

2 Kings Chapter 13 Verses 1-13; Bible Study

2Ki 13:1 ¶ "In the three and twentieth year of Joash, the son of Ahaziah king of Judah, Jehoahaz the son of Jehu began to reign over Israel in Samaria, and reigned seventeen years. 2 And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, and followed the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, which made Israel to sin; he departed not therefrom. 3 And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel, and he delivered them into the hand of Hazael king of Syria, and into the hand of Benhadad the son of Hazael, all their days."

When we last met Jehu and saw the faithfulness he demonstrated, in fulfilling the prophesy of God against the house of Ahab. Then, when he accomplished that work, Jehu went on to destroy the worship of Baal in Israel. Thus, we see him in a good light. However, Jehu's "**zeal for the LORD**" was actually Jehu's zeal to return Israel to the worship of the golden calves made by Jeroboam, not to return Israel to the worship of God. We see once again that children most often learn what they see their parents do, which is the case with Jehoahaz, for he followed in his father's footsteps by continuing in the worship of the two golden calves.

Jehoahaz's actions brought forth the LORD's anger, and God turned them over to Hazael, king of Syria, and the hand of his son Benhadad. Thus, we see the glory of Israel, to be known as God's people, is gone.

How are things in our lives as a child of God? Are we walking in faithfulness to "**thus saith the LORD**" or are we doing like Jehu, and seeking to turn the worship of God, into the idolatry of our own hearts? Is our zeal for the LORD real or phony? Oh God! Help us to be faithful servants unto thee, we pray in Jesus's name, Amen!

4 "And Jehoahaz besought the LORD, and the LORD hearkened unto him: for he saw the oppression of Israel, because the king of Syria oppressed them. 5 (And the LORD gave Israel a saviour, so that they went out from under the hand of the Syrians: and the children of Israel dwelt in their tents, as beforetime. 6 Nevertheless they departed not from the sins of the house of Jeroboam, who made Israel sin, but walked therein: and there remained the grove also in Samaria.) 7 Neither did he leave of the people to Jehoahaz but fifty horsemen, and ten chariots, and ten thousand footmen; for the king of Syria had destroyed them, and had made them like the dust by threshing. 8 Now the rest of the acts of Jehoahaz, and all that he did, and his might, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel? 9 And Jehoahaz slept with his fathers; and they buried him in Samaria: and Joash his son reigned in his stead."

Under the judicial wrath of God, as Jehoahaz turns to God and seeks relief for Israel. God grants them a saviour, because God saw the oppression of Israel under the tyranny of Syria, and God had compassion upon Israel, for they are still the people who carry His name upon the earth as a nation. This reminds us: once before God heard the cries and groans of Israel, as they bore the burden of the Egyptians, and God delivered them out of the hand of Pharaoh and Egypt.

Why would God send Israel a saviour even while they are living in idolatry? One reason is God has not forgotten his covenant promise with Abraham in **Le 26:42 "Then will I remember my covenant with Jacob, and also my covenant with Isaac, and also my covenant with Abraham will I remember; and I will remember the land."** If God let's these people be totally destroyed, then God's covenant promise will not be fulfilled, and we know that God cannot lie. Another is that their king pleads to God on their behalf. The same is true for us: our King Jesus has pled to God the Father on our behalf, and God has heard and answered His prayer.

Who is this saviour that God sends them? We are told the answer in **2Ki 13:25 And Jehoash the son of Jehoahaz took again out of the hand of Benhadad the son of Hazael the cities, which he had taken out of the hand of Jehoahaz his father by war. Three times did Joash beat him, and recovered the cities of Israel."**

What is the significance of the groves in Samaria? Is it the place of the idol Asherah, or Astarte, or sometimes Ishtar, known as the moon goddess and as a consort to Baal, where Israel continued in idolatrous worship. It was also against the commandment of God for Israel to have groves near the altars of God, seen in **De 16:21 "Thou shalt not plant thee a grove of any trees near unto the altar of the LORD thy God, which thou shalt make thee."** Why? Because this was the practice, of the idolaters and pagans, to have groves where there idols were set up.

There are also archeological findings that ascribe Asherah as the consort of God. (What a blasphemous desecration to claim that God had a consort. However, that is what every false religion does. How? Is not the New Testament Church the bride of Christ? Thus, every false religion is claiming to be the bride of Christ.)

Astarte plaques were found predominantly in the northern Kingdom of Israel and coastal Phoenician sites, these clay plaque figurines depict a fully nude goddess, often with a stylized Egyptian hairstyle or holding symbols of fertility like lotus flowers, representing Astarte. These idolatrous worship services included prostitution and other sexually immoral rituals.

What a warning to us today to do as the poet man wrote in the Lloyd hymnal, hymn 345 C. M. Titled: **Desiring a closer walk with God: Verse 5 "The dearest idol I have known, Whate'er that idol be, Help me to tear it from thy throne, And worship only thee."** If we are following idols, we can expect that God will, in judicial judgment, release our enemies to harass our moral lives.

