

## The Reigns of Jehoahaz, Joash, and Jeroboam

**Lesson Scope:** [2 Kings 13](#) to [2 Kings 14:23-29](#)

### Lesson Focus

This lesson covers approximately seventy-four years. Jehu had faithfully destroyed Baal worship in Israel, but he had stopped short of following God with all his heart. Because of this, God delivered Israel into the hands of the Syrians.

As this lesson opens, Syria had begun to cut Israel short by destroying the Israelite cities east of Jordan (2 Kings 10:32-33). All the days of Jehoahaz, Jehu's son, Syria oppressed Israel and "made them like the dust by threshing" while God waited for them to repent. During the time of this lesson, the prophets Elisha, Jonah, Amos, and Hosea called Israel back to God. Late in his reign, Jehoahaz besought the Lord, and God sent relief from Syrian oppression.

During the reigns of Joash and Jeroboam II, God chastened His people. When they cried out to Him, His ear was open to their cry.

Entrenched sin is wrongdoing that is defended and promoted. This type of sin fills the cup of iniquity and ripens individuals and societies for God's wrath.

This is a history lesson—the history of how God dealt with a backsliding people. Look at where sin leads, but avoid looking at it in a self-righteous way. Keep the lesson relevant to yourself knowing that our tendency is to apply it to someone else. Remember that some in Israel probably reasoned that they were following God.

**Lesson Aim:** To see the far-reaching effects of entrenched sin.

**Theme Verse:** [Romans 11:22](#). Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off.

## Lesson Text

### King Jehoahaz

**2 Kings 13:1-7** <sup>1</sup> 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. <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> (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. <sup>6</sup> 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.) <sup>7</sup> 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.

### King Joash

**2 Kings 13:9-19** <sup>9</sup> And Jehoahaz slept with his fathers; and they buried him in Samaria: and Joash his son reigned in his stead. <sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>12</sup> 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? <sup>13</sup> And Joash slept with his fathers; and Jeroboam sat upon his throne: and Joash was buried in Samaria with the kings of Israel. <sup>14</sup> Now Elisha was fallen sick of his sickness whereof he died. And Joash the king of Israel came down unto him, and wept over his face, and said, O my father, my father, the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof. <sup>15</sup> And Elisha said unto him, Take bow and arrows. And he took unto him bow and arrows. <sup>16</sup> And he said to the king of Israel, Put thine hand upon the

bow. And he put his hand *upon it*: and Elisha put his hands upon the king's hands. <sup>17</sup> And he said, Open the window eastward. 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 thou shalt smite the Syrians in Aphek, till thou have consumed *them*. <sup>18</sup> And he said, Take the arrows. And he took *them*. And he said unto the king of Israel, Smite upon the ground. And he smote thrice, and stayed. <sup>19</sup> And the man of God was wroth with him, and said, Thou shouldest have smitten five or six times; then hadst thou smitten Syria till thou hadst consumed *it*: whereas now thou shalt smite Syria *but* thrice.

### **King Jeroboam**

**2 Kings 14:23-27** <sup>23</sup> In the fifteenth year of Amaziah the son of Joash king of Judah Jeroboam the son of Joash king of Israel began to reign in Samaria, *and reigned* forty and one years. <sup>24</sup> 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 to sin. <sup>25</sup> He restored the coast of Israel from the entering of Hamath unto the sea of the plain, according to the word of the LORD God of Israel, which he spake by the hand of his servant Jonah, the son of Amittai, the prophet, which *was* of Gathhepher. <sup>26</sup> For the LORD saw the affliction of Israel, *that it was* very bitter: for *there was* not any shut up, nor any left, nor any helper for Israel. <sup>27</sup> And the LORD said not that he would blot out the name of Israel from under heaven: but he saved them by the hand of Jeroboam the son of Joash.

### **Questions for Study**

#### **King Jehoahaz**

1. Why was the anger of the Lord kindled against Israel?
2. How can we avoid the snare of entrenched sin?

#### **King Joash**

3. In what ways did Joash show a lack of vision?
4. What is God's desire for those involved in entrenched sin?
5. What is necessary to gain a vision that pleases God?

