

“Until There Was No Remedy”

A Study of the Divided Kingdom, part 1

Spring 2015 Course Outline

#	Date	Lesson	Text
1	Apr 5	The Kingdom Divides	1 Kings 12; 2 Chron. 10-11
2	Apr 8	Jeroboam King of Israel; Rehoboam King of Judah	1 Kings 13-14; 2 Chron. 12
3	Apr 12	Abijah’s Reign in Judah	1 Kings 15:1-8; 2 Chron. 13
4	Apr 15	Asa Rules in Judah	1 Kings 15:9-24; 2 Chron. 14-16
5	Apr 19	Baasha and Other Evil Kings in Israel	1 Kings 15:25 – 16:28
6	Apr 22	Ahab; Elijah and the Prophets of Baal	1 Kings 16:29 – 18:40
7	Apr 26	Elijah’s Discouragement	1 Kings 18:41 – 19:21
8	Apr 29	Jehoshaphat’s Reign	1 Kings 22:41-50; 2 Chron. 17, 19, 20
9	May 3	Ahab at War with Syria	1 Kings 20:1 – 22:40; 2 Chron. 18
10	May 6	Ahaziah’s Reign (Israel); Elijah Taken Up	1 Kings 22:51-53; 2 Kings 1:1 – 2:18
11	May 10	Elisha takes over; Jehoram (Israel); Jehoram (Judah)	2 Kings 2:19 – 3:27; 8:16-23; 2 Chr. 21
12	May 13	Edom and Weep	Obadiah
13	May 17	Elisha’s Miraculous Ministry	2 Kings 4-5
14	May 20	Elisha’s Miraculous Ministry	2 Kings 6-7
15	May 24	Ahaziah Rules Judah; Jehu Cleans Ahab’s House	2 Kings 8:1 – 10:17; 2 Chron. 22:1-8
16	May 27	Jehu Destroys Baal Worshipers; Athaliah the Usurper	2 Kings 10:18–11:21; 2 Chr. 22:9–23:21
17	May 31	Joash Reigns in Judah; Jehoahaz and Jehoash in Israel	2 Kings 12:1 – 13:13; 2 Chron. 24
18	June 3	The Lord’s Locust Lesson	Joel
19	June 7	Elisha Dies; Amaziah is King in Judah	2 Kings 13:14 – 14:20; 2 Chron. 25
20	June 10	The Running Prophet	Jonah
21	June 14	Azariah (Uzziah) Reigns in Judah	2 Kings 14:21-22; 15:1-7; 2 Chron. 26
22	June 17	A Most Outspoken Shepherd	Amos
23	June 21	A Series of Unrighteous Kings in Israel	2 Kings 14:23-29; 15:8-26
24	June 24	Israel the Harlot	Hosea 1-6
25	June 28	God’s Suit Against Israel	Hosea 7-14
26	July 1	Review	

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Lesson 1: The Kingdom Divides

Review

1. What two construction projects dominated Solomon’s reign as king? (see 1 Kings 6-7) About how many people served as construction workers? (1 Kings 5:13-18)
2. What did the prophet Ahijah tell Jeroboam, and how did this affect his relationship with Solomon? (1 Kings 11:26-40)

1 Kings 12:1-24; 2 Chron. 10:1 – 11:4

1. Who was Rehoboam?
2. What did Jeroboam request of Rehoboam, on behalf of the people? Does this sound like an unreasonable request in light of question 1 in the review above?
3. What two groups of people did Rehoboam ask as to how he should answer, and what conflicting advice did they give?
4. When Rehoboam gave his decision, what was the reaction from the people?
5. What was Rehoboam’s first response to this rebellion? Why did he not follow through with it?

1 Kings 12:25-33; 2 Chron. 11:14-17

1. What fears did Jeroboam have regarding the people worshipping in Jerusalem? Were these fears real or imagined? Why should he not have been insecure? (1 Kings 11:37-38)
2. What things did Jeroboam set up to address his concerns?
3. Who did not go along with Jeroboam’s system? What did they do instead?

2 Chron. 11:5-13; 18-22

1. What two tribes did Rehoboam have? In what ways did Rehoboam carry on the legacy of Solomon?

Thought / Discussion

1. How similar was Jeroboam’s religion from what the Law called for? Why was that so dangerous?

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2. Look again at 1 Kings 12:7. What were the elders saying about the nature of leadership?
3. What was Rehoboam thinking when he disregarded the wise advice of the older men in favor of the stupid advice from his buddies? (the Bible doesn't say, but try to get inside his head) Do we do the same thing sometimes?
4. In 1 Kings 12:15, 24, it says the things that happened were “from the Lord”. So did Rehoboam make the decision himself or did God sort of force him to do it?
5. What is geographically significant about Dan and Bethel? What tribe did Bethel rightfully belong to? (Josh. 18:11-13)



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Lesson 2: Jeroboam King of Israel; Rehoboam King of Judah

1 Kings 13

1. Who crashed the dedication ceremony in Bethel, and what did he cry out?
2. What two things happened when Jeroboam said to seize him?
3. What did it take for Jeroboam’s hand to be restored?
4. What had the man of God been instructed by God? Did he follow those instructions?
5. What was to be his punishment for disobeying? How quickly did this come about?
6. Where did the old prophet bury the man of God, and what did the old prophet tell his sons?

