeds! So unfortunately, in the latter days, Jehoash made a dramatic turn downward. But during the lifetime of Jehoiada the priest, it seems that under the influence of Jehoiada, he did all right. But, his reformation was not a total reformation, in that he still allowed the high places for sacrifices, and worship. The people burned incense, and offered sacrifices in these high places, and not always in the temple.
- **They had a reformation under Jehoash, but it was not a complete reformation.** They still allowed the high places to exist, where the people would burn their incense, and offer their sacrifices. The entire system was rather corrupt, even the priesthood itself, at this time.

Jehoash Repairs the Temple

2Ki 12:4-5 *And Jehoash said to the priests, "All the money of the dedicated gifts that are brought into the house of the LORD—each man's census money, each man's assessment money—and all the money that a man purposes in his heart to bring into the house of the LORD, [5] let the priests take it themselves, each from his constituency; and let them repair the damages of the temple, wherever any dilapidation is found."*

- **Athaliah had built a temple unto Baal in Jerusalem.** They had built the temple of Baal, by sacking the temple of God, taking the stones and much of the timbers to build this pagan temple. So, the temple of God was in a state of disrepair. Stones, doors, and furniture was missing, that she had taken out of the temple of God, in making the temple unto Baal.
- **Jehoash wants to see that the repairs were made to the temple.** There were three sources of money. He said that they were to take *each man's census money*. They would take a census in Jerusalem, and in the census, every man had to put a half a shekel into the temple treasury. So, this money was to be used.
- **Then if you would make a vow unto the LORD**, and you would want to buy your way out of it, there was the price of things that were dedicated. "Lord, I give this calf to you, it is Yours." Later as it grows up, and you want to eat it. You had to buy it back from Him. You dedicated it to the LORD in the beginning, so you must buy it now, from the LORD. That was the redemption. The idea was you were redeeming it from God. You would have to redeem at the price set by the priest.
- **Along with free will offerings, that people would give to the priests.** These were to all be used now, to repair the temple that was in the state of disrepair, as the result of Athaliah's treachery. He commanded that these funds should come from these sources. The priests who lived in communities would come and serve for a time in the temple and then go back to their communities.

2Ki 12:6 *Now it was so, by the twenty-third year of King Jehoash, that the priests had not repaired the damages of the temple.*

- **They did not do anything.** They collected the money, but they did not do any repairs.

2Ki 12:7 *So King Jehoash called Jehoiada the priest and the other priests, and said to them, "Why have you not repaired the damages of the temple? Now therefore, do not take more money from your constituency, but deliver it for repairing the damages of the temple."*

- **If we are going to take money, we are going to gather the money in a different way.** Do not take it for yourself but deliver it to repair the damage of the temple.

2Ki 12:8-9 *And the priests agreed that they would neither receive (personally for themselves) more money from the people, nor repair the damages of the temple. [9] Then Jehoiada the priest took a chest, bored a hole in its lid, and set it beside the altar, on the right side as one comes into the house of the LORD; and the priests who kept the door put there all the money brought into the house of the LORD.*

- **Instead of the priests collecting the money, and bringing it in,** they just put this big chest there, bored a hole in the top. As the people came in, they could drop the money into the chest for the repair of the temple.

2Ki 12:10 *So it was, whenever they saw that there was much money in the chest, that the king's scribe and the high priest came up and put it in bags, and counted the money that was found in the house of the LORD.*

- **In these days, they did not yet have coinage.** They would just have the chunks of silver, and they would put them in bags and weigh the bags.

2Ki 12:11-12 Then they gave the money, which had been apportioned, into the hands of those who did the work, who had the oversight of the house of the LORD; and they paid it out to the carpenters and builders who worked on the house of the LORD, [12] and to masons and stonecutters, and for buying timber and hewn stone, to repair the damage of the house of the LORD, and for all that was paid out to repair the temple.

- The breaches were repaired in the house of the LORD, the temple,. It was about a hundred and thirty years old at this time, so just the natural decay, plus that which Athaliah did in dismantling it.

2Ki 12:13-15 However there were not made for the house of the LORD basins of silver, trimmers, sprinkling-bowls, trumpets, any articles of gold or articles of silver, from the money brought into the house of the LORD [14] But they gave that to the workmen, and they repaired the house of the LORD with it. [15] Moreover they did not require an account from the men into whose hand they delivered the money to be paid to workmen, for they dealt faithfully.