Even as we see more and more religious groups turning to idolatry and condoning immorality: consider how many times we fail to follow Christ with all our heart, mind, body, and soul. Thankfully, God has also sent us a Saviour, who continues to preserve us in our times of dissolution.

Look at how much time had passed, since God made His covenant with Abraham, until God delivered Israel out of the tyranny of Syria. Look at how much time has passed since Jesus fulfilled His covenant promise with God the Father, to come to earth and give his life, that we might have eternal remission of sins before God, and be given eternal life in Christ in the new birth, simply because; we serve a God that cannot lie and will never break His covenants.

10 ¶ "In the thirty and seventh year of Joash, king of Judah, began Jehoash the son of Jehoahaz to reign over Israel in Samaria, and reigned sixteen years. 11 And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD; he departed not from all the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel sin: but he walked therein. 12 And the rest of the acts of Joash, and all that he did, and his might wherewith he fought against Amaziah king of Judah, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel? 13 And Joash slept with his fathers; and Jeroboam sat upon his throne: and Joash was buried in Samaria with the kings of Israel."

God gave Israel to Jehoash. However, Jehoash did not turn to God, but followed in his father's footsteps, and continued the worship of the golden calves. Yet, God still blessed him to be a valiant warlord. We find out about the war with Amaziah, king of Judah, in **2Ch 25:14-27; 14 ¶ "Now it came to pass, after that Amaziah was come from the slaughter of the Edomites, that he brought the gods of the children of Seir, and set them up to be his gods, and bowed down himself before them, and burned incense unto them. 15 Wherefore the anger of the LORD was kindled against Amaziah, and he sent unto him a prophet, which said unto him, Why hast thou sought after the gods of the people, which could not deliver their own people out of thine hand? 16 And it came to pass, as he talked with him, that the king said unto him, Art thou made of the king's counsel? forbear; why shouldest thou be smitten? Then the prophet forbore, and said, I know that God hath determined to destroy thee, because thou hast done this, and hast not hearkened unto my counsel. 17 ¶ Then Amaziah king of Judah took advice, and sent to Joash, the son of Jehoahaz, the son of Jehu, king of Israel, saying, Come, let us see one another in the face. 18 And Joash king of Israel sent to Amaziah king of Judah, saying, The thistle that was in Lebanon sent to the cedar that was in Lebanon, saying, Give thy daughter to my son to wife: and there passed by a wild beast that was in Lebanon, and trode down the thistle. 19 Thou sayest, Lo, thou hast smitten the Edomites; and thine heart lifteth thee up to boast: abide now at home; why shouldest thou meddle to thine hurt, that thou shouldest fall, even thou, and Judah with thee? 20 But Amaziah would not hear; for it came of God, that he might deliver them into the hand of their enemies, because they sought after the gods of Edom. 21 So Joash the king of Israel went up; and they saw one another in the face, both he and Amaziah king of Judah, at Bethshemesh, which belongeth to Judah. 22 And Judah was put to the worse before Israel, and they fled every man to his tent. 23 And Joash the king of Israel took Amaziah king of Judah, the son of Joash, the son of Jehoahaz, at Bethshemesh, and brought him to Jerusalem, and brake 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 the silver, and all the vessels that were found in the house of God with Obbedom, and the treasures of the king's house, the hostages also, and returned to Samaria. 25 And Amaziah the son of Joash king of Judah lived after the death of Joash son of Jehoahaz king of Israel fifteen years. 26 Now the rest of the acts of Amaziah, first and last, behold, are they not written in the book of the kings of Judah and Israel? 27 Now after the time that Amaziah did turn away from following the LORD they made a conspiracy against him in Jerusalem; and he fled to Lachish: but they sent to Lachish after him, and slew him there."** We see that the king of Judah has

turned totally to idolatry and stirred the anger of God. God uses Jehoash to overthrow Amaziah as a judicial judgment against Judah. However, we shall see that the southern kingdom, Judah and Benjamin, will continue long after the northern kingdom has ceased to exist. Refer to the chart of the kings.

Again, we see the mercy and longsuffering of God on display. What do you mean? There is no reason for God to put up with the continual disobedience of all Israel to live in idolatry; except, God is long suffering, and because of God's covenant promises on the behalf of His people.

Some will say: preacher, God did break some of the covenants He made with Israel, to which we reply, yes: but ask the question: why? Those covenants that God did not fulfill were based upon the actions of those with whom the covenant was made. Every time you find a covenant that God does not fulfill, you must trace it back to the original covenant, and you will find that God promised Israel, If you do this; then I will do that. Israel failed to hold up their end of the covenant, so God did not hold up his side of the covenant.

Aren't we very glad that God does not break any of His covenants which He has made, not making them conditional upon our actions, but which He made as unconditional covenant promises. Hallelujah!