1 Kings 14:1-20

1. When Abijah became sick, who did Jeroboam think to ask? Why him?
2. What was going to happen to Jeroboam’s family eventually? What was his family compared to?
3. What was going to happen to Israel on account of Jeroboam’s leading the people astray?

1 Kings 14:21-31; 2 Chronicles 12

1. Meanwhile back in Judah, they were worshipping God according to the Law, right? Actually, what were they doing?
2. Because of this, whom did God raise up against Judah and what did they do? But weren’t they allies? (1 Kings 3:1)?
3. How did Rehoboam and Judah respond to this oppression? How does this compare with Jeroboam’s response to the altar incident? (see 1 Kings 13:33-34) Did Judah keep up the good work?

Thought / Discussion

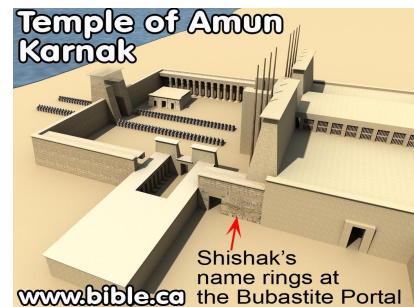
1. The part about the old prophet seems bizarre. Did God tell the old prophet to lie? Why would he have made up the story when he heard what the man of God said? Do we see any punishment for his lying?

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2. When confronted with something that flatly contradicted God’s instructions, what should the man of God have done? Are there religious groups today who claim to have received communication from God, which contradicts what is already in the Bible? There were people like that in Paul’s time too. What did he tell them? (Gal. 1:8)
3. If God found something good in Abijah, why was God letting him die?

Historical note...

Shishak documented his conquest in Judah and Israel. These hieroglyphics are on a wall at the south entrance of the Temple of Amun in Karnak, Egypt. This temple was discovered in 1799. To see a map of all the places that are listed in Shihak’s record, go to <http://www.bible.ca/maps/maps-bible-archeology-sheshong-l-shosheng-shishak-shishag-bubastite-karnak-conquest-campaign-canaan-battle-relief-topographical-list-187-cities-conquered-name-rings-926bc.jpg>. Shishak mentions 43 Biblical cities. Additional information is at <http://www.bible.ca/archeology/bible-archeology-sheshong-l-shosheng-shishak-shishag-bubastite-karnak-conquest-campaign-canaan-battle-relief-topographical-list-187-cities-conquered-name-rings-926bc.htm>



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Lesson 3: Abijah’s Reign in Judah

2 Chronicles 13

1. What was said at the end of chapter 12 about the relationship between Jeroboam and Rehoboam? Did Jeroboam let up once Rehoboam was dead?
2. Who had more soldiers, Israel or Judah? Which side had the advantage?
3. Where is Mount Zemaraim?
4. Abijah rebuked Jeroboam and Israel about what all was wrong with them. What points did he make in:
 - a. v. 5-7
 - b. v. 8
 - c. v. 9-11
 - d. v. 12
5. Jeroboam was not moved by Abijah’s speech. In fact, what did his armies do? What was Judah’s only defense?
6. What was the outcome of the battle, in terms of life and property? (the text does not call attention to it, but this is the largest death toll of Hebrews recorded in the Bible)
7. What became of Jeroboam?

1 Kings 15:1-8

1. How can this be the same Abijah we just read about in the Chronicles? If you read ahead (v. 13) you may find a hint.

Thought / Discussion

1. Abijah and his army were rescued dramatically by God, yet he turned away within three years. What is the lesson we should learn from his example?
2. Why might God have dealt such a severe blow to Jeroboam on this occasion when he forbade Rehoboam from fighting him about 17 years earlier?

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Lesson 4: Asa Rules in Judah

2 Chronicles 14

1. What religious reforms did Asa make upon becoming king? What else did he do to strengthen Judah?
2. How many soldiers did Asa have? How many soldiers were in the Ethiopian army? What else did they have that Judah didn't? Once again, who actually had the advantage?
3. Where was Gerar, and why would the Judean army have destroyed and plundered the neighboring cities?