- There was that rebuilding on the outside, but not anything on the inside.

2Ki 12:16 The money from the trespass offerings and the money from the sin offerings was not brought into the house of the LORD. It belonged to the priests.

- When a person had made a trespass, he was to restore the money of the person, and if his family were dead, then the priest was to receive the money. Or if the priest would offer a sin offering for the people, it was customary for the people to give the priest a love offering for his service for them. They could keep that money. The rest went into the repair of the house.

2Ki 12:17 Hazael king of Syria went up and fought against Gath, and took it; then Hazael set his face to go up to Jerusalem.

- Gath is about thirty-five miles southwest of Jerusalem. It was one of the major Philistine cities. It belonged to Judah at this time. However, Hazael the king of Syria, had come clear on down, far south into the country and had taken it. He began his attack against Jerusalem. He was successful in the beginning of his attack. Though they heavily outnumbered the Syrians, the inhabitants of Jerusalem, fell before Hazael, because they had forsaken the LORD God of their fathers.

2Ki 12:18 And Jehoash king of Judah took all the sacred things that his fathers, Jehoshaphat and Jehoram and Ahaziah, kings of Judah, had dedicated, and his own sacred things, and all the gold found in the treasuries of the house of the LORD and in the king's house, and sent them to Hazael king of Syria. Then he went away from Jerusalem.

- In the meantime, though it is not recorded here in *2 Kings*, but in *2 Chronicles 24*. During this period, Jehoiada had died, and there was that downward kind of a spiritual movement. The invasion of Hazael was a judgement of God against the kingdom of Israel because of once again allowing pagan worship, which was requested by the princes of Judah. Jehoash bought off Hazael, who took the money and returned to Syria.
- The incident here really illustrates the weakness of Jehoash, following Jehoiada's death, when he went into his apostasy and wicked kind of phase of his life. Here he gets this threat from Hazael and there is no mention of him turning to God, pleading with God, praying with God, or seeking the direction from God. Jehoash does not have a relationship with God. Then when this Syrian threat comes, he just caved here instead of finding out what God would have done.

The Death of Joash

2Ki 12:19 Now the rest of the acts of Joash, and all that he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah?

- When we get to the *Chronicles of the kings of Judah*, we will come across Joash again, and we will have a fuller account than we have here, in *2 Kings*.

2Ki 12:20 And his servants arose and formed a conspiracy, and killed Joash in the house of the Millo, which goes down to Silla.

- We are told in (*2Ch 24:15-27*) that when godly Jehoiada died (at the age of 130), Joash began to backslide and actually went into idolatry. Unfortunately, this leader's faith was tied to another leader and not to the LORD directly. God sent prophets to warn the king, but he would not listen. One of these prophets, (*2Ch 24:20*) Then the Spirit of God came upon Zechariah the son of Jehoiada the priest, who stood above the people, and said to them, "Thus says God: 'Why do you transgress the commandments of the LORD, so that you cannot prosper? Because you have forsaken the LORD, He also has forsaken you.' "

2Ki 12:21 For Jozachar the son of Shimeath and Jehozabad the son of Shomer, his servants, struck him. So he died, and they buried him with his fathers in the City of David. Then Amaziah his son reigned in his place.

- **Instead of listening to Zechariah, Joash commanded him to be stoned in the temple court!** Being spiritually backslidden, Joash was unable to cope with the Syrian invasion, so he tried to bribe Hazael by giving him the wealth of God's house. How often God's people rob the LORD in trying to solve their problems, instead of turning to Him in confession. How tragic! Joash himself was murdered by some of his own servants as they sought to avenge the deaths of Jehoiada's innocent sons.
- **Chapter 12 was devoted to the reign of Joash. It was a tragedy,** in that it started off well under the influence of Jehoiada. Reforms were made, they were not complete, but in the end, because of the incomplete reforms, corruption took over, and there was that downward turn of the kingdom. The necessity of total reformation is shown. **Partial commitment will not do.** Jesus said, "No man can serve two masters." You cannot have divided loyalty.
- **In our commitment to the Lord, it must be a total commitment.** The giving of ourselves completely to the Lord is so important! If we try to keep one foot in the world, and one foot in the church, it is not going to work. We must make a stand! We must cut ourselves off from the things of the world, making a full dedication to the Lord, or else, those corrupting forces will ultimately corrupt us. As Paul warned the Corinthian church, concerning the corrupt individuals within it, he said, *(1Co 5:6) Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?*
- **How total is my commitment to my Lord? Oh Lord, please help me to be convicted of any leaven in my life and get rid of it!**

Jehoahaz Reigns in Israel

2Ki 13:1-2 In the twenty-third year of Joash the son of Ahaziah, king of Judah, Jehoahaz (the second king in Jehu dynasty) the son of Jehu became king over Israel in Samaria, and reigned seventeen years. [2] And he did evil in the sight of the LORD (Typical of every king of the ten tribes in Israel), and followed the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who had made Israel sin. He did not depart from them.

