

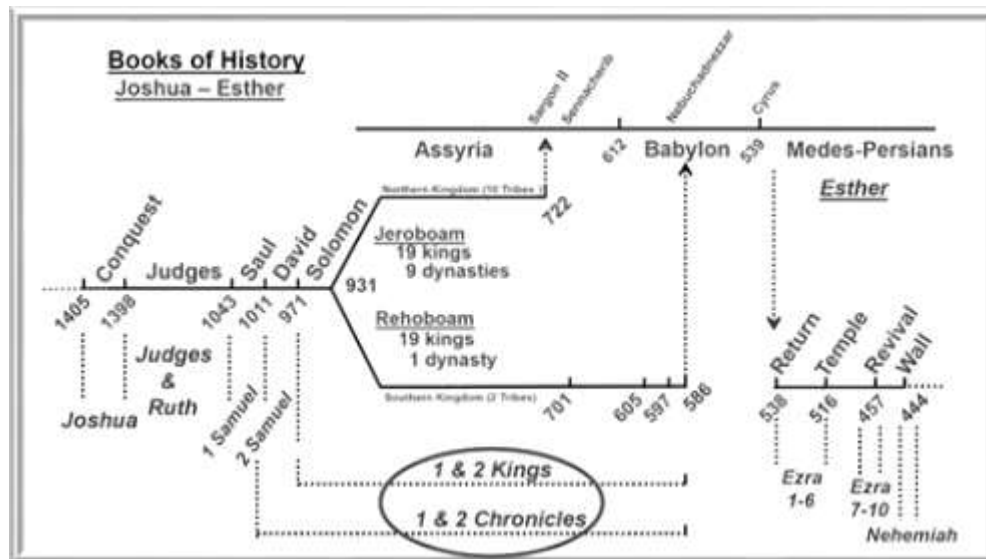
2 Kings

Both kingdoms ignore God and His prophets until they both fall captive to other world empires.

Author: 1st and 2nd Kings covers four hundred years, so many contributors and authors must have been involved.

In 2 Kings – Jesus is the King of Kings

2 Kings 22:19 “Because your heart was responsive and you humbled yourself before the Lord... I have heard you, declares the Lord.”



TEACHER: 25 CHAPTERS

2 Kings continues the story of the history of the many kings of Israel. The nation has been divided into 2 parts. The northern being Israel with 10 tribes, and the southern being the 2 tribes of Judah and Benjamin. Ahaziah is made king of Israel after his father dies in the last chapter of 1st Kings, and he is an evil king just like his father and mother Ahab and Jezebel. In Judah, Jehoshaphat is a good king just like his parents Asa and Azubah were. With Ahab dead, and a new king Ahaziah on the throne, Moab rebels against Israel's rule.

CH. 1

STUDENT:

After the death of King Ahab of Israel the country of Moab rebelled against Israel.

² King Ahaziah of Israel fell off the balcony on the roof of his palace in Samaria and was seriously injured. So he sent some messengers to consult Baalzebub, the god of the Philistine city of Ekron, in order to find out whether or not he would recover. ³ But an angel of the LORD commanded Elijah, the prophet from Tishbe, to go and meet the messengers of King Ahaziah and ask them, "Why are you going to consult Baalzebub, the god of Ekron? Is it because you think there is no god in Israel?" ⁴ Tell the king that the LORD says, 'You will not recover from your injuries; you will die!'" (GNT)

TEACHER:

The men go back to the king and tell him what was said. The king sends 50 men to get Elijah, and make him report to him. It doesn't go well.

STUDENT:

⁹ Then he sent an officer with fifty men to get Elijah. The officer found him sitting on a hill and said to him, "Man of God, the king orders you to come down."

¹⁰ "If I am a man of God," Elijah answered, "may fire come down from heaven and kill you and your men!" At once fire came down and killed the officer and his men.

¹¹ The king sent another officer with fifty men, who went up and said to Elijah, "Man of God, the king orders you to come down at once!"

¹² "If I am a man of God," Elijah answered, "may fire come down from heaven and kill you and your men!" At once the fire of God came down and killed the officer and his men. (GNT)

STUDENT:

¹³ Once more the king sent an officer with fifty men. He went up the hill, fell on his knees in front of Elijah, and pleaded, "Man of God, be merciful to me and my men. Spare our lives!" ¹⁴ The two other officers and their men were killed by fire from heaven; but please be merciful to me!"

¹⁵ The angel of the LORD said to Elijah, "Go down with him, and don't be afraid." So Elijah went with the officer to the king ¹⁶ and said to him, "This is what the LORD says: 'Because you sent messengers to consult Baalzebub, the god of Ekron—as if there were no god in Israel to consult—you will not get well; you will die!'" (GNT)

TEACHER:

This is a phrase I have used a hundred times when raising my children.

"There are 3 kinds of people in the world"

The 1st kind, are people who can only learn the hard way. They have to try for themselves. They can't take advice and don't seek counsel. We call these people morons.

The 2nd kind, are people who can only learn from other people's failures. "She tried and got burned, I can't do that", "he tried and failed, better not risk it." We call these people sissies.

The 3rd kind, are hopefully where we find ourselves. We learn most often from other people's successes. "God, you led Moses, and David, and Paul and Silas, Lead me" "You heard Peter's prayer, hear mine" DH

Ahaziah, he was the 1st kind of person.

He never recovered and soon after died, childless. His brother Joram succeeded him. Chapter 2 starts with Elijah going to Heaven. It is such a special story, we will take turns reading the entire account. Comment as the lord moves you.

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



and King Ahaziah sent a 3rd captain with 50 men to GET Elijah. After passing 102 charred bodies.. captain #3 decided to use the magic word. **II Kings 1:1-15**

CH. 2

STUDENT:

The time came for the LORD to take Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind. Elijah and Elisha set out from Gilgal, ² and on the way Elijah said to Elisha, "Now stay here; the LORD has ordered me to go to Bethel."

But Elisha answered, "I swear by my loyalty to the living LORD and to you that I will not leave you." So they went on to Bethel.

³ A group of prophets who lived there went to Elisha and asked him, "Do you know that the LORD is going to take your master away from you today?"

"Yes, I know," Elisha answered. "But let's not talk about it."

⁴ Then Elijah said to Elisha, "Now stay here; the LORD has ordered me to go to Jericho."

But Elisha answered, "I swear by my loyalty to the living LORD and to you that I will not leave you." So they went on to Jericho. (GNT)

STUDENT:

⁵ A group of prophets who lived there went to Elisha and asked him, "Do you know that the LORD is going to take your master away from you today?"

"Yes, I know," Elisha answered. "But let's not talk about it."

⁶ Then Elijah said to Elisha, "Now stay here; the LORD has ordered me to go to the Jordan River."