2 Chronicles 15; 1 Kings 15:9-15

1. Who came to Asa, and what was the summary of his message?
2. Encouraged by the prophet, what further steps did Asa take to reform Judah?
3. What did the people do to make this reform legally binding?

2 Chronicles 16; 1 Kings 15:16-24

1. Who made war with Asa? How do you know this was not the first skirmish between them?
2. How did Asa deal with this situation? Did his plan work?
3. What point did Hanani the seer make to Asa about trusting God? How did Asa receive this prophet's word?
4. What disease did Asa have for the final couple of years of his life? How did Asa deal with this situation?

Thought / Discussion

1. What does the text say about Asa's heart? Does that mean he got everything right? Do you find it strange that his trust in the Lord seemed to decrease the older he got?
2. Dealing with family members who are in error is always hard. How did Asa deal with his grandmother? Has your family had to cut off ties with relatives because they were not faithful to God? What did Jesus say about relatives in Matthew 10:37?

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Lesson 5: Baasha and Other Evil Kings in Israel

1 Kings 15:25-31

1. We need to go back in time almost 40 years. Not long after Asa became king in Judah, who became king in Israel upon Jeroboam’s death?
2. Was the new king a reformer? How long did he reign?

1 Kings 15:32 – 16:7

1. Who killed Nadab and became king in his place? Why didn’t anyone from Jeroboam’s family make a claim to the throne?
2. What city seems to be the capital of Israel at this time?
3. What did the prophet Jehu tell Baasha?

1 Kings 16:8-20

1. Who became king in Israel upon Baasha’s death, and what sort of king was he?
2. How long did he reign? How did he die?
3. Who usurped the throne upon Elah’s death? Why didn’t anyone from Baasha’s family make a claim to the throne?
4. How long did Zimri reign? How did he die?

1 Kings 16:21-28

1. What was Omri’s position prior to becoming king? What other usurper did he have to beat out?
2. What distinction did he have among the bad kings of Israel?
3. What became the new capital city during Omri’s reign? And how long was he king?

Thought / Discussion

1. Name the kings of Israel that Asa of Judah overlapped with. How did these kings prove the point that Jesus made in Matthew 26:52?

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Lesson 6: Ahab; Elijah and the Prophets of Baal

1 Kings 16:29 – 17:24

1. What things did Ahab do to provoke the Lord to anger?
2. What punishment did God give to Israel as a result of Ahab? How long did this last?
3. What did Elijah ask from the widow? Who took care of whom in this arrangement? Explain.

1 Kings 18:1-16

1. Who was Obadiah, and what had he done for the Lord?
2. Why was he so upset when Elijah asked him to tell Ahab that he was there?

1 Kings 18:17-40

1. What did Ahab call Elijah? Although he didn't like Elijah, do you think Ahab respected him?
2. Briefly describe the contest rules. Was there any objection from Ahab or the people?
3. What did the false prophets do to try to get a response from Baal? How long did this go on?
4. What did Elijah do to make it harder on God? What all was consumed by God's fire?

Thought / Discussion

1. What was the significance of Elijah going to Zarephath? Jesus made a point about it in Luke 4:25-26.
2. How did the widow show great faith by granting Elijah's request when he showed up? Then again, what did she mean by her statement in 17:24? Had she not seen enough already?
3. What was Baal supposed to be the god of? What would be the significance of a prolonged drought?
4. There was nothing in the contest rules about it being a "death match". Was this slaughter justified? (Deut. 17:2-7) How did Elijah find so many people willing to assist in executing 450 prophets of a god they had been worshipping?

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Lesson 7: Elijah’s Discouragement

1 Kings 18:41 – 19:8

1. Following the victory over the prophets of Baal, what good news did Elijah have for Ahab?
2. When Jezebel found out what had happened on Mount Carmel, what was her reaction?
3. Identify the locations in this story: Mount Carmel, Jezreel, Beersheba, Mount Horeb. About how far did he travel to get away from Jezebel?
4. What divine assistance did Elijah receive along the way?

1 Kings 19:9-21

1. Look at Elijah’s reply to God in v. 10 as well as his prayer in v. 4. How did Elijah feel about his work?
2. How did God reveal Himself to Elijah? What do you think God was teaching Elijah going about it that way?
3. What three things did God give Elijah as a “to-do” list?
4. What else did God tell Elijah to encourage him?

Thought / Discussion

1. Why was Elijah so much more afraid of Jezebel than Ahab?
2. We do not see that God rebuked Elijah for running away, though He well could have. But He did ask a pointed question that could be taken a couple of different ways.
 - a. What are you DOING here? What is the suggestion when asked that way?
 - b. What are you doing HERE? What is the suggestion when asked that way?
3. When Elijah was discouraged, God gave him things to do. How does being busy help overcome discouragement?
4. Why do you think God waited until Elijah was all the way to Horeb before talking to him?

