Lesson Date ______________

The Reigns of Hazael and Jehoram

2Kings 8:1-29

INTRODUCTION: We enter into a time of confusion in the kingdoms of Israel and Judah. Because of their sins, God had judged them with defeat at the hand of the Syrians and famine in the land. Yet, they did not return to the Lord. This time, Judah does not escape, for the good king Jehoshaphat had become such good friends with the kingly line of Israel that the families intermarried. This brought further wickedness into the house of Judah and will in future lessons bring judgment as well. This chapter stands as a warning against compromise with the world. However, in the restoration of land to the woman whose son was restored to life, we see that God continues to watch over those who are faithful to Him. May the Lord help us to be found faithful in these last days.

I. THE RESTORATION OF THE WOMAN’S LAND (2Kings 8:1-6)

A. Her Preservation in the Time of Famine (2Kings 8:1-2)

1. Elisha’s advice (2Kings 8:1)
   a. To the woman whose son had been restored to life (2Kings 4:32-35)
   b. For her and her household
   c. That she should sojourn in another land

2. The famine (2Kings 8:1)
   a. Called for by the Lord (Genesis 41:25)
   b. To last for seven years (Genesis 41:27; 2Samuel 24:13)

3. Her obedience (2Kings 8:2)
   a. She did after the saying of the man of God.
   b. She sojourned with the Philistines for seven years.

B. Her Return to the Land of Israel (2Kings 8:3)

1. She returned at the end of seven years.
2. She went to the king to plead for her house and land.

C. Her identification by the Servant Gehazi (2Kings 8:4-5)

1. The king’s audience with Gehazi (2Kings 8:4)
   a. The former servant of Elisha
   b. The recipient of Naaman’s leprosy

2. The king’s request for stories of Elisha (2Kings 8:4; compare Luke 23:8)
3. Gehazi’s story of the son brought back to life (2Kings 8:5)
4. The woman’s arrival to plead for her land (2Kings 8:5)
5. The woman’s identification by Gehazi (2Kings 8:5)
6. Note: This is one of God’s coincidences that is much more than a coincidence (Psalm 31:15; Proverbs 21:1; Romans 8:28).

D. Her Recovery of All That Was Hers (2Kings 8:6)

1. The appointment of a special officer
2. The restoration of all that was hers
3. The restoration of all that was lost

II. THE RECOVERY AND DEATH OF BENHADAD (2Kings 8:7-15)

A. Benhadad Requested Information of Elisha (2Kings 8:7-10).

1. The setting (2Kings 8:7-8)
   a. Elisha came to Damascus (2Kings 8:7); Note: Benhadad could not force him into Syria with an army (2Kings 6:13), but Elisha came freely when it was the will of the Lord.
   b. Benhadad was sick (2Kings 8:7); Note: the one who was a menace because he could tell the future became desired because he could tell the future.
   c. Benhadad sent Hazael to Elisha (2Kings 8:8).
      (1) With a present in his hand
      (2) To inquire concerning his recovery from the disease
2. The obedience of Hazael (2Kings 8:9)
   a. He took a present of forty camels’ burden of good things.
   b. He asked Elisha concerning the recovery of Benhadad.
3. The answer of Elisha (2Kings 8:10)
   a. Benhadad will recover of his disease.
   b. Benhadad will surely die.

B. Elisha Prophesied Concerning Hazael (2Kings 8:11-13).

1. The weeping of the prophet (2Kings 8:11)
   a. He settled his countenance stedfastly; that is, he fought back the tears and kept a straight face.
   b. Until he was ashamed; Note: he recognized that it was wrong for him to hide his sorrow. How can we apply this?
   c. He wept before Hazael.
2. The revelation of the cause of weeping (2Kings 8:12)
   a. At the request of Hazael
   b. Concerning the evil actions of Hazael toward Israel
3. The denial of Hazael (2Kings 8:13)
   a. How could he do such a thing?
   b. He will become king of Syria.
C. Hazael Usurped the Throne of Benhadad (2Kings 8:14-15).

1. Hazael reported to Benhadad only of his recovery (2Kings 8:14).
2. Hazael took a wet cloth and suffocated Benhadad (2Kings 8:15).
3. Hazael reigned in the place of Benhadad (2Kings 8:15).