But Elisha answered, "I swear by my loyalty to the living LORD and to you that I will not leave you." So they went on, ⁷ and fifty of the prophets followed them to the Jordan. Elijah and Elisha stopped by the river, and the fifty prophets stood a short distance away. ⁸ Then Elijah took off his cloak, rolled it up, and struck the water with it; the water divided, and he and Elisha crossed to the other side on dry ground. ⁹ There, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what you want me to do for you before I am taken away."

"Let me receive the share of your power that will make me your successor," Elisha answered.

¹⁰ "That is a difficult request to grant," Elijah replied. "But you will receive it if you see me as I am being taken away from you; if you don't see me, you won't receive it." (GNT)

STUDENT:

¹¹ They kept talking as they walked on; then suddenly a chariot of fire pulled by horses of fire came between them, and Elijah was taken up to heaven by a whirlwind. ¹² Elisha saw it and cried out to Elijah, "My father, my father! Mighty defender of Israel!

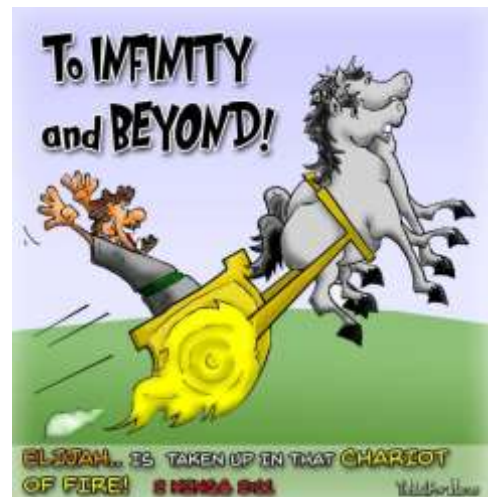
You are gone!" And he never saw Elijah again.

In grief Elisha tore his cloak in two. ¹³ Then he picked up Elijah's cloak that had fallen from him, and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. ¹⁴ He struck the water with Elijah's cloak and said, "Where is the LORD, the God of Elijah?" Then he struck the water again, and it divided, and he walked over to the other side.

¹⁵ The fifty prophets from Jericho saw him and said, "The power of Elijah is on Elisha!" They went to meet him, bowed down before him,

¹⁶ and said, "There are fifty of us here, all strong men. Let us go and look for your master. Maybe the spirit of the LORD has carried him away and left him on some mountain or in some valley."

(GNT)



STUDENT:

"No, you must not go," Elisha answered.

¹⁷ But they insisted until he gave in and let them go. The fifty of them went and looked high and low for Elijah for three days, but didn't find him. ¹⁸ Then they returned to Elisha, who had waited at Jericho, and he said to them, "Didn't I tell you not to go?" (GNT)

TEACHER:

Elisha learned from Elijah's example. He was the 3rd kind of man. The 50 men? They are the 1st kind of men. Lol. Elisha performs 3 miracles in rapid succession. The parting of the Jordan that we read, He then purifies a spring that has been causing illness and miscarriages. Any guesses on the 3rd miracle?

STUDENT:

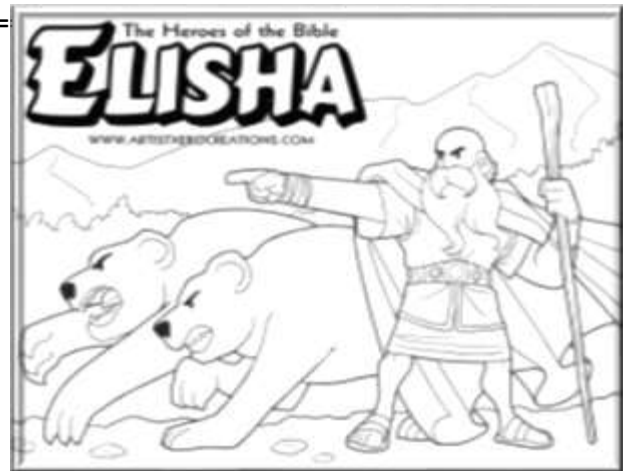
²³ Elisha left Jericho to go to Bethel, and on the way some boys came out of a town and made fun of him.

"Get out of here, baldy!" they shouted.

²⁴ Elisha turned around, glared at them, and cursed them in the name of the LORD.

Then two she-bears came out of the woods and tore forty-two of the boys to pieces.

²⁵ Elisha went on to Mount Carmel and later returned to Samaria. (GNT)



TEACHER:

3 Kings, go to fight against the rebelling Moabite kingdom. Joram from Israel, Jehoshaphat from Judah, and the king of Edom. (This is a vassal king, or puppet, appointed by Jehoshaphat in 1 Kings 22:48) As they go to Moab, which was around 100 miles away and hilly and twisting, they ran out of water. They sought out a prophet and guess who was near-by? Elisha. They approach a surly prophet.

STUDENT:

Elisha answered, "By the living LORD, whom I serve, I swear that I would have nothing to do with you if I didn't respect your ally, King Jehoshaphat of Judah. ¹⁵ Now get me a musician."

As the musician played his harp, the power of the LORD came on Elisha, ¹⁶ and he said, "This is what the LORD says: 'Dig ditches all over this dry stream bed. ¹⁷ Even though you will not see any rain or wind, this stream bed will be filled with water, and you, your livestock, and your pack animals will have plenty to drink.'" ¹⁸ And Elisha continued, "But this is an easy thing for the LORD to do; he will also give you victory over the Moabites. ¹⁹ You will conquer all their beautiful fortified cities; you will cut down all their fruit trees, stop all their springs, and ruin all their fertile fields by covering them with stones." (GNT)

TEACHER:

Moab falls to Israel's might. The battle ends with the King of Moab sacrificing his own son to the God of Moab, to no avail. In chapter 4 Elisha comes to the rescue.

CH. 4

STUDENT:

The widow of a member of a group of prophets went to Elisha and said, "Sir, my husband has died! As you know, he was a God-fearing man, but now a man he owed money to has come to take away my two sons as slaves in payment for my husband's debt." ² "What shall I do for you?" he asked. "Tell me, what do you have at home?" "Nothing at all, except a small jar of olive oil," she answered.

³ "Go to your neighbors and borrow as many empty jars as you can," Elisha told her. ⁴ "Then you and your sons go into the house, close the door, and start pouring oil into the jars. Set each one aside as soon as it is full."

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STUDENT:

⁵ So the woman went into her house with her sons, closed the door, took the small jar of olive oil, and poured oil into the jars as her sons brought them to her. ⁶ When they had filled all the jars, she asked if there were any more. "That was the last one," one of her sons answered. And the olive oil stopped flowing. ⁷ She went back to Elisha, the prophet, who said to her, "Sell the olive oil and pay all your debts, and there will be enough money left over for you and your sons to live on." (GNT)

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TEACHER:

As word spreads Elisha makes some important friends. Sometimes when reading the history books, it's easy to think that there are no people that have a clue who the Lord is. But the world isn't filled with kings and soldiers. It is filled with people who are working to carve out a life, and care for each other. Elisha has a friendship with a family just like this, who were doing quite well.