- **Seventeen kings followed Jeroboam and his establishment of this worship of these golden calves** in Bethel and in Dan. Not one of those kings ever said, "This is nonsense! This is idolatry! This is ridiculous! Let us get back to God and worship Him the way that we should."
- **This is an important life lesson for us where inherit a situation in life, which is nothing like what God wants it to be, but we look at it and say, "That's the way it has always been." What difference can I make in this situation? It has just been like this for generations and years and yet one of those kings should have stood up and said, "I don't care what it's been for years. Under my watch it's not going to be that!"**
- **Sometimes God can entrust something into our lives where we look and say, "Yes, it has been like that for a long time, but as long as I have authority over this thing to be held responsible by God for what happens here, we are going to turn this thing around." We need to do that in our lives!** It is not just the kings of Israel three thousand years ago. It speaks to us today in our own lives.
- **How likely would I have stood up in such a situation as one the eighteen kings of Israel, and said, Worshipping other gods, these golden calves is wrong! Not on my watch will there be such a thing! Would my closeness to the LORD and attentiveness to the Holy Spirit have resulted in me doing that?**

2Ki 13:3 Then the anger of the LORD was aroused against Israel, and He delivered them into the hand of Hazael king of Syria, and into the hand of Ben-Hadad the son of Hazael, all their days.

- **The LORD delivered them to the Syrians because of their sin, to be oppressed all their days.** It was allowed by the LORD as a means of discipline against them. *(Deu 11:26-28) "Behold, I set before you today a blessing and a curse: [27] the blessing, if you obey the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you today; [28] and the curse, if you do not obey the commandments of the LORD your God, but turn aside from the way which I command you today, to go after other gods which you have not known.*

2Ki 13:4 So Jehoahaz pleaded with the LORD, and the LORD listened to him; for He saw the oppression of Israel, because the king of Syria oppressed them.

- **There is a little bright light that occurs here.** Jehoahaz, this terrible king, pleaded with the LORD! We are getting beaten up by the Syrians here! They are just crushing us! LORD, would You help? Whatever the prayer was, he cried out to the LORD.

- **Then the LORD, out of His marvelous grace listened to him!** For He saw the oppression of Israel. He saw the price they were paying for their sin and His chastisement upon them because of the king of Syria oppressing them. What grace and mercy are again being exhibited!
- **Oh, what grace and mercy from our Lord in responding to the prayer of a wicked, unbelieving king!** This is the same God that appeared to Moses in the burning bush! (*Exo 3:7-8a*) *And the LORD said: "I have surely seen the oppression of My people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows. [8] So I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians.*
- **As I see the demonstration of His grace and mercy throughout the Bible, how grateful, how thankful, how committed, how available am I to Him?**

2Ki 13:5 Then the LORD gave Israel a deliverer, so that they escaped from under the hand of the Syrians; and the children of Israel dwelt in their tents as before.

- **Now this is later, it did not happen immediately.** But Joash, the son of Jehoahaz, began to be the deliverer of Israel. God began to deliver them out of the hands of Syria, through Joash. Then, more fully out of Jeroboam, his grandson.

2Ki 13:6 Nevertheless they did not depart from the sins of the house of Jeroboam, who had made Israel sin, but walked in them; and the wooden image also remained in Samaria.

- **They failed to repent in response to what God had done.** Maybe they were just ungrateful, not recognizing the LORD's provision as their deliverer. When that answer to prayer came, they did not put two plus two together, recognizing that this is an answer to the prayer that had been lifted up to their LORD.
- **When the circumstances in our lives change in response to prayer, we should recognize this to be the LORD's active involvement in that situation as a result of prayer, however naturally things may appear. How am I doing in recognizing that?**

2Ki 13:7 For He (Hazeel, king of Syria) left the army of Jehoahaz only fifty horsemen, ten chariots, and ten thousand foot soldiers; for the king of Syria had destroyed them and made them like the dust at threshing.