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Lesson 8: Jehoshaphat's Reign

1 Kings 22:41-46; 2 Chronicles 17

1. How soon into Ahab's reign did Jehoshaphat become king of Judah?
2. What things did he do to remove ungodliness from his realm? Beyond that, what things did he do to increase godliness among his people?
3. What benefits did Judah receive because they followed God?

2 Chronicles 19:4-11

1. What orders did Jehoshaphat give to those whom he appointed as judges?
2. How were the judges organized?

2 Chronicles 20:1-34

1. What nations banded together against Judah, and how close were they by the time Jehoshaphat found out?
2. During his prayer, what two reasons did Jehoshaphat give why God should help His people in this case?
3. When Jahaziel gave God's answer, what was the "battle plan"?
4. The next day, what did the people of Judah do to initiate the battle? How did they win without fighting?
5. What were the immediate and long-term results of this victory?

Thought / Discussion

1. What made Jehoshaphat do what was right, according to 2 Chronicles 17:6? How do you take pride in the ways of the Lord? Or do you?
2. When you add up the numbers in 2 Chronicles 17:14-19, how many soldiers did Jehoshaphat have? So where were they when the invaders came against Judah?

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Lesson 9: Ahab at War with Syria; Naboth’s Vineyard

1 Kings 20:1-22

1. What was the difference between Ben-Hadad’s first and second demands, that Ahab would consent to one but not the other?
2. What did Ahab mean by his retort in v. 11?
3. Who led the army of Israel to victory, and how did they do it?

1 Kings 20:23-43

1. What was the Syrians’ analysis of why they lost the battle, and what was their strategy for the next time?
2. How did the Syrians do the second time around? Why was that?
3. What did Ahab do to Ben-Hadad? What was God’s response to this?

1 Kings 21

1. Why did Ahab want Naboth’s vineyard? Was Ahab’s offer reasonable? Was Naboth’s refusal reasonable?
2. How did Jezebel take matters into her own hands?
3. What punishment did Elijah announce to Ahab as a result of this incident?

Thought / Discussion

1. Why did God help Ahab on these occasions?
2. When confronted with his error after the second battle (20:43), and after being turned down by Naboth (21:4), how did Ahab react? How was his reaction different after being told about judgement on his house (21:27)?
3. If Jezebel cooked up the whole scheme to kill Naboth, and two other men actually accused Naboth, and still others did the stoning, why did Elijah call Ahab the murderer (21:19)?

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Lesson 10: Ahab at War with Syria Again; Ahaziah Becomes King

1 Kings 22:1-28; 2 Chronicles 18:1-27

1. Why did Ahab want to go to war with the Syrians this time? Why did he enlist the help of Jehoshaphat?
2. What was Jehoshaphat’s concern before he would commit to the battle? Who was brought out first to humor Jehoshaphat, and what did they say?
3. How did Jehoshaphat have to clarify his question? Why was Ahab dismayed by this request?
4. What did Micaiah tell Ahab first, second, and third?

1 Kings 22:29-40; 2 Chronicles 18:28 – 19:3

1. What idea did Ahab come up with, to cheat Micaiah’s prophesy? Did it work?
2. What was the outcome of the battle for Ahab, and what happened to him afterward?
3. What was the outcome of the battle for Jehoshaphat, and what happened to him afterward?

1 Kings 22:47-53; 2 Chronicles 20:35-37

1. Who succeeded Ahab as king of Israel? Describe the business venture between him and Jehoshaphat, and what became of it.

2 Kings 1

1. When Ahaziah was sick, who did he want to ask whether he would get better? What did Elijah have to say about that?
2. When Elijah finally appeared before the king, what was his message?

Thought / Discussion

1. After hearing Micaiah’s words, why would Jehoshaphat have continued assisting Ahab at all, and especially by acting as a decoy for him? What was the relationship between Ahab and Jehoshaphat?
2. Why did Elijah command fire to consume the first two groups of soldiers but not the last group?

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Lesson 11: Elijah Taken Up; Elisha Takes Over; Double Jehorams

2 Kings 8:16-23; 2 Chronicles 21

1. How were the two kings Jehoram related to each other?
2. Which prophet communicated with Jehoram, and what was his message?
3. What was said about Jehoram upon his death?

2 Kings 2

1. Where all did Elijah go on his “farewell tour”? God had told Elijah he was being taken, but did Elisha know?
2. What did Elisha ask for? What did he get?
3. Why was a search party organized to look for Elijah? What were Elisha’s thoughts about it?
4. What miracle did Elisha perform for the people of Jericho?