III. THE REIGN OF JEHORAM OVER JUDAH (2Kings 8:16-24)

A. Jehoram Became King in Judah (2Kings 8:16-17).

1. In the fifth year of Joram king of Israel (2Kings 8:16)
2. He began to reign at the age of 32 (2Kings 8:17).
3. He reigned in Jerusalem for eight years (2Kings 8:17).

B. Jehoram Was Wicked in His Reign (2Kings 8:18-19).

1. He walked in the ways of the kings of Israel (2Kings 8:18).
   a. Though he was of Judah
   b. Because he had married the daughter of Ahab
2. He did evil in the sight of the Lord (2Kings 8:18).
3. Judah was spared (2Kings 8:19).
   a. For the sake of David the servant of the Lord
   b. Because of God’s promise to give him “always a light”


1. They made a king over themselves (2Kings 8:20).
2. Joram defeated them in battle (2Kings 8:21).
4. And Libnah revolted with them (2Kings 8:22).


IV. THE REIGN OF AHAZIAH OVER JUDAH (2Kings 8:25-29)

A. Ahaziah Became King in Judah (2Kings 8:25-26).

1. In the twelfth year of Joram of Israel (2Kings 8:25)
2. He began to reign at the age of 22 (2Kings 8:26).
3. He reigned for one year in Jerusalem (2Kings 8:26).
4. Note: the parallel passage (2Chronicles 22:2) says that Ahaziah was 42 years old when he began to reign.
   a. Biologically, it does not seem that he could be 42 since his father was only 40 when he died (2Kings 8:16-17). However, this does not mean that the Bible is in error.
b. Two ages mean that his age is looked at in two different ways. One of them was probably his biological age while the other was computed in some other fashion. The other way would have to give him officially the age of someone else. Of course, there would have to be someone whose age could be or could have been 42 at the time and a person who would have cause to be connected with him.

c. To seek this person, read carefully 2Chronicles 22:2 – “Forty and two years old was Ahaziah when he began to reign, and he reigned one year in Jerusalem. His mother’s name also was Athaliah the daughter of Omri.” We see here the beginning of Ahaziah’s reign closely connected with his mother Athaliah. Is there any reason to suspect that she would want him to officially claim her age? Let us look at the evidence.

(1) In the kings of Israel and Judah, we notice that the mothers of the kings played a prominent role in the kingdom and were even called queens. Asa removed his mother from being queen (1Kings 15:13).

(2) Athaliah was the daughter of Ahab. If she could connect herself to the reign of her son Ahaziah, she might be able to bring the kingdom of Judah under authority to the kingdom of Israel.

(3) That this was her plan is seen in her destruction of the royal seed of Judah when Ahaziah died (2Kings 11:1). She thought she had killed all the kingly line of Judah. During her reign of six years, the kingdom of Judah was controlled by the daughter of Ahab, king of Israel. The kingdom had changed lines. Notice also 2Kings 8:27 and notes below.

(4) We do not have an exact age for Athaliah, but her husband was forty years old when he died and Ahaziah came to the throne. It would be easy for Athaliah his wife to be 42 at this time. The use of her age for Ahaziah would be a way for her to replace the kingdom of Judah with her own corrupt line. Another possibility is that he was given his uncle Ahaziah’s age (1Kings 22:51-53). This was Athaliah’s brother.

(5) Though we do not have an exact statement from scripture teaching this reason for Ahaziah’s age, it makes perfect sense and leaves the Bible written as God has given it to us. Also, it is not a new approach. John Gill, in his 17th century exposition of the Bible, taught this interpretation. Other approaches are possible, but this one proves the possibility of believing the Bible even in the difficult spots.

B. Ahaziah Was Wicked in His Reign (2Kings 8:27).

1. He walked in the way of the house of Ahab.
2. He did evil in the sight of the Lord as did Ahab.
3. He was son-in-law to the house of Ahab; this is a powerful connection.

C. Ahaziah Fought with Joram against Syria (2Kings 8:28-29).
1. He fought with the son of Ahab against Hazael of Syria (2Kings 8:28).
2. He went to see Joram of Israel because he was sick (2Kings 8:29).

CONCLUSION:

MEMORY VERSES:

✡ STAR [Story, Theme, Application, Resources]

- STORY –
- THEME
- APPLICATION
- RESOURCES