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STUDENT:

⁸ One day Elisha went to Shunem, where a rich woman lived. She invited him to a meal, and from then on every time he went to Shunem he would have his meals at her house. ⁹ She said to her husband, "I am sure that this man who comes here so often is a holy man. ¹⁰ Lets build a small room on the roof, put a bed, a table, a chair, and a lamp in it, and he can stay there whenever he visits us." (GNT)

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TEACHER:

Elisha appreciated the kindness shown him, and used it often. He asked Gehazi his servant to find out how he may show her kindness in exchange. Elisha learns that her husband is old, and she has no son.

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STUDENT:

Elisha asked Gehazi, "What can I do for her then?"

He answered, "Well, she has no son, and her husband is an old man."

¹⁵ "Tell her to come here," Elisha ordered. She came and stood in the doorway, ¹⁶ and Elisha said to her, "By this time next year you will be holding a son in your arms."

"Oh!" she exclaimed. "Please, sir, don't lie to me. You are a man of God!"

¹⁷ But, as Elisha had said, at about that time the following year she gave birth to a son.

¹⁸ Some years later, at harvest time, the boy went out one morning to join his father, who was in the field with the harvest workers. ¹⁹ Suddenly he cried out to his father, "My head hurts! My head hurts!" (GNT)

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TEACHER:

The boys dad sends the boy to his mother, and he dies in her arms soon after. She says nothing and heads out after Elisha.

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STUDENT:

.....when she came to Elisha, she bowed down before him and took hold of his feet. Gehazi was about to push her away, but Elisha said, "Leave her alone. Can't you see she's deeply distressed? And the LORD has not told me a thing about it."

²⁸ The woman said to him, "Sir, did I ask you for a son? Didn't I tell you not to get my hopes up?"

²⁹ Elisha turned to Gehazi and said, "Hurry! Take my walking stick and go. Don't stop to greet anyone you meet, and if anyone greets you, don't take time to answer. Go straight to the house and hold my stick over the boy."

³⁰ The woman said to Elisha, "I swear by my loyalty to the living LORD and to you that I will not leave you!" So the two of them started back together. ³¹ Gehazi went on ahead and held Elisha's stick over the child, but there was no sound or any other sign of life. So he went back to meet Elisha and said, "The boy didn't wake up." (GNT)

TEACHER:

This story is often better just soaked up without comment. But, as I read it this time, it comes to my heart that

"Sometimes, you just have to be rude to get the job done." DH

STUDENT:

³² When Elisha arrived, he went alone into the room and saw the boy lying dead on the bed. ³³ He closed the door and prayed to the LORD. ³⁴ Then he lay down on the boy, placing his mouth, eyes, and hands on the boy's mouth, eyes, and hands. As he lay stretched out over the boy, the boy's body started to get warm. ³⁵ Elisha got up, walked around the room, and then went back and again stretched himself over the boy. The boy sneezed seven times and then opened his eyes. ³⁶ Elisha called Gehazi and told him to call the boy's mother. When she came in, he said to her, "Here's your son." ³⁷ She fell at Elisha's feet, with her face touching the ground; then she took her son and left. (GNT)

TEACHER:

2 more miracles in chapter 4 regarding food, and we are off to chapter 5. Elisha goes nose to nose with leprosy.

STUDENT

CH. 5

Now Naaman was commander of the army of the king of Aram. He was a great man in the sight of his master and highly regarded, because through him the LORD had given victory to Aram. He was a valiant soldier, but he had leprosy..... (NIV)

TEACHER:

Naaman had a servant girl serving his wife who told her about the prophet in Israel who could cure him. The king of Aram sent a letter to the king of Israel to cure Naaman, The king rents his robe thinking Aram's king is picking a fight.

STUDENT

When Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his robes, he sent him this message: 'Why have you torn your robes? Make the man come to me and he will know that there is a prophet in Israel.' ⁹ So Naaman went with his horses and chariots and stopped at the door of Elisha's house. ¹⁰ Elisha sent a messenger to say to him, 'Go, wash yourself seven times in the Jordan, and your flesh will be restored and you will be cleansed.' ¹¹ But Naaman went away angry and said, 'I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, wave his hand over the spot and cure me of my leprosy. ¹² Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Couldn't I wash in them and be cleansed?' So he turned and went off in a rage. (NIV)

TEACHER:

Pride. It would kill some people to take a bath. His servant is wiser. (Note: it was a servant who told him of the prophet, and a servant who reasons with him to obey the prophet. Be careful who you ignore.)

STUDENT:

¹³ Naaman's servants went to him and said, 'My father, if the prophet had told you to do some great thing, would you not have done it? How much more, then, when he tells you, "Wash and be cleansed"!' ¹⁴ So he went down and dipped himself in the Jordan seven times, as the man of God had told him, and his flesh was restored and became clean like that of a young boy. (NIV)

TEACHER:

Naaman returns healthy to Elisha and wants to reward him. Elisha refuses the offer and sends him away. But Gehazi thinks this is a mistake. In secret he follows Naaman and asks for some things under false pretense. Naaman gladly gives him more than he asked for, and continues home. Gehazi didn't fare as well. (NIV)

STUDENT:

²⁵ When he went in and stood before his master, Elisha asked him, 'Where have you been, Gehazi?'

'Your servant didn't go anywhere,' Gehazi answered.

²⁶ But Elisha said to him, 'Was not my spirit with you when the man got down from his chariot to meet you? Is this the time to take money or to accept clothes – or olive groves and vineyards, or flocks and herds, or male and female slaves? ²⁷ Naaman's leprosy will cling to you and to your descendants forever.' Then Gehazi went from Elisha's presence and his skin was leprous – it had become as white as snow. (NIV)

TEACHER:

More miracles in chapter 6.

STUDENT:

The company of the prophets said to Elisha, 'Look, the place where we meet with you is too small for us. ² Let us go to the Jordan, where each of us can get a pole; and let us build a place there for us to meet.'

And he said, 'Go.' ³ Then one of them said, 'Won't you please come with your servants?' 'I will,' Elisha replied. ⁴ And he went with them. They went to the Jordan and began to cut down trees. ⁵ As one of them was cutting down a tree, the iron axe-head fell into the water. 'Oh no, my lord!' he cried out. 'It was borrowed!'

⁶ The man of God asked, 'Where did it fall?' When he showed him the place, Elisha cut a stick and threw it there, and made the iron float. ⁷ 'Lift it out,' he said. Then the man reached out his hand and took it. (NIV)

TEACHER:

Several times the prophet warns the king of Israel that the king of Aram was going to attack him. Every time, the king escapes because of Elisha's advice. The king of Aram is furious and 1 of his men tell him it's Elisha. He sets out to capture him.