#### **King Jeroboam**

6. Why did God save Israel by the hand of Jeroboam?
7. What is God's purpose in allowing difficulty? in extending mercy?

8. How might we presume on the mercy of God?

### **Analyzing the Passage**

The grove in Samaria (2 Kings 13:6) was put there by Ahab to complement Baal worship (1 Kings 16:33). Such groves were objects of worship; they were not simply groups of trees. On high hills the people made groves and set up idols. They even built high places where none existed naturally (2 Kings 17:9-16).

The saviour in 2 Kings 13:5 seems to refer to the deliverance during the reigns of Jehoash (2 Kings 13:25) and Jeroboam II (2 Kings 14:25). The oppression of Hazael, the Syrian king, was God's judgment on Israel for her idol worship.

Joash appreciated the man of God (2 Kings 13:14), but he failed to heed his warnings. Heeding would have been the greatest tribute to the man of God and would have brought salvation to his own soul.

In 2 Kings 14:25, Jonah, early in his ministry, prophesied good news to Israel. Later God sent him to preach destruction to their enemies, the Assyrians. It is thought that Jonah received recognition for his good message to Israel. This helps us understand his reluctant response to God's call to go to Nineveh when he thought of God's mercy (Jonah 4:2).

### **Principles and Applications**

#### **King Jehoahaz**

1. Entrenched sin makes it difficult for succeeding generations to go right (2 Kings 13:1-2). Jeroboam had chosen deviant worship practices that earned him the title "Jeroboam the son of Nebat, which made Israel to sin." He had set a course for succeeding generations. When parents today turn from the way of righteousness they set a course for their children that is extremely difficult to reverse. God's power is both available and sufficient, but those on a downward course ignore it.

2. God will not overlook sin regardless of how entrenched it is in one's life (2 Kings 13:3). God brought judgment on Israel because Jehoahaz lived in sin and continued to practice the sin of Jeroboam. The accepted worship practices of his people did not free him from the responsibility for his sin. We can never excuse ourselves from wrongdoing by thinking or saying that our fathers did it too.

3. Repenting without removing the root cause for sin makes continued victory difficult (2 Kings 13:6). Jehu failed to destroy the grove that Ahab had made in Samaria, making it convenient for the people to return to Baal worship. When we truly repent, we not only "put off" sin but also refuse to make "provision for the flesh" in our lives and the lives of our children (Romans 13:14). The new Christians at Ephesus removed temptation by burning their objectionable books (Acts 19:19).

4. Entrenched sin weakens the vitality of the whole group (2 Kings 13:7). God delivered Israel into the hand of the Syrians so that they would turn to Him. God allowed this oppression to crush Israel, until their situation looked hopeless.

The longer man rejects God's call to repentance, the greater are the consequences and devastation of sin. People sometimes think that serving God would be more attractive if He always gave them what they wanted. But if God, like an indulgent parent, gave us all our desires, we would be slaves to sin and would never know the freedom that comes from surrendering to Him. "For the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23). Death may seem far away, but it is a merciless destroyer of physical and spiritual vitality, not to mention the eternal consequences. The effects of personal sin often spread to others, destroying them as well.

### **King Joash**

5. Entrenched sin has a cumulative effect in the next generation (2 Kings 13:9-11). Parents do not always realize the effect of their choices on the future of their children. Many parents, by allowing small deviations from God's way in their own lives, have robbed their children of a proper understanding of God, which eventually led the children to despise the God of their fathers.

6. God desires to deliver people from entrenched sin (2 Kings 13:14-17). He sent prophets to teach and to warn Israel. He wooed them with His love and mercy. He sent oppressors to chastise them for their sin. God still draws sinners to Himself with the still, small voice of the Spirit. Through humbling circumstances, He brings men to the end of their own resources so that they turn to Him. God also calls men to repentance by the preaching of the Word and by the consistent example of Christians.