- **No longer an army remained;** only a small token remained.

2Ki 13:8-9 Now the rest of the acts of Jehoahaz, all that he did, and his might, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel? [9] So Jehoahaz (king of Israel, not Judah) rested with his fathers, and they buried him in Samaria. Then Joash his son reigned (in Israel, not Judah) in his place.

- **This is a little confusing. Joash is still the king in Judah**, but it is a different Joash. For three years, these men reigned at the same time. You have kings by the same name, reigning in the north, and reigning in the south. In the south, Joash is an older man. He has been reigning for thirty-seven years, three years before he died, so, he was forty-four years old, reigning in the south, before his assassination. He was assassinated when he was forty-seven.

Jehoash Reigns in Israel

2Ki 13:10 In the thirty-seventh year of Joash king of Judah, Jehoash (the third king in Jehu dynasty) the son of Jehoahaz became king over Israel in Samaria, and reigned sixteen years. (For three years both Joash's reigned simultaneously)

- **Now in the thirty-seventh year of Joash the king of Judah in the south.** He was seven years old when he began, so now Joash of Judah is forty-four years old.
- **Jehoash (in Israel) the son of Jehoahaz began to reign over Israel in Samaria**, having a reign of sixteen years.

2Ki 13:11-12 And he (Jehoash-Israel) did evil in the sight of the LORD. He did not depart from all the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel sin, but walked in them. [12] Now the rest of the acts of Joash, all that he did, and his might with which he fought against Amaziah king of Judah, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel?

- (*2Ch 25:21*) *So Joash king of Israel went out; and he and Amaziah king of Judah faced one another at Beth Shemesh, which belongs to Judah. [22] And Judah was defeated by Israel, and every man fled to his tent. [23] Then Joash the king of Israel captured Amaziah king of Judah, the son of Joash, the son of Jehoahaz, at Beth Shemesh; and he brought him to Jerusalem, and broke down the wall of Jerusalem from the Gate of Ephraim to the Corner Gate—four hundred cubits. [24] And he took all the gold and silver, all the articles that were*

found in the house of God with Obed-Edom, the treasures of the king's house, and hostages, and returned to Samaria.

2Ki 13:13-14 *So Joash (of Israel) rested with his fathers. Then Jeroboam II (the fourth king in Jehu dynasty) sat on his throne. And Joash was buried in Samaria with the kings of Israel. [14] Elisha had become sick with the illness of which he would die. Then Joash the king of Israel came down to him, and wept over his face, and said, "O my father, my father, the chariots of Israel and their horsemen!"*

- **Elisha, this mighty prophet of God had become sick and would die from the illness.** In spite of his tremendous faith. Despite the many miracles that were wrought through his life, the dead brought back to life, the lepers cleansed. Miracle after miracle attended this man's life. Yet, he fell sick and would die of the sickness. You can have all the positive confessions in the world and still die of your sickness. Your positive confessions are not going to bring necessary cures. God does not always heal. God can even have purposes in sickness. When it comes time to die, I am going to die by some cause. My heart will fail, or something will happen. Because God does not intend for me to live forever in this corrupting body.
- **We know that when this earthly tent, our body, is dissolved, we have a building of God, not made with hands, eternal in the heavens!** One day, I am going to move out of my tent, and I am going to move into a beautiful new mansion! For the real me is spirit. The body is just the tent in which I presently live. When that transition takes place, if you really love me, you would not cry. You would say, "He is living now, in a beautiful mansion." You can just send out change of address cards. I have moved. So, "Elisha fell sick of which He would die.
- **Joash the king of Israel came down to him, crying so that his tears dropped** onto Elisha's face. He said, "O my father, my father, the chariots of Israel and their horsemen! Joash recognized that in this man, is the real strength of the nation. Joash is concerned as he realizes the strength lies in the relationship with God. Elisha had indeed been a one-man army for Israel, on one occasion even leading captive the entire Syrian army (2Ki 6:18-23), and on another putting a besieging army to route by his prophetic prayer (2Ki 7:1-7).

2Ki 13:15 *And Elisha said to him, "Take a bow and some arrows." So he took himself a bow and some arrows.*

- **Joash was concerned that Elisha, the true strength of Israel, was about to depart** from this earth. Elisha used this illustration of the arrow to be shot through the window demonstrating the *arrow of the LORD's deliverance* was still present, and all Joash had to do was shoot the arrows in faith.

