

Jehoahaz and Jehoash of Israel; Death of Elisha

2 Kings 13

Group ¹	C	V	Description
Kings of Israel: Jehoahaz and Jehoash	13	1-9	Jehoahaz's reign summarized
		10-13	Jehoash's reign summarized
14-19		Elisha becomes sick and is visited by Joash (Jehoash) of Israel; Joash is told how many times he would strike the armies of Aram	
20-21		Elisha dies and is buried; A dead man is revived when he falls on Elisha's dead body in the grave	
22-23		Hazeal of Aram oppresses Israel	
24-25		Ben-hadad, Hazeal's son, reigns in Aram; Jehoash retakes cities which he lost to Hazeal	
Death of Elisha			

Reflections

In this chapter we find the details of the reigns of the first and second generations of Jehu who God said would sit on the throne after him (see 2 Kings 10: 28-31). Also in this chapter, we have the death of Elisha and a miraculous reviving of a dead man when he is thrown into Elisha's grave and onto his body.

The struggle with the Arameans goes all the way back to the time of Balaam (Numbers 22-24), the Judges, David (2 Samuel 8), and Solomon (1 Kings 11). The location of Aram is what would be modern day Syria and southern Turkey. Shortly after this they would be conquered by the Assyrians, the eventual captors of the northern Israelite tribes.

It is interesting that Jehoahaz calls on God to deliver them from the Arameans, not unlike what Israel did during the time of the judges, which God does by sending a deliverer (v5). The root word is the same as is used for messiah and is translated differently in various translations (see table).

Translation	Title
ABP+, Brenton, Geneva	Lord gave deliverance
ASV, BBE, Bishops, CJB, Darby, DRB, ESV, KJV, LEB, MSG, RV, TS2009, WEB, Webster, YLT	Savior
CEV, GNB	Leader
ERV	A man to save
ISV, JPS, LITV, MKJV, NAS77, NASB, NET, NIV, TLV	Deliverer
NirV	Someone to save
NLT	Someone to rescue

This deliverer is unnamed but the description of the result is clear that it should be known that it was the Lord who provided the deliverance and not the individual. The result was that the Israelites were living peacefully again in their own tents (v5).

Yet, Jehoahaz didn't destroy the false idols causing the people to sin and the nation was left decimated

¹ (NASB) "Group" column from the headings in the NASB text.

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and their army completely destroyed except for 50 horsemen, 10 chariots, and 10,000 footmen. It is interesting that the Arameans were the same people who bought military supplies from Solomon (1 Kings 9).

When Elisha became sick, Joash of Israel came to him. Elisha tells Joash to shoot an arrow out of a window and then to strike the ground with the arrows, which he does three times. Elisha becomes angry that he didn't strike the ground more, at least five or six times, because the number of times that Joash struck the ground signified how completely he would overthrow the Arameans.

It is interesting that even after Elisha died, God still used his body to perform a miracle by reviving another dead man after his body was thrown on Elisha's corpse. This appears to have happened some time later during a time when the Moabites attacked the Israelites by surprise. In the rush to respond to the attack the people burying the man just threw the man into the burial place, which also contained the bones of Elisha. It had to be an amazing thing to see a dead person come to life upon touching Elisha's bones.

After a change of rulers in Aram through the death of Hazael and his son, Ben-Hadad, reigned, Jehoash was able to retake some cities that were lost to the Arameans. Sadly, Joash is described as doing "evil in the sight of the Lord" (v11). In particular, he did the same sins as Jeroboam the son of Nebat and he also fought against Amaziah of Judah.

This chapter is a sad commentary on the lives of two kings of Israel. Two of the four generations which God told Jehu would sit on the throne after him. It was because he didn't complete the purging of the idols from Israel, namely the golden calves of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, which led to the demise of his descendants.

So for us today, it should be a reminder to us to completely rid ourselves of whatever idols we might have in our life which we allow to have preeminence in place of God. I know that for myself, I have to do better at that.

Lord forgive us when we fail to rid ourselves of idols which steal the worship and honor that is due You and that You deserve in our lives. Amen.

There and Then: Here and Now

Answer the questions below as you reflect on your own life and this part of our study²: *my LOG vs others SPECK*. Here are some possible responses I've identified from the text that might apply to anyone.

S - Are there *sins* for me to avoid or confess?

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P - Are there *promises* from God for me to claim?

•

E - Are there *examples* for me to follow or avoid?

•

C - Are there *commands* for me to obey?

•

K - How has this passage increased my *knowledge* about God / Jesus / Holy Spirit?

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Key Words: Old Testament, History, 2 Kings, Jehoahaz, Jehoash, Elisha, Arameans

2 *Navigator Bible Study Handbook* (The Navigators), with additions & Matthew 7:1-5.

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