STUDENT:

The report came back: 'He is in Dothan.' ¹⁴ Then he sent horses and chariots and a strong force there. They went by night and surrounded the city.

¹⁵ When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early the next morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. 'Oh no, my lord! What shall we do?' the servant asked.

¹⁶ 'Don't be afraid,' the prophet answered. 'Those who are with us are more than those who are with them.'

¹⁷ And Elisha prayed, 'Open his eyes, LORD, so that he may see.' Then the LORD opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all round Elisha. (NIV)

STUDENT:

¹⁸ As the enemy came down towards him, Elisha prayed to the LORD, 'Strike this army with blindness.' So he struck them with blindness, as Elisha had asked.

¹⁹ Elisha told them, 'This is not the road and this is not the city. Follow me, and I will lead you to the man you are looking for.' And he led them to Samaria.

²⁰ After they entered the city, Elisha said, 'LORD, open the eyes of these men so that they can see.' Then the LORD opened their eyes and they looked, and there they were, inside Samaria.

²¹ When the king of Israel saw them, he asked Elisha, 'Shall I kill them, my father? Shall I kill them?' (NIV)

TEACHER:

Elisha tells him to feed them and send them home. End of conflict. Aram no longer raided Israelite villages. In the meantime Samaria was under siege, and deep in famine. People were so hungry a donkeys head sold for 80 shekels of silver. The king comes upon a heart breaking sight.

STUDENT:

As the king of Israel was passing by on the wall, a woman cried to him, 'Help me, my lord the king!'

²⁷ The king replied, 'If the LORD does not help you, where can I get help for you? From the threshing floor? From the winepress?' ²⁸ Then he asked her, 'What's the matter?'

She answered, 'This woman said to me, "Give up your son so that we may eat him today, and tomorrow we'll eat my son." ²⁹ So we cooked my son and ate him. The next day I said to her, "Give up your son so that we may eat him," but she had hidden him.'

³⁰ When the king heard the woman's words, he tore his robes. As he went along the wall, the people looked, and they saw that, under his robes, he had sackcloth on his body. ³¹ He said, 'May God deal with me, be it ever so severely, if the head of Elisha son of Shaphat remains on his shoulders today!' (NIV)

TEACHER:

Elisha stands face to face with the king, and tells him what is going to happen.

CH. 7

STUDENT:

Elisha replied, 'Hear the word of the LORD. This is what the LORD says: about this time tomorrow, a seah of the finest flour will sell for a shekel and two seahs of barley for a shekel at the gate of Samaria.'

² The officer on whose arm the king was leaning said to the man of God, 'Look, even if the LORD should open the floodgates of the heavens, could this happen?'

'You will see it with your own eyes,' answered Elisha, 'but you will not eat any of it!' (GNT)

TEACHER:

The siege lifts. Several lepers are camped outside of the city gates, and decide to throw themselves on the mercy of the army surrounding the city. When they get there, the camp is abandoned. The Lord caused a great sound like a mighty army, and they all ran for their lives.

STUDENT:

The men who had leprosy reached the edge of the camp, entered one of the tents and ate and drank. Then they took silver, gold and clothes, and went off and hid them. They returned and entered another tent and took some things from it and hid them also.

⁹ Then they said to each other, 'What we're doing is not right. This is a day of good news and we are keeping it to ourselves. If we wait until daylight, punishment will overtake us. Let's go at once and report this to the royal palace.'

¹⁰ So they went and called out to the city gatekeepers and told them, 'We went into the Aramean camp and no one was there – not a sound of anyone – only tethered horses and donkeys, and the tents left just as they were.' ¹¹ The gatekeepers shouted the news, and it was reported within the palace. (NIV)

TEACHER:

Remember the prophesy about the kings officer?

STUDENT:

¹⁶ Then the people went out and plundered the camp of the Arameans. So a seah of the finest flour sold for a shekel, and two seahs of barley sold for a shekel, as the LORD had said.

¹⁷ Now the king had put the officer on whose arm he leaned in charge of the gate, and the people trampled him in the gateway, and he died, just as the man of God had foretold when the king came down to his house. ¹⁸ It happened as the man of God had said to the king: 'About this time tomorrow, a seah of the finest flour will sell for a shekel and two seahs of barley for a shekel at the gate of Samaria.'

¹⁹ The officer had said to the man of God, 'Look, even if the LORD should open the floodgates of the heavens, could this happen?' The man of God had replied, 'You will see it with your own eyes, but you will not eat any of it!' ²⁰ And that is exactly what happened to him, for the people trampled him in the gateway, and he died. (NIV)

TEACHER:

Elisha had known the famine was coming so he had warned the Shunammite woman who had prepared the room for him, and had the little boy he raised from the dead. She had spent the 7 years of the famine in Philistia, and was now returning. She was to appear before the king. God was preparing the way before her.

CH. 8

STUDENT:

³ At the end of the seven years she came back from the land of the Philistines and went to appeal to the king for her house and land. ⁴ The king was talking to Gehazi, the servant of the man of God, and had said, 'Tell me about all the great things Elisha has done.' ⁵ Just as Gehazi was telling the king how Elisha had restored the dead to life, the woman whose son Elisha had brought back to life came to appeal to the king for her house and land. Gehazi said, 'This is the woman, my lord the king, and this is her son whom Elisha restored to life.' ⁶ The king asked the woman about it, and she told him. Then he assigned an official to her case and said to him, 'Give back everything that belonged to her, including all the income from her land from the day she left the country until now.' (NIV)

TEACHER:

Chapter 8 ends with details of the sins of those related to Ahab and Jezebel. Ahab's evil influence out-lived him. In chapter 9, with Ahab long since dead, it is time to deal with Jezebel once and for all. ^{1st} the prophesy.

STUDENT:

CH. 9

So the young prophet went to Ramoth Gilead. ⁵ When he arrived, he found the army officers sitting together.

'I have a message for you, commander,' he said.

'For which of us?' asked Jehu. 'For you, commander,' he replied.

⁶ Jehu got up and went into the house. Then the prophet poured the oil on Jehu's head and declared, 'This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: "I anoint you king over the LORD's people Israel. ⁷ You are to destroy the house of Ahab your master, and I will avenge the blood of my servants the prophets and the blood of all the LORD's servants shed by Jezebel. (NIV)

STUDENT:

⁸ The whole house of Ahab will perish. I will cut off from Ahab every last male in Israel – slave or free. ⁹ I will make the house of Ahab like the house of Jeroboam son of Nebat and like the house of Baasha son of Ahijah. ¹⁰ As for Jezebel, dogs will devour her on the plot of ground at Jezreel, and no one will bury her.'" Then he opened the door and ran. (NIV)

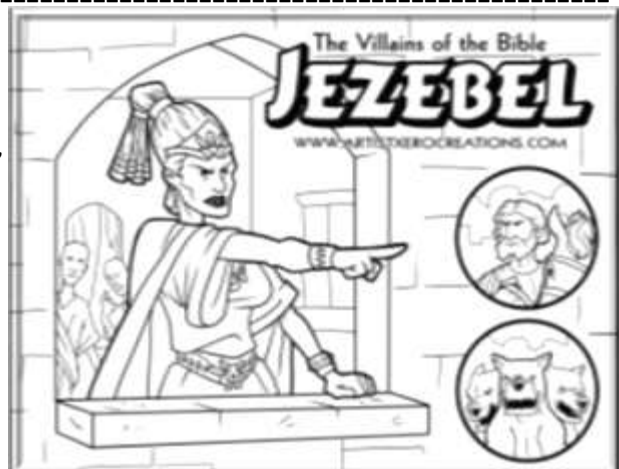
TEACHER:

Jehu goes like a mad man to the place the 2 kings were recovering from their battle wounds. He kills them both on the plot of ground we read about in 1 Kings 29:19, thereby fulfilling that prophesy. Then on to Jezebel.

STUDENT:

³⁰ Then Jehu went to Jezreel. When Jezebel heard about it, she put on eye makeup, arranged her hair and looked out of a window. ³¹ As Jehu entered the gate, she asked, 'Have you come in peace, you Zimri, you murderer of your master?'

³² He looked up at the window and called out, 'Who is on my side? Who?' Two or three eunuchs looked down at him. ³³ 'Throw her down!' Jehu said. So they threw her down, and some of her blood spattered the wall and the horses as they trampled her underfoot. (NIV)



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TEACHER:

This fulfills the prophesy from 1 Kings 21:23. Jehu continues to clean house, fulfilling the prophesies of Elijah, wiping out whole family lines. All those who opposed the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He takes a great man, Jehonadab the son of Rekab along for the ride. This man (Jehonadab) would go on to receive one of the greatest promises in the Bible. But that's another lesson. Jehu killed every priest of Baal in the country, then turns their house of Baal worship into a latrine. Poetic, don't you think?

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STUDENT:

²⁷ They demolished the sacred stone of Baal and tore down the temple of Baal, and people have used it for a latrine to this day.

²⁸ So Jehu destroyed Baal worship in Israel. ²⁹ However, he did not turn away from the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, which he had caused Israel to commit – the worship of the golden calves at Bethel and Dan.

³⁰ The LORD said to Jehu, 'Because you have done well in accomplishing what is right in my eyes and have done to the house of Ahab all I had in mind to do, your descendants will sit on the throne of Israel to the fourth generation.' ³¹ Yet Jehu was not careful to keep the law of the LORD, the God of Israel, with all his heart. He did not turn away from the sins of Jeroboam, which he had caused Israel to commit. (NIV)

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TEACHER:

We are going to read a line 1st, and then I will explain some palace intrigue.

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STUDENT:

When Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she proceeded to destroy the whole royal family. ² But Jehosheba, the daughter of King Jehoram and sister of Ahaziah, took Joash son of Ahaziah and stole him away from among the royal princes, who were about to be murdered. She put him and his nurse in a bedroom to hide him from Athaliah; so he was not killed. ³ He remained hidden with his nurse at the temple of the LORD for six years while Athaliah ruled the land. (NIV)

=====

TEACHER:

Athaliah was evil. She was the daughter of the late Queen Jezebel and King Ahab. She was very devoted to the Phoenician gods of her mother. Baal and Ashtaroht. When her son died, Athaliah purposes in her heart to kill all of David's line. She almost succeeds. 1 child is rescued. The child is raised by the priests in the temple. She reigns with an iron fist. During the yearly feast when the boy reached the age of 7, the high priest revealed him to the people at the feast, and crowned him king. The boy would rule for 40 years, rebuilding the House of God, and Jehoiada the High Priest lived to 130 years old. In his old age, the boy king back slid and Israel was thrown into chaos again. But 1st, let's go back to Joash as a young king.

=====

STUDENT:

Joash became king of Judah. It was in the seventh year of Jehu's rule. Joash ruled in Jerusalem for 40 years. His mother's name was Zibiah. She was from Beersheba. ² Joash did what was right in the eyes of the LORD. Joash lived that way as long as Jehoiada the priest was teaching him. ³ But the high places weren't removed. The people continued to offer sacrifices and burn incense there. (NIRV New International Readers Version)

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TEACHER:

In chapter 13 of 2nd Kings, we have Elisha's swan song.

CH. 10

CH. 11

CH. 12

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STUDENT:

CH. 13

¹⁴ Elisha had been suffering from a sickness. Later he would die from it. Jehoash, the king of Israel, went down to see him. Jehoash wept over him. "My father!" he cried. "You are like a father to me! You, Elisha, are the true chariots and horsemen of Israel!"

¹⁵ Elisha said to Jehoash, "Get a bow and some arrows." So he did. ¹⁶ "Hold the bow in your hands," Elisha said to the king of Israel. So Jehoash took hold of the bow. Then Elisha put his hands on the king's hands.

¹⁷ "Open the east window," Elisha said. So he did. "Shoot!" Elisha said. So he shot. "That's the LORD's arrow!" Elisha announced. "It means you will win the battle over Aram! You will completely destroy the men of Aram at Aphek." ¹⁸ Elisha continued, "Get some arrows." So the king did. Elisha told him, "Strike the ground." Jehoash struck it three times. Then he stopped. ¹⁹ The man of God was angry with him. He said, "You should have struck the ground five or six times. Then you would have won the war over Aram. You would have completely destroyed them. But now you will win only three battles over them." ²⁰ Elisha died and was buried. (NIRV)

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TEACHER:

Jehoash did go on to win 3 battles, but Aram would be a problem for some time yet. Israel would languish fighting each other, and everyone around them.

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STUDENT:

CH. 14

²⁶ The LORD had seen how much everyone in Israel was suffering. It didn't matter whether they were slaves or free. They didn't have anyone to help them. ²⁷ The LORD hadn't said he would wipe out Israel's name from the earth. So he saved them by the power of Jeroboam, the son of Jehoash. (NIV)

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TEACHER:

One king after another, one failure after another in chapter 15. 2 exceptions. Uzziah, and Jotham. But neither ended the high places or the incense. We see this quite a bit in Israel's history. "High Places." Does anyone know what they are? High places were towers built for the worship of gods from the surrounding territories. People would offer sacrifices and burn incense to different gods for crops, rain, or personal needs. They were evil.