2Ki 13:16-17 *Then he said to the king of Israel, "Put your hand on the bow." So he put his hand on it, and Elisha put his hands on the king's hands. [17] And he said, "Open the east window" (toward Syria at Aphek); and he opened it. Then Elisha said, "Shoot"; and he shot. And he said, "The arrow of the LORD's deliverance and the arrow of deliverance from Syria; for you must strike the Syrians at Aphek till you have destroyed them."*

- **The arrow of the LORD's deliverance.** When Jehoash obeyed Elisha by shooting an arrow out the window, the prophet interpreted the meaning of the action. The shot symbolized the LORD's deliverance for Israel through the defeat of the Syrian army by Jehoash.
- **You must strike the Syrians at Aphek.** This was a city of Syria, and probably the place of the first battle. Apparently they had a total overthrow. They were, in the language of the text, *destroyed!*

2Ki 13:18 *Then he said, "Take the arrows"; so he took them. And he said to the king of Israel, "Strike the ground"; so he struck three times, and stopped.*

- **Because Joash had struck the ground only three times,** he would only strike down Syria three times. If he had struck five or six times, the threat of Syria would have been eliminated. But he lacked perseverance and endurance. Victory over enemies depends on the measure of obedience! Joash must have known the significance of what he was doing, or else he would not have been held responsible. Elisha's death was not good for the northern kingdom.

2Ki 13:19 *And the man of God was angry with him, and said, "You should have struck five or six times; then you would have struck Syria till you had destroyed it! But now you will strike Syria only three times. (how we can limit Him with half-heartedness)"*

- **The smiting was symbolic of God, the arrow of deliverance.** "Now you take the arrows and strike the ground with them." It was symbolic of God's smiting the Syrians. Joash should have just kept smiting. But he only struck half-heartedly! Thus, Elisha the prophet was angry, because it symbolized the fact that Israel would not really destroy, or have complete victory, but only a partial victory over Syria!

- **Half-hearted commitment never makes it.** There are so many people that take a nonchalant attitude towards the things of the LORD, not making that full commitment. To win, it takes total dedication and total commitment to the LORD! To utterly defeat the enemy, it takes a total commitment of your life, to the things of the LORD. If you take an easy come, easy go, or a casual attitude towards the things of the Spirit, you will never know what it is to live in total victory! You must be aggressive in this battle against the enemy.
- **“You should have struck 5-6 times, but you stopped after three!” Total dedication and commitment to the LORD! Again, we come back to the importance of having a total dedication and commitment to the LORD! Is there any casual or hesitancy in my response and action to the calling or conviction of the Holy Spirit? Any lack of eagerness but just the minimum amount to get by? Am I serving Him with my whole heart?**

2Ki 13:20-21 Then Elisha died, and they buried him. And the raiding bands from Moab invaded the land in the spring of the year. [21] So it was, as they were burying a man, that suddenly they spied a band of raiders; and they put the man in the tomb of Elisha; and when the man was let down and touched the bones of Elisha, he revived and stood on his feet.

- One day as some men of Israel were taking out a corpse to be buried, they saw the marauding band approaching. Hurriedly they threw the corpse into the tomb of Elisha. As soon as the man touched the bones of Elisha, he revived and stood on his feet.
- **That old prophet Elisha was powerful!** He had been a prophet in Israel for sixty years. There was such power in this man’s life, that even after death, when this man, this dead corpse touched his bones, he revived!
- **Scripture tells us nothing of the last forty-five years of Elisha's ministry,** from the anointing of Jehu, in 841 B.C. (*chap. 9*), until his death in about 795 B.C. His final prophecy (from his deathbed) was one of victory (*v. 17*). His final miracle, accomplished long after his death—(*v. 21*) was a validation of his message and ministry to Israel and her king.

2Ki 13:22 And Hazael king of Syria oppressed Israel all the days of Jehoahaz.

- Now this goes back to Jehoahaz, who was the father of Joash.

2Ki 13:23 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 yet destroy them or cast them from His presence.