2 Kings 3

1. Why did Jehoram king of Israel want to attack Moab? Whose help did he enlist? Who else’s help did he get as a bonus?
2. What did Elisha say about Jehoram?
3. How did God provide sustenance and victory all in one?

Thought / Discussion

1. What do you think is significant about God choosing to bypass the normal course of nature for Elijah? Who is the only other person in the Bible who never died?
2. Was it really necessary for Elisha to react the way he did against bratty teenagers who didn't really pose a threat to him? Or did they? Was it pride on his part after being insulted?
3. How is it that Elisha just happened to be available to the kings way over there in Moab?
4. Was Jehoram king of Judah like his father? How can you tell? What does having good parents guarantee you?



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Lesson 12: Edom and Weep – the Prophet Obadiah

Introduction

We are all familiar with the word “prophet”. We hear people today called prophets if they predict something that comes true. And in fact many prophets did predict the future. One of the tests of a prophet was whether their prophecies came to pass (Deut. 18:22). But the real meaning of the word is shown in Exodus 7:1.

1. Who was called a prophet and what was his role?
2. Therefore, what did prophets of God do? See Micaiah’s reply to Ahab’s messenger in 1 Kings 22:14.

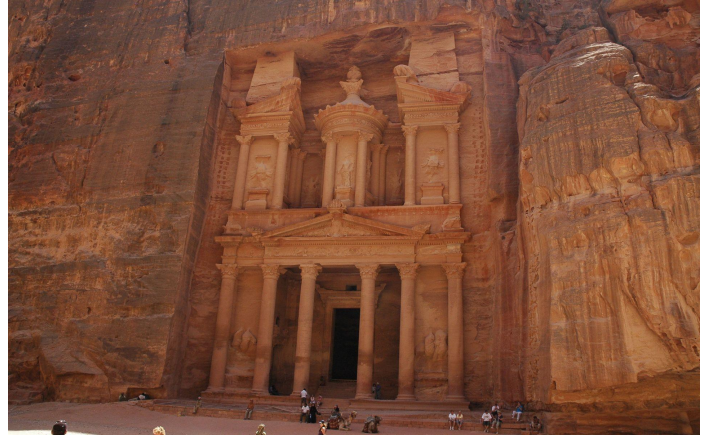
Elijah and Elisha were among the mightiest prophets God raised up, yet they did not leave a written record of what they told the kings. But we are now entering a period of time with prophets who did record their messages from God. Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel wrote a lot about their work and thus they are called “major prophets”. Twelve other prophets wrote relatively less and are called “minor prophets”. But they are not less important than the “major prophets”, just shorter. As we continue our study of the Divided Kingdom and through the Captivity and Return, we will occasionally detour from the main story to study the message of a prophet who was active at that time. This lesson is the first such detour.

Unfortunately the prophet does not always include something in his writing – like who was king at the time – to let you know when he wrote. So we may not know when we should stop to study that prophet. Obadiah is one of those prophets with no “time stamp”. Conservative scholars tend to lean toward a date around 840 BC, which would make Obadiah the earliest of the “minor prophets”.

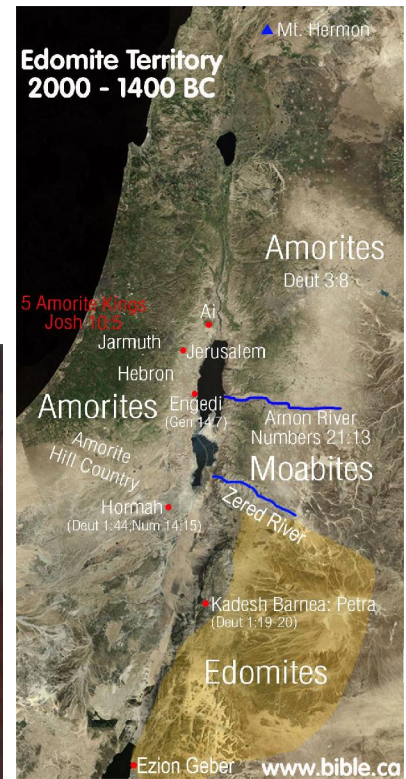
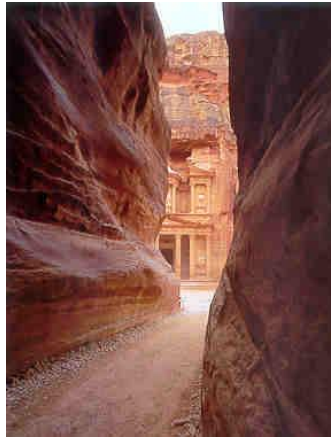
Obadiah

1. To what people was Obadiah’s prophecy addressed? (v. 1) These people were descendants of whom? (Genesis 25:30)
2. How would you describe the relationship between Jacob & Esau as brothers and nations? (Genesis 27:41; Numbers 20:14-21; Psalm 137:7)
3. Geographically, where was Edom’s territory? What was it like? What attitude had the Edomites developed as a result?
4. Based on verses 10-14, what had Edom done to Israel that was so displeasing to God?
5. What principle does God apply to Edom in verses 15-16? Note the similarity to Revelation 18:6.
6. Verses 19-21 speak of Edom being possessed. Now read Numbers 24:17-18; Amos 9:11-12; and Acts 15:13-17. What was the ultimate fulfillment of all these prophecies?