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CH. 15

STUDENT:

³³ Jotham was 25 years old when he became king. He ruled in Jerusalem for 16 years. His mother's name was Jerusha. She was the daughter of Zadok. ³⁴ Jotham did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, just as his father Uzziah had done. ³⁵ But the high places weren't removed. The people continued to offer sacrifices and burn incense there. Jotham rebuilt the Upper Gate of the LORD's temple. (NIRV)

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TEACHER:

Chapter 16 starts with a particularly evil king.

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STUDENT:

CH. 16

² Ahaz was 20 years old when he became king. He ruled in Jerusalem for 16 years. Ahaz didn't do what was right in the eyes of the LORD his God. He didn't do what King David had done. ³ He followed the ways of the kings of Israel. He even sacrificed his son in the fire to another god. He followed the practices of the nations. The LORD hated those practices. He had driven out those nations to make room for the Israelites. ⁴ Ahaz offered sacrifices and burned incense at the high places. He also did it on the tops of hills and under every green tree. (NIRV)

TEACHER:

In chapter 17 Hoshea becomes king of Israel. He would be their last. The following page contains 2 charts. These are all the northern and southern kings in order after the kingdom is divided, with references. As you can see the northern tribes are carried off to Assyria by the end of chapter 17. The kingdom of Judah in the south would hold fast until chapter 24. Why did this happen?

STUDENT:

CH. 17

⁷ All of this took place because the Israelites had sinned against the LORD their God. He had brought them up out of Egypt. He had brought them out from under the power of Pharaoh, the king of Egypt. But they worshiped other gods. ⁸ The LORD had driven out other nations to make room for Israel. But they followed the evil practices of those nations. They also followed the practices that the kings of Israel had started. (NIV)

Kings of Israel (Northern Kingdom)			
Kings	Yrs. of Reign	Dates B.C.	Biblical Reference
Jeroboam I	22	976-954	1 Kings 11:26 - 14:20
Nadab	2	954-953	1 Kings 15:25-28
Baasha	24	953-930	1 Kings 15:27 - 16:7
Elah	2	930-929	1 Kings 16:6-14
Zimri	(7 days)	929	1 Kings 16:9-20
Omri	12	929-918	1 Kings 16:15-28
Ahab	21	918-898	1 Kings 16:28 - 22:40
Ahaziah	1	898-897	1 Kings 22:40 - 2 Kings 1:18
Jehoram (Joram)	11	897-885	2 Kings 3:1 - 9:25
Jehu	28	885-857	2 Kings 9:1 - 10:36
Jehoahaz (Joahaz)	16	857-841	2 Kings 13:1-9
Jehoash (Joash)	16	841-825	2 Kings 13:10 - 14:16
Jeroboam II	40	825-773	2 Kings 14:23-29
Zechariah	1/2	773-772	2 Kings 14:29 - 15:12
Shallum	(1 month)	772	2 Kings 15:10-15
Menahem	10	772-762	2 Kings 15:14-22
Pekahiah	2	762-760	2 Kings 15:22-26
Pekah	20	760-740	2 Kings 15:27-31
Hoshea	9	740-731	2 Kings 15:30 - 17:6

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Kings of Judah (Southern Kingdom)			
Kings	Yrs. of Reign	Dates B.C.	Biblical Reference
Rehoboam	17	976-959	1 Kings 11:42 - 14:31
Abijah	3	959-956	1 Kings 14:31 - 15:8
Asa	41	956-915	1 Kings 15:8-24
Jehoshaphat	25	915-893	1 Kings 22:41-50
Jehoram (Joram)	8	893-886	2 Kings 8:16-24
Ahaziah	1	886-885	2 Kings 8:24 - 9:29
Athaliah (Queen)	6	885-879	2 Kings 11:1-20
Joash (Jehoash)	40	879-840	2 Kings 11:1 - 12:21
Amaziah	29	840-811	2 Kings 14:1-20
Uzziah (Azariah)	52	811-759	2 Kings 15:1-7
Jotham	18	759-743	2 Kings 15:32-38
Ahaz	19	743-727	2 Kings 16:1-20
Hezekiah	29	727-698	2 Kings 18:1 - 20:21
Manasseh	55	698-643	2 Kings 21:1-18
Amon	2	643-640	2 Kings 21:19-26
Josiah (Josias)	31	640-609	2 Kings 22:1 - 23:30
Jehoahaz (Joahaz)	(3 months)	609	2 Kings 23:31-33
Jehoiakim	11	609-597	2 Kings 23:34 - 24:5
Jehoiachin	(3 months)	597	2 Kings 24:6-16
Zedekiah	11	597-586	2 Kings 24:17 - 25:30

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TEACHER:

In chapter 17 we see a very patient God with a broken heart.

STUDENT:

They turned away from all the commands of the LORD their God. They made two statues of gods for themselves. The statues were shaped like calves. They made a pole used to worship the female god named Asherah. They bowed down to all the stars. And they worshiped the god named Baal. ¹⁷ They sacrificed their sons and daughters in the fire. They practiced all kinds of evil magic. They gave up following God's rules. They did only what was evil in the eyes of the LORD. All these things made him very angry.

¹⁸ So the LORD was very angry with Israel. He removed them from his land. Only the tribe of Judah was left. ¹⁹ And even Judah didn't obey the commands of the LORD their God. They followed the practices Israel had started. ²⁰ So the LORD turned his back on all the people of Israel. He made them suffer. He handed them over to people who stole everything they had. And finally he threw them out of his land. (NIRV)

TEACHER:

The result of Israel's practices?

STUDENT:

⁴⁰ But the people wouldn't listen. Instead, they were stubborn. They continued in their old practices. ⁴¹ They worshiped the LORD. But at the same time, they served the statues of their gods. And to this day their children and grandchildren continue to do what their people before them did. (NIRV)

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TEACHER:

With the northern kingdom gone in exile to Assyria, and the land populated with Assyrians, Judah is alone. Much like we see today, Jerusalem surrounded by their enemies. In chapter 18 of 2nd Kings, we have a good king. Finally. 13 generations after David. Finally.

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STUDENT:

CH. 18 Hezekiah began to rule as king over Judah. It was in the third year that Hoshea was king of Israel. He was the son of Elah. Hezekiah was the son of Ahaz. ² Hezekiah was 25 years old when he became king. He ruled in Jerusalem for 29 years. His mother's name was Abijah. She was the daughter of Zechariah. ³ Hezekiah did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, just as King David had done. ⁴ Hezekiah removed the high places. He smashed the sacred stones. He cut down the poles used to worship the female god named Asherah. He broke into pieces the bronze snake Moses had made. Up to that time the Israelites had been burning incense to it. They called it Nehushtan. (NIRV)

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TEACHER:



This picture is the seal from the reign of Hezekiah found in Israel in 2010.

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STUDENT:

⁵ Hezekiah trusted in the LORD, the God of Israel. There was no one like Hezekiah among all the kings of Judah. There was no king like him either before him or after him. ⁶ Hezekiah remained faithful to the LORD. He didn't stop serving him. He obeyed the commands the LORD had given Moses. ⁷ The LORD was with Hezekiah. Because of that, Hezekiah was successful in everything he did. He refused to remain under the control of the king of Assyria. He didn't serve him. ⁸ He won the war against the Philistines. He won battles at their lookout towers. He won battles at their cities that had high walls around them. He won battles against the Philistines all the way to Gaza and its territory. (NIRV)

=====

TEACHER:

Hezekiah would rule in Judah as a vassal king to Assyria from the time he took the throne at 25 years old, until he died 29 years later at 54. Israel covered a much smaller area than before. He repaired the temple and promoted Godly worship. One thing he did that was clever was to divert the water from Gihon spring to inside the city walls, creating a water source inside the city. Hundreds of years later Jesus would be walking by this water, called the pool of Siloam and healed a man, who was laying there for 38 years, hoping for an angel to stir the water in John chapter 5. Jerusalem is surrounded by Sennacherib's army and turns to Isaiah the prophet.

=====

CH. 19

STUDENT:

King Hezekiah's officials came to Isaiah. ⁶ Then Isaiah said to them, "Tell your master, 'The LORD says, "Do not be afraid of what you have heard. The officers of the king of Assyria have spoken evil things against me. ⁷ Listen! I will send him news from his own country. It will make him want to return home. There I will have him killed by a sword." ' " (NIRV)

TEACHER:

The army of Sennacherib goes back home to defend against an enemy army from Cush, but sends a letter to Hezekiah that they will return. Hezekiah takes the letter to the Lord. He lays it out on the altar, and prays.

STUDENT:

Then he went up to the LORD's temple. There he spread the letter out in front of the LORD. ¹⁵ Hezekiah prayed to the LORD. He said, "LORD, you are the God of Israel. You sit on your throne between the cherubim. You alone are God over all the kingdoms on earth. You have made heaven and earth. ¹⁶ Listen, LORD. Hear us. Open your eyes, LORD. Look at the trouble we're in. Listen to what Sennacherib is saying. You are the living God. And he dares to make fun of you! (NIRV)

TEACHER:

The answer comes to Hezekiah through the prophet Isaiah.
Sennacherib will fall. And he does.
Killed by his own sons as he worshipped the false god Nisrok.

STUDENT:

³⁵ That night the angel of the LORD went into the camp of the Assyrians. He put to death 185,000 people there. The people of Jerusalem got up the next morning and looked out at the camp. There were all the dead bodies! (NIRV)

These are seals from Isaiah and Hezekiah found recently in Israel.



TEACHER:

Chapter 20 finds Hezekiah very ill.

CH. 20

STUDENT:

In those days Hezekiah became very sick. He was about to die. Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz, went to him. Isaiah told Hezekiah, "The LORD says, 'Put everything in order. Make out your will. You are going to die soon. You will not get well again.'"

² Hezekiah turned his face toward the wall. He prayed to the LORD. He said, ³ "LORD, please remember how faithful I've been to you. I've lived the way you wanted me to. I've served you with all my heart. I've done what is good in your sight." And Hezekiah wept bitterly. (NIRV)

TEACHER:

Hezekiah poured his heart out to the Lord, and the Lord heard him.

STUDENT:

⁴ Isaiah was leaving the middle courtyard. Before he had left it, a message came to him from the LORD. He said, ⁵ "Go back and speak to Hezekiah. He is the ruler of my people. Tell him, 'The LORD, the God of King David, says, "I have heard your prayer. I have seen your tears. And I will heal you. On the third day from now you will go up to my temple. ⁶ I will add 15 years to your life. And I will save you and this city from the power of the king of Assyria. I will guard this city. I will do it for myself. And I will do it for my servant David."'" (NIRV)

TEACHER:

God diverts the laws of physics.

STUDENT:

"The LORD will do what he has promised. Here is his sign to you. Do you want the shadow the sun makes to go forward ten steps? Or do you want it to go back ten steps?"

¹⁰ "It's easy for the shadow to go forward ten steps," said Hezekiah. "So have it go back ten steps."

¹¹ Then Isaiah the prophet called out to the LORD. And the LORD made the shadow go back ten steps. It went back the ten steps it had gone down on the stairway Ahaz had made. (NIRV)

TEACHER:

Hezekiah dies 15 years later and his son Manasseh rules in his stead, and he is an evil king.

STUDENT:

Manasseh was 12 years old when he became king. He ruled in Jerusalem for 55 years. His mother's name was Hephzibah. ² Manasseh did what was evil in the eyes of the LORD. He followed the practices of the nations. The LORD hated those practices. He had driven those nations out to make room for the Israelites. ³ Manasseh rebuilt the high places. His father Hezekiah had destroyed them. Manasseh also set up altars to the god named Baal. He made a pole used to worship the female god named Asherah. Ahab, the king of Israel, had done those same things. Manasseh even bowed down to all the stars. And he worshiped them. ⁴ He built altars in the LORD's temple. The LORD had said about his temple, "I will put my Name there in Jerusalem." ⁵ In the two courtyards of the LORD's temple Manasseh built altars to honor all the stars. ⁶ He sacrificed his own son in the fire to another god. He practiced all kinds of evil magic. He got messages from those who had died. He talked to the spirits of the dead. He did many things that were evil in the eyes of the LORD. Manasseh made the LORD very angry. (NIRV)

TEACHER: God speaks against the king and Jerusalem.

CH. 21

=====

STUDENT:

I will wipe out Jerusalem, just as someone wipes a dish. I will wipe it and turn it upside down. ¹⁴ I will desert those who remain among my people. I will hand them over to their enemies. All their enemies will rob them. ¹⁵ That's because my people have done what is evil in my sight. They have made me very angry. They have done that from the day their own people came out of Egypt until this day.' " (NIRV)

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TEACHER:

Manasseh dies, his son Amon rules for 2 years and was murdered in the palace and his son Josiah ruled next. Josiah was 8 years old when he became king and served God well. During his reign the book of the law was found.

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STUDENT:

CH. 22

The king heard the words of the Book of the Law. When he did, he tore his royal robes..... "Go. Ask the LORD for advice. Ask him about what is written in this book that has been found. Do it for me. Also do it for the people and the whole nation of Judah. The LORD is very angry with us. That's because our people who have lived before us didn't obey the words of this book. They didn't do everything written there about us." (NIRV)

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TEACHER:

King Josiah throws himself on the mercy of the court. He lays prostrate before God, knowing he is the king of a back-sliding group of people, and he is ashamed. When we are standing before God, and we are in the wrong, that is the only offering we can provide. A humble and contrite heart. Repentance. And it works. We have one big advantage over the unrepentant, God wants to forgive. He loves honest repentance. This is the hallmark or standard of Christianity. That in order for our Christianity to be authentic, it must be voluntary, and sincere. King Josiah's repentance was.