- **Notice what it says about the LORD.** “The LORD was gracious to them, had compassion on them. The LORD had respect for them because He had made a covenant with Abraham.” At times we hear people say, “Well I do not like the God of the Old Testament. He seems harsh, and hard. I like the God of the New Testament.” As though they were two Gods. Evidently, they have not read the book of Revelation. Or Romans chapter one, or even the things that Christ said, concerning the future judgement that is going to come upon the unrighteous.
- **Now this is Old Testament, and it is talking about God.** There are two sides to God’s nature. He is a God of love! He is a God of compassion! He is gracious! He is merciful to those that fear Him!
- **But, to those who rebel against Him,** then He is a God of justice, who will consume the evil doers. He is not soft. But He is a powerful God, bringing vengeance upon the evil doers, but extending His mercy and grace unto a thousand generations of those who will follow after Him! In both the Old Testament, and the New Testament, you see both sides of God’s nature!
- **Notice that He is revealed as being gracious unto them.** Surely, He was! They were not serving Him. They were serving the idols that they had made, the golden calves. Yet “He had compassion on them, He was gracious to them, He had respect for them, because of the covenant that He had made with their fathers, Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob,”
- **Would not yet destroy them or cast them from His presence.** The LORD is still giving them opportunities to repent; to turn. As God is gracious and compassionate towards you! His long-suffering! His giving you the opportunity. (*Rom 2:4*) Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance? The graciousness of God, giving you opportunity to turn back to Him!

2Ki 13:24-25 Now Hazael king of Syria died. Then Ben-Hadad his son reigned in his place. [25] And Jehoash the son of Jehoahaz recaptured from the hand of Ben-Hadad, the son of Hazael, the cities which he had taken out of the hand of Jehoahaz his father by war. Three times Joash defeated him and recaptured the cities of Israel.

- **Hazael whipped Jehoahaz. But Jehoahaz's son, Jehoash whipped Hazael's son, Ben-Hadad, and took again the cities that had been taken by his father through war.**
- **Three times Joash defeated him and recaptured the cities of Israel.** It was too bad he did not smite more times! He would have completely destroyed and had victory over Syria.

SUMMARY:

- **2Ki 12:21 How total is my commitment to my Lord?** Oh, Lord, please help me to be convicted of any leaven in my life and get rid of it!
- **2Ki 13:2 How likely would I have stood up in such a situation** as one the eighteen kings of Israel, and said, Worshipping other gods, these golden calves is wrong! **Not on my watch will there be such a thing!** Would my closeness to my Lord and attentiveness to the Holy Spirit have resulted in me doing that?
- **2Ki 13:4 As I see the demonstration of His grace and mercy** throughout the Bible, how grateful, how thankful, how committed, how available am I to Him?
- **2Ki 13:6 When the circumstances in our lives change in response to prayer,** we should recognize this to be the LORD's active involvement in that situation as a result of prayer, however naturally things may appear. How am I doing in recognizing that?
- **2Ki 13:19 "You should have struck 5-6 times, but you stopped after three!" Total dedication and commitment to the LORD!** Again, we come back to the importance of having a total dedication and commitment to the LORD! Is there any casual or hesitancy in my response and action to the calling or conviction of the Holy Spirit? Any lack of eagerness but just the minimum amount to get by? Am I serving Him with my whole heart?

2Ki 13:2 And he did evil in the sight of the LORD (Typical of every king of the ten tribes in Israel), ***and followed the sins of Jeroboam*** (in worshipping golden calves) ***the son of Nebat, who had made Israel sin. He did not depart from them.***

"Not on my watch will there be such thing!" No worshipping any other thing but Him!

I HAVE DECIDED TO FOLLOW JESUS – sung by Jadon Lavik (2:34/2:37)

***I have decided to follow Jesus; I have decided to follow Jesus;
I have decided to follow Jesus; no turning back, no turning back.***

***Though none go with me, still I will follow; though none go with me, still I will follow;
though none go with me, still I will follow; no turning back, no turning back.***

***The cross before me; the world behind me; the cross before me; the world behind me
the cross before me; the world behind me, no turning back, no turning back.
No turning back, no turning back.***

CLOSING PRAYER

May the Lord bless you, keep His hand upon you, and guide you through this week. I pray that God will help you to make a full commitment unto Him. Not just a half-hearted one. But let us, in our hearts, make that kind of total commitment. "Lord, I am Yours. I will serve You, I will live for You, Lord I will follow You. In whatever endeavor You might lead me, to do Your will, and to do Your work. May you really experience the presence and the power of the Lord working in your life this week, in a very special way.

NEXT WEEK: Study II Kings, Chapters 14-15.