7. Entrenched sin destroys one's vision and vitality (2 Kings 13:18-19). How often are we content to be relieved of the oppression of sin with-

out catching the vision of a defeated enemy and a vibrant, growing church? The king of Israel did not have a godly vision for his own life; neither did he envision what God could have done if His people had been totally committed to Him.<sup>8</sup> Entrenched sin can be overcome only by heeding God's message

(2 Kings 14:23-25). The Lord may have compassion on the sinner and may give him opportunity to repent. But victory over sin is not possible without a willingness to obey the Bible in every thought and action. Total surrender to God is the only way to victorious Christian living.

9. God continues to work in mercy on behalf of those entrenched in sin (2 Kings 14:26-27). Although God allowed oppression to come upon His people, He did not wish them to be destroyed. He extended mercy even though they had not repented or cried for mercy. It is not God's will that anyone perish but that all come to Him and find life. "Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby" (Hebrews 12:11).

### **Important Teachings**

1. Entrenched sin makes it difficult for succeeding generations to go right (2 Kings 13:1-2).
2. God will not overlook sin regardless of how entrenched it is in one's life (2 Kings 13:3).
3. Repenting without removing the root cause for sin makes continued victory difficult (2 Kings 13:6).
4. Entrenched sin weakens the vitality of the whole group (2 Kings 13:7).
5. Entrenched sin has a cumulative effect in the next generation (2 Kings 13:9-11).
6. God desires to deliver people from entrenched sin (2 Kings 13:14-17).
7. Entrenched sin destroys one's vision and vitality (2 Kings 13:18-19).
8. Entrenched sin can be overcome only by heeding God's message (2 Kings 14:23-25).
9. God continues to work in mercy on behalf of those entrenched in sin (2 Kings 14:26-27).

## Answers to Questions

1. Why was the anger of the Lord kindled against Israel?

The anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel because of their sin. Psalm 7:11 tells us that the Lord is angry with the wicked every day. Committing sin is serious!

2. How can we avoid the snare of entrenched sin?

We avoid entrenched sin by reading and obeying God's Word. The Holy Spirit is faithful in leading us in the ways of truth if we heed His promptings.

3. In what ways did Joash show a lack of vision?

Joash failed to live in obedience to God, so he could not expect to have a vision that honored God. He failed to see the importance of perseverance in overcoming the enemy; this was evident when he struck the ground only three times.

4. What is God's desire for those involved in entrenched sin?

He desires that they return to Him (Amos 4:11). God is long-suffering, not willing that anyone should perish. "Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?" (Ezekiel 33:11).

5. What is necessary to gain a vision that pleases God?

To have a vision that pleases God, we must absorb the Scriptures in order to know His heart. We must faithfully do His will, and then the Holy Spirit will give us a vision like God's.

6. Why did God save Israel by the hand of Jeroboam?

God pitied His erring people. Even though Israel had rebelled, He pitied them in their suffering.

7. What is God's purpose in allowing difficulty? in extending mercy?

God desires that sinners come to the end of themselves and seek Him. He offers mercy because He desires to restore them and have them bear fruit for His kingdom.

8. How might we presume on the mercy of God?

We presume on the mercy of God when we live in sin. When we know that God is speaking but we delay heeding His prompting, we are presuming on God's mercy.

## **Summarizing the Lesson**

"Hear this word, ye kine of Bastian, that are in the mountain of Samaria, which oppress the poor, which crush the needy, which say to their masters, Bring, and let us drink. The Lord GOD hash sworn by his holiness, that, lo, the days shall come upon you, that he will take you away with hooks, and your posterity with fishhooks....

I have overthrown some of you, as God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah, and ye were as a firebrand plucked out of the burning: yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the LORD. Therefore thus will I do unto thee, 0 Israel: and because I will do this unto thee, prepare to meet thy God, 0 Israel. For, lo, he that formeth the mountains, and createth the wind, and declareth unto man what is his thought, that maketh the morning darkness, and treadeth upon the high places of the earth, The LORD, The God of hosts, is his name" (Amos 4:1-2, 11-13).

## **Research Guide**

1. Read Psalm 78 to get a clearer picture of God's dealings with His people.
2. The Books of Hosea and Amos provide background information and reveal God's perspective of Israel at this time.
3. Some additional history can be gathered by researching the kings in this lesson in a Bible dictionary or a Bible encyclopedia.