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STUDENT:

'The LORD is the God of Israel. He has a message for you about the things you heard. He says, ¹⁹ "Your heart was tender. You made yourself humble in the eyes of the LORD. You heard what I spoke against this place and its people. I said they would be under a curse. I told them they would be destroyed. You tore your royal robes and wept in front of me. And I have heard you," announces the LORD. ²⁰ "You will join the members of your family who have already died. You will be buried in peace. Your eyes will not see all the trouble I am going to bring on this place." ' " (NIRV)

=====

TEACHER:

King Josiah gathers all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem. All the Priests and all the prophets as well. The king then had all the book of the law (Leviticus) read to them.

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STUDENT:

CH. 23

³ The king stood next to his pillar. He agreed to the terms of the covenant in front of the LORD. The king promised to serve the LORD and obey his commands, directions and rules. He promised to obey them with all his heart and with all his soul. So he agreed to the terms of the covenant written down in that book. Then all the people committed themselves to the covenant as well. (NIRV)

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TEACHER:

Josiah thoroughly purged Jerusalem and Judah of everything and everyone that opposed Levitical law. Ultimately Josiah dies in battle, killed by Pharaoh Necho. In chapter 24 Nebuchadnezzar marches into the land and attacks it. Nebuchadnezzar took 10,000 prisoners. All the aristocrats and skilled labor, leaving the poorest and weakest behind.

STUDENT:

CH. 24

The total number of prisoners was 10,000. Only the poorest people were left in the land.

¹⁵ Nebuchadnezzar took Jehoiachin to Babylon as his prisoner. He also took the king's mother from Jerusalem to Babylon. And he took Jehoiachin's wives, his officials and the most important people of the land. ¹⁶ The king also forced the whole army of 7,000 soldiers to go away to the land of Babylon. Those men were strong and able to go to war. And the king forced 1,000 skilled workers to go to Babylon. (NIRV)

TEACHER:

Nebuchadnezzar takes Jerusalem and Judah, and places a puppet named Mattaniah king in his place and renamed him Zedekiah. After a brief period he rebels against Babylonian rule, and Nebuchadnezzar surrounds the city for 2 full years plus. They starved the city out. When the army fled, Zedekiah fled as well. He was eventually captured near Jericho and brought to Nebuchadnezzar for punishment.

STUDENT:

CH. 25

⁶ The king was captured. He was taken to the king of Babylon at Riblah. That's where Nebuchadnezzar decided how he would be punished. ⁷ Nebuchadnezzar's men killed the sons of Zedekiah. They forced him to watch it with his own eyes. Then they poked out his eyes. They put him in bronze chains. And they took him to Babylon. (NIRV)

NEXT LESSON 1 & 2 CHRONICLES

"Lord open our eyes so we can see."

2 Kings 6:17

The following is a cut and paste I found researching secular information on Ahab and Omri. The Moabite Stone.

Certain aspects of the Moabite Stone inscription agree with the only one other contemporary historical source, namely 2 Kings 3. According to 2 Kings 3:4, Mesha was subjugated under Ahab. Then, "when Ahab died, the king of Moab rebelled against the king of Israel" (2 Kings 3:5). Subsequently, Joram, son of Ahab, attacked Moab: "When the Moabites came to Israel's camp, the Israelites rose up and struck down the Moabites. The Moabites fled from before them. They went forth into the land, slaughtering the Moabites" (2 Kings 3:24). In other words, the Moabites were suppressed by ancient Israel during the reigns of Omri (c. 885-874 BCE), Ahab (874-853 BCE), and Joram (854-841 BCE).

Detail of the stone



the full stone.



Below is the actual text from the stone.

[1] I am Mesha, the son of Kemoš-yatti, the king of Moab, from Dibon. My father was king over Moab for thirty years, and I was king after my father.

[2] And in Karchoh I made this high place for Kemoš [...] because he has delivered me from all kings, and because he has made me look down on all my enemies.

[3] Omri was the king of Israel, and he oppressed Moab for many days, for Kemoš was angry with his land. And his son succeeded him, and he said - he too - "I will oppress Moab!" In my days he did so, but I looked down on him and on his house, and Israel has gone to ruin, yes, it has gone to ruin for ever!

[4] Omri had taken possession of the whole land of Medeba and he lived there in his days and half the days of his son, forty years, but Kemoš restored it in my days. And I built Ba'al Meon, and I made in it a water reservoir, and I built Kiriathaim.

[6] And the men of Gad lived in the land of Ataroth from ancient times, and the king of Israel built Ataroth for himself, and I fought against the city, and I captured, and I killed all the people from the city as a sacrifice for Kemoš and for Moab, and I brought back the fire-hearth of [Daudoh] from there, and I hauled it before the face of Kemoš in Kerioth, and I made the men of Sharon live there, as well as the men of Maharith.

[7] And Kemoš said to me: "Go, take Nebo from Israel!" And I went in the night, and I fought against it from the break of dawn until noon, and I took it, and I killed its whole population, seven thousand male citizens and aliens, female citizens and aliens, and servant girls; for I had put it to the ban of Aštar Kemoš. And from there, I took the vessels of YHWH, and I hauled them before the face of Kemoš.

[8] And the king of Israel had built Jahaz, and he stayed there during his campaigns against me, and Kemoš drove him away before my face, and I took two hundred men from Moab, all its division, and I led it up to Jahaz. And I have taken it in order to add it to Dibon.

[9] I have built Karchoh, the wall of the woods and the wall of the citadel, and I have built its gates, and I have built its towers, and I have built the house of the king, and I have made the double reservoir for the spring, in the innermost of the city. Now, there was no cistern in the innermost of the city, in Karchoh, and I said to all the people: "Make, each one of you, a cistern in his house." And I cut out the moat for Karchoh by means of prisoners from Israel.

[10] I have built Aroer, and I made the military road in the Arnon. I have built Beth Bamoth, for it had been destroyed. I have built Bezer, for it lay in ruins.

[11] And the men of Dibon stood in battle-order, for all Dibon, they were in subjection. And I am the king over hundreds in the towns which I have added to the land.

[12] And I have built the House of Medeba and the House of Diblathaim, and the House of Ba'al Meon, and I brought there [...] the flocks of the land.

[13] And Horonaim, there lived [...]. And Kemoš said to me: "Go down, fight against Horonaim!" I went down [...] and Kemoš restored it in my days. And [...] from there [...]

[14] And I [...]

(from "The Stela of Mesha," at Livius.org) Search the great site where I found this. Wonderful people.
[https://www.ancient.eu/Moabite_Stone_\[Mesha_Stele\]/](https://www.ancient.eu/Moabite_Stone_[Mesha_Stele]/)

