

BOOK OF 2 KINGS
STILL REPEATING PAST MISTAKES
2 KINGS 13:1-13

Introduction

Last week I mentioned we would be looking at **JEHOASH'S** son **AMAZIAH** this week, but I got a little ahead of myself. Now **AMAZIAH** is the next king mentioned in *2 Chronicles* where we spent most of our time last week when we were looking at **JEHOASH'S** reign over Judah in *2 Kings*.
(But remember, 2 Chronicles had more detail on JEHOASH that I wanted us to see so we spent most of our time there!)

However, our study is the book of *2 Kings* and in *2 Kings 13*, the story switches from the southern kings of Judah back to the northern kings of Israel or Samaria. We will get to **AMAZIAH** when it switches back in *2 Kings 14*.

But for now, our study switches back to the history of the northern kings of Israel as we look at two more northerners that didn't have a clue!

Do you remember how many kings in the northern kingdom that we've seen who did right in the sight of the LORD? (Well out of 11 kings, "NONE!")

This all goes back to the sins of **JEROBOAM** who got the northern kingdom of Israel started out on the wrong foot with God and they continued that way!

Remember **JEROBOAM** set up calf worship for the people in the cities of *Bethel* and *Dan* in Israel. He did this to keep the people from going to the Temple in Jerusalem to worship! He was afraid that the people's hearts would turn back and be reunited with the southern kingdom! (*1 Kings 12:28-33*)

So that is where it all began! Just after the split of the kingdom! And each king after Jeroboam continued in his idolatrous ways which brought the judgment of God against every one of them! But they continued repeating the mistakes of the past! (*Did you ever know anyone like that?*)

Have you heard the definition of insanity? "*Insanity is repeating the same mistakes and expecting different results.*" Or, "*Doing the same thing over and over and getting the same result, but expecting a different one!*" (It is a quote that has been attributed to Albert Einstein, Mark Twain and even Benjamin Franklin but there is no evidence that any of them said it.)

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Actually, I read where the "*definition of insanity*" quote first appeared in 1981, in a document published by *Narcotics Anonymous*. It was supposed to be a sort of guide book for addicts trying to overcome their addictions. It warned its readers that, "*insanity is repeating the same mistakes and expecting different results.*"

i.e. Narcotics Anonymous was trying to convince its members that continuing to use narcotic drugs and expecting to be able to stop on their own was folly!

Well, I actually think the idea behind the quote was from the *Hee Haw Show*! Remember someone would go to the doctor's office and say:

"Doctor, Doctor, it hurts when I do this!" and the doctor would say,
"Well don't do that!" That's the same principle! Sort of!

Here in this chapter we see two more kings that just didn't get why things were going so bad for Israel! When in reality, their problem was the same problem of the eleven or so previous kings of Israel! And the LORD sent them prophets to tell them so! But they didn't get it!

They kept choosing idolatry and idol worship over the worship and obedience to the LORD thinking that the kings that came before them just weren't as good a king as they were! They were going to be different! Yet, they kept repeating the past mistakes with the LORD and failed just as miserably as the kings before them!

I. WE SEE JEHOAHAZ THE SON OF JEHU REMAINED IN IDOLATRY! (2 KINGS 13:1-3)

Under his government, which pursued the same insane policy of his predecessors regarding the support of the calf-worship, Israel's apostasy from the true God became greater and more confirmed than in the time of his father **JEHU**. Remember **JEHU** destroyed Baal worship, but embraced the calf worship instituted by **JEROBOAM**!

And so, God's judgment, when it came, was even more severe! The instruments employed by the LORD in scourging the nation of Israel were **HAZAEEL** and his son and general **BEN-HADAD** of Syria!

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Now, this is the third **BEN-HADAD** that we've seen of Syria!