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The city of Petra is located in territory that was once part of Edom. The facades carved into the cliffs were built by the Nabataeans around 40 BC, not the Edomites. But these photos indicate the type of terrain the Edomites would have lived in. This is why Obadiah says, “you who live in the clefts of the rock, in the loftiness of your dwelling place”.



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Lesson 13: Elisha’s Miraculous Ministry

2 Kings 4:1-7

1. How was Elisha’s oil miracle similar to Elijah’s (1 Kings 17:16)? How was it different?

2 Kings 4:8-37

1. Why did Elisha want to do something for the woman of Shunem? How was it decided what to do?
2. What happened to the child many years later? What was the woman’s response?
3. How was this miracle similar to Elijah’s (1 Kings 17:17-24)? How was it different?

2 Kings 4:38-44

1. What practical lesson can we learn from the account of the poisonous stew?
2. What miracle of Jesus sounds almost exactly like v. 42-44?

2 Kings 5

1. Despite the good intentions of the little girl, what got lost in translation between verses 3 and 7?
2. Why was Naaman angry? (several possible answers here)
3. How was Naaman impacted by his experience?

Thought/Discussion

1. How could the Shunamite woman answer her husband (4:23) and Gehazi (4:26) as she did?
2. How do we see the innocence of children in 5:3? How do we see the corruption of adults in 5:20?
3. What cleansed Naaman? How might 1 Peter 3:21 apply?
4. Three little words – “behold, I thought...” (5:11). Why are those words so dangerous, especially when it comes to serving God?
5. Why would Elisha take no gift, and what did he mean by his statement in 5:26? What ever made Gehazi think he could get away with his scheme?

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Lesson 14: Elisha’s Miraculous Ministry Continues

2 Kings 6:1-23

1. How did Elisha miraculously retrieve an axe head that flew off the handle?
2. What did Elisha do to save the king of Israel from numerous defeats by the Syrians?
3. What did each of these people or groups learn from the events of this story?
 - a. Elisha’s attendant (also, what do you think of those once-invisible chariots and horses?)
 - b. king of Israel
 - c. Syrian army

2 Kings 6:24 – 7:2

1. After some time had passed, what was the situation in Samaria? How bad had it gotten?
2. Why was the king of Israel seeking to kill Elisha? What did Elisha prophesy to avert the king’s plot?
3. What did the king’s officer mean by his retort? How did Elisha respond to him?

2 Kings 7:3-20

1. Meanwhile outside the gates of Samaria, what discussion was taking place?
2. When the lepers came to the Syrian camp, what did they find? Why was it that way?
3. When the lepers came back to the city to relay the news, what did the king suspect?
4. What happened after the king’s scouts confirmed that there was no Syrian army out there?
5. How was Elisha’s prophecy from 7:2 fulfilled?

Thought/Discussion

1. Why would the Syrians think they could capture Elisha if he always knew where they were?
2. Can you think of any applications of the statement in 7:9?
3. Contrast the responses of Naaman and the Samaritans to the miracles they received.

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Lesson 15: Ahaziah Rules Judah; Jehu Cleans Ahab’s House

2 Kings 8:1-15

1. What was Elisha’s answer to whether ben-Hadad would recover from his illness? How do you explain this apparent contradiction?
2. What made Elisha weep? Although Hazael doubted he could do such things, what did he do the next day?

2 Kings 8:24-29; 2 Chronicles 22:1-9

1. Who became king in Judah upon Jehoram’s death? Why him? What promise was being kept?
2. Why did Ahaziah and Israel’s Jehoram go on a joint venture? What happened to both kings?

2 Kings 9:1-10:17

1. Briefly describe how Jehu came to be anointed king of Israel. When was this task originally proposed?
2. Where was Jehu in such a hurry to get to? How did he lure Jehoram and Ahaziah there? What was the significance of dumping Jehoram’s body there after Jehu shot him?
3. What happened to Ahaziah?
4. How did Jezebel die, and what prophecy did this fulfill?
5. What challenge did Jehu issue to the remaining descendants of Ahab in Samaria? What happened when they said they would not challenge Jehu’s claim to the throne?
6. Whom did Jehu find on the way to Samaria, and what did he do for them?

