### 2 Kings

## Chapter 13

1Meanwhile, it was in the 23rd year of King JehoAsh (son of AhaziAh) of Judah that JehoAhaz (Jehu’s son) started reigning in Samaria [over the 10-tribes of IsraEl], and he ruled there for 17 years.  
  
2However, he acted wickedly in the eyes of Jehovah, because he continued in the sins of JeroBoam (son of NaBat) who first led IsraEl into sin... 3So this provoked Jehovah’s rage against IsraEl, and he put them into the hands of King HazaEl of Syria and his son BenHader during that portion of the reign of JehoAhaz.  
  
4However, JehoAhaz then went before the face of [Jehovah to beg for help], and Jehovah listened to him, because He’d seen how badly the king of Syria was oppressing the people of IsraEl... 5So thereafter, Jehovah freed IsraEl from bondage to Syria, and the sons of IsraEl could [once again] sit in their tents in peace as they had in the past.  
  
6However, they continued in the sins of the house of JeroBoam, and they once again set up sacred poles in Samaria.  
  
  
7Meanwhile, JehoAhaz wasn’t left with much of an army.  
  
All he had was:  
  
 • 50 cavalrymen,  
 • 10 chariots, and  
 • 10,000 infantry...  
  
...because the king of Syria had considered them as dirt to be trampled on.  
  
8All the rest of the things that JehoAhaz said and did, and the area of his rulership, are written about in the scrolls of The Days of the Kings of IsraEl.  
  
9Then [King] JehoAhaz [of IsraEl] went to sleep with his ancestors and they buried him in a tomb in Samaria, and his son JehoAsh started ruling in place of him 10(this happened in the 37th year of the reign of King JehoAsh of Judah).  
  
  
And thereafter, JehoAsh (son of JehoAhaz) ruled IsraEl from Samaria for the next 16 years. 11However, he also acted wickedly in the eyes of Jehovah, because he didn’t remove the sins of JeroBoam (son of NaBat), who had first led IsraEl into sin.  
  
12All the rest of the things that JehoAsh said and did, and the stories of his conquests with King AmaziAh of Judah have been written about in the scrolls of The Days of the Kings of IsraEl. 13Then JehoAsh went to sleep with his ancestors, and JeroBoam succeeded him on the throne. So they buried him in a tomb in Samaria with the sons of IsraEl.  
  
  
14[However, before that, the Prophet] EliSha got very sick and was about to die, so King JehoAsh of IsraEl went to see him and cried in his face, saying:  
  
 ‘O father, O father… The chariot of IsraEl and his horseman!’  
  
15Then EliSha said to him:  
  
 ‘Go get your bow and some arrows.’  
  
So he got his bow and some arrows, 16and EliSha told him:  
  
 ‘Now, lift the bow!’  
  
And [King] JehoAsh raised his bow.  
  
Then EliSha placed his hands on the hands of the king and said:  
  
 17‘Now, open the window that faces east!’  
  
And he opened it.  
  
Then EliSha said:  
  
 ‘Now shoot!’  
  
And he shot. Then EliSha said:  
  
 ‘This is the arrow of the salvation of Jehovah and the arrow of deliverance from Syria!  
  
 ‘For you’ll keep attacking Syria at Aphek until you’ve won!’  
  
18And then EliSha told him:  
  
 ‘Now, pick up the bow again!’  
  
So he picked it up.  
  
Then he said to King [JehoAsh] of IsraEl:  
  
 ‘Shoot into the ground!’  
  
So the king shot three arrows into the ground… And then he stopped, 19which upset the man of God and made him angry, for he said:  
  
 ‘If you would have struck the ground five or six times, you would have attacked Syria and finished them off!  
  
 ‘But now you’ll have to fight and conquer them three times!’  
  
20Well shortly thereafter, [the Prophet] EliSha died, and they buried him in a tomb.  
  
Then the next year, the land was invaded by armed bands of MoAbites... 21And it was during a funeral procession that {Look!} the people saw one of these armed bands of MoAbites coming! So they simply threw the body of the dead man into the tomb of EliSha, and when it touched EliSha’s bones, the man came back to life and stood up on his feet!  
  
  
22Meanwhile, throughout the reign of [King] JehoAhaz [of Israel], [King] HazaEl [of Syria] kept on squeezing IsraEl. 23However, Jehovah showed mercy on IsraEl…  
  
He pitied them and watched over them because of the promises that He’d made to AbraHam, IsaAc, and Jacob, and He didn’t allow them to be destroyed or to be torn from before His face.  
  
24Then King HazaEl of Syria died, and his son BenHader started reigning in his place... 25And that’s when [King] JehoAsh (son of JehoAhaz) [of IsraEl] recovered his cities from the hands of BenHader (son of HazaEl), who had taken them from the hands of his father JehoAhaz in the war.  
  
However, JehoAsh had to attack him three times before he finally returned the cities to IsraEl.