The first **BEN-HADAD** made a league with King **ASA** of Judah to invade Israel. (*1 Kings 15:18, 20*)

His son, the second **BEN-HADAD**, was the one who besieged Samaria in the days of King **AHAB** of Israel and even though he appeared to have the upper hand on **AHAB**, a prophet of the LORD delivered a message to **AHAB** that he would defeat **BEN-HADAD** and he did! (*1 Kings 20*)

BEN-HADAD II also later warred against Israel again after **AHAB** was dead (*2 Kings 6:8ff*) but the LORD used **ELISHA** to tell **JEHORAM (JORAM)** everything that **BEN-HADAD** was doing!

Later, **BEN-HADAD II** was the one whose army besieged Samaria into a famine! (*2 Kings 6:24ff*) And then the LORD ended the siege and the famine by spooking his army and they left everything behind and fled! (*2 Kings 7*)

BEN-HADAD II then got bad off sick in Damascus, and he sent this same **HAZAEEL** to enquire of **ELISHA** when he came to Damascus as to whether he was going to recover. (*2 Kings 8*)

2 Kings 8:10 – And ELISHA said unto him, Go, say unto him, Thou mayest certainly recover: howbeit the LORD hath shewed me that he shall surely die.

He was assassinated by **HAZAEEL** the day after receiving only part of **ELISHA'S** message!

HAZAEEL took the throne and when he had a son he called his name **BEN-HADAD** who is this one in our text tonight! The LORD used both **HAZAEEL** and **BEN-HADAD III** to punish Israel! (**BEN-HADAD** means “*son of the god Hadah*” which was a Syrian deity.)

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The Israelite army was reduced and weakened from these continuous invasions of **HAZEL** and **BEN-HADAD III**.

II. WE SEE THINGS GOT SO BAD THAT JEHOAHAZ BESOUGHT THE LORD! (2 KINGS 13:4)

In his extreme distress, **JEHOAHAZ** finally besought the LORD!

Sadly, what we see in **JEHOAHAZ** is repeated in the lives of many even today! Folks wait until they are in extreme distress before they finally acknowledge the LORD and seek His help!

Matthew 6:33 “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”

Well, we see here also that **JEHOAHAZ** was heard, not on his own account, but because the LORD “*saw the oppression of Israel, because the king of Syria oppressed them.*”

The LORD judged Syria for their harshness against His people even though He allowed them to come against Israel!

Also in play here is the LORD remembering the ancient covenants He had with the patriarchs! Syria could only go so far! (*Cf. Vs 22-23*)

III. WE SEE THE LORD GAVE ISRAEL A BRIEF RESPITE! (2 KINGS 13:5)

It says here that the LORD gave Israel a “*saviour*”!
But notice it doesn't exactly say here who that “*saviour*” was!

But it is possible that this came partially in the days of his son **JEHOASH (JOASH)** (*Cf. 13:25*) and partially in the days of **JEHOASH'S (JOASH'S)** son **JEROBOAM II**. (*Cf. 14:25-27*)

IV. WE SEE THAT THERE WAS NO FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE IN ISRAEL'S SPIRITUAL CONDITION! (2 KINGS 13:6)

We might think she would change, but she remained firmly in idolatry!

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That is a sad commentary on both the northern kingdom and her kings!

V. WE SEE THE SAD CONDITION OF ISRAEL IN THE DAYS OF JEHOAHAZ! (2 KINGS 13:7)

The first part of that verse describes the sad state of their armed forces! 50 horsemen, 10 chariots, and 10,000 footmen (soldiers) is not much!

That last phrase—“*made them like the dust by threshing*”— is a phrase used in that culture to describe a state of national suffering, just a little short of extermination!

VI. WE SEE THE DEATH OF JEHOAHAZ AND THE ASCENSION OF HIS SON JEHOASH (JOASH) TO THE THRONE! (2 KINGS 13:8-9)

VII. WE SEE THAT JEHOASH (JOASH) REPEATED THE PAST MISTAKES OF ALL HIS PREDECESSORS! (2 KINGS 13:10-11)