Thought/Discussion

1. Why wouldn’t God cut off the lineage of Ahaziah for doing essentially the same things that caused Him to cut off Omri’s lineage?
2. How did Jehu know where all these relatives of Ahab were?

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Lesson 16: Jehu Destroys Baal Worshipers; Athaliah the Usurper

2 Kings 10:18-36

1. How did Jehu get the followers of Baal to assemble in one place?
2. What happened to these Baal worshippers? And their temple?
3. Jehu was the best king Israel had up to this point. How did God reward him?

2 Kings 11; 2 Chronicles 22:10 – 23:21

1. How was Athaliah related to the following people? You may have to think a little.

She was _____ of Ahaziah of Judah (2K 11:1)

She was _____ of Ahab (2K 8:18)

She was _____ of Jehoram of Judah (2K 8:18)

She was _____ of Jehoram of Israel (2K 3:1)

She was _____ of Joash (2K 11:2)

She was _____ of Ahaziah of Israel (1K 22:51)

She was _____ of Jehoshabeath (2K 11:2)

She was _____ of Jehoiada the priest (2K 11:2)

2. How was Joash saved from Athaliah’s cruelty? What was so significant about him remaining alive?
3. When was Joash anointed king? Describe how and why they protected Joash during his anointing.
4. What did Jehoiada command concerning Athaliah and her followers?
5. What actions did Jehoiada initiate to bring Judah back to proper worship of Jehovah?

Thought/Discussion

1. For all the things that Jehu did right, the Bible still marks him as an evil king. Why? (2K 10:29,31) What lesson can we learn about how God looks at righteousness?
2. In Hosea 1:4, God said He would punish the house of Jehu for the blood of Jezreel. But God asked Jehu to wipe out Ahab’s lineage. How could He then hold that against Jehu?
3. How did Jehoiada show great courage and leadership with his actions?

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Lesson 17: Joash Reigns in Judah; Jehoahaz and Jehoash in Israel

2 Kings 12:1-16; 2 Chronicles 24:1-14

1. When Joash purposed to repair the temple, he intended for the money to come from the regular contribution (see Exodus 30:13-16). According to Ex. 30:16, what was this contribution to be used for? The Levites did not act quickly, but what was the real problem with Joash’s plan?
2. Jehoiada realized there needed to be a special contribution to cover the costs of repair. What did he set up and how well did this approach work? What else were they able to afford besides the repairs?

2 Kings 13:1-13

1. Meanwhile in Israel, who became king upon Jehu’s death? Who continually gave him trouble?
2. What unusual step did the king take to deal with this trouble, and what was the outcome? Did the people return to the Lord?
3. How long did Jehoahaz reign, and who became king after his death?

2 Kings 12:17-21; 2 Chronicles 24:15-27

1. Now back to Judah. After Jehoiada died, what did Joash allow the officials of Judah to do?
2. In response to this development, whom did God send to Joash? What was the result of this meeting?
3. After this, who invaded Judah and what did they take? What was ironic about Judah losing the battle?
4. What became of Joash after this battle?

Thought/Discussion

1. Joash started off well but finished wickedly. What was the turning point? What lessons can we learn from this?
2. Compare what is said about the burials of Jehoiada and Joash.

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Lesson 18: The Lord’s Locust Lesson

Joel 1:1 – 2:17

1. What catastrophe is Joel describing in the first part of the book? (1:4) What other catastrophes will accompany or follow (1:19-20)?
2. How are they described in 1:6 and 2:3-11? Where did they come from? (1:15)
3. How bad was this situation? (1:2) What are some descriptions of the people’s hopelessness in chapter 1?
4. What does Joel challenge the spiritual leaders to do? (1:13-14; 2:15-17)
5. What does Joel challenge the common people to do? (2:12-13)

Joel 2:18 – 3:21

1. What will be the result of these actions by the leaders and people? (2:18-27) What will this prove?
2. What event fulfilled the prophecy of 2:28-32? (see Acts 2:14-21) Did the fulfillment end there?

Thought/Discussion

1. Joel 2:32 is also quoted in Romans 10:13. What is involved in “calling on the name of the Lord”? Read Romans 10:14-17 as well as Acts 22:16.
2. When prophets speak of the Jerusalem of the future, it is generally not the literal city. What did Jerusalem represent to the Jews? How is it used in Hebrews 12:22? (read through v. 24 for the full thought)
3. Do some research and explain the difference between the four insects mentioned in 1:4.

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Lesson 19: Elisha Dies; Amaziah is King in Judah

2 Kings 13:14-25

1. Why was Elisha upset with Joash for striking the ground three times? Did Joash have any reason to know what he should have done?
2. What miracle did Elisha perform after dying?

2 Kings 14:1-20; 2 Chronicles 25

1. Who succeeded Joash as king of Judah? What was one of the first things he did as king?
2. What warning did an unnamed prophet give Amaziah after hiring 100,000 Israeli warriors? How did Judah fare in battle against Edom without these hired guns?
3. How did the jilted soldiers handle their release? It seems they still got paid; why were they so mad?
4. What puzzling thing did Amaziah do after Judah’s victory over Edom? What was Amaziah’s reaction after an unnamed prophet rebuked him for this?
5. Soon after this, civil war broke out in Israel. Which side suffered the greater losses?
6. How did the end of Amaziah’s reign resemble Joash’s?

Thought/Discussion

1. Where have you heard the cry of 2 Kings 13:14 before? What is ironic about that? What does the statement mean?
2. Do we know what provoked Amaziah to attack Edom? Do we know – or suspect – what provoked him to challenge Israel? How did God use Amaziah’s warfaring ways to bring about his downfall? Give some examples of how people today are brought down by some character flaw.

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Lesson 20: The Running Prophet

Jonah 1 (running away from God)

1. Where did God tell Jonah to go, and why? What present-day city is located there, and what is Nabi Yunus? (Google it and find out!)
2. Where did Jonah start to go instead? Was he just unwilling to ask directions?
3. What similarities can you find between the events in Jonah 1 and Mark 4:35-41?



Jonah 2 (running back to God)

1. What are the main points of Jonah’s prayer in chapter 2? How did God answer him?

Jonah 3 (running with God)

1. How large was Nineveh? (3:3; 4:11) What was Nineveh’s deadline for destruction?
2. How did the Ninevites react to Jonah’s preaching?

Jonah 4 (running ahead of God)

1. What was Jonah’s ironic reaction to his success?
2. What lesson was God teaching Jonah with the plant, worm, and wind?

Thought/Discussion

1. What were Jonah’s three days in the fish a foreshadowing of? (Matthew 12:39-41; Luke 11:29-32)
2. Many scholars regard this book as an allegory (symbolic story) rather than a real historical account. What is the main problem with that kind of interpretation? (Consider the same verses as above)
3. How can God’s people today act like Jonah?

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Lesson 21: Azariah (Uzziah) Reigns in Judah

2 Kings 14:21-22; 15:1-4; 2 Chronicles 26:1-15

1. Which king had just died in Judah, and how? How old was Uzziah when he became king?
2. How was Uzziah described as a king? Did he do everything right?
3. Who all did Judah defeat in battle or otherwise rule over because of Uzziah?
4. What things did Uzziah do for:
Jerusalem

The army

Himself

2 Kings 15:5-7; 2 Chronicles 26:16-23

1. What did Uzziah do that angered the priests? God must have been angry too, because what happened after that?
2. What were the long-term consequences of this?
3. How long did Uzziah reign?

Thought/Discussion

1. What city did Uzziah restore to Judah? Where was this city and why would it have been important? (1 Kings 9:26; 2 Chr. 8:17)
2. Was it appropriate for the priests to talk to Uzziah the way they did? Why or why not? What parallels do you see between this story and Paul's instructions to Timothy in 1 Timothy 5:17-21?

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Lesson 22: A Most Outspoken Shepherd

Amos 1 – 2

1. Who was king in Israel and Judah when Amos prophesied? Where was Amos from, and what was his occupation? (1:1; 7:14-15) Pull up his city on a mapping web site; do you notice anything interesting?
2. From 1:3 through 2:3, Amos announces the Lord’s judgement against what six nations? Generally, what were they guilty of?
3. Imagine Amos preaching this to a crowd. What do you think their reaction would be as Amos goes down this list? How is Amos “setting them up”?
4. What kinds of evil was Judah & Israel guilty of?

Amos 3 – 6

1. In 4:6-13, what five things did God do to provoke Israel to return to Him? Did they work?
2. As Amos lists more sins in 5:10-12, what do you see is the recurring theme?
3. Re-read 3:15; 4:1; and 6:4-6. What did the people in these verses enjoy? What was the problem?

Amos 7 – 9

1. What does a plumb line do? What was God doing with one?
2. How do the visions progress from chapter 7 to chapter 9?



Thought/Discussion

1. What do you think it means when Amos repeatedly says, “for three transgressions...and for four” in the first two chapters?
2. What was Israel’s attitude toward religion in 8:4-6? How can we be guilty of this too?
3. Where is 9:11-12 quoted in the New Testament? What was declared to be the ultimate fulfillment of this prophecy? Keep this in mind, as other prophets use similar language in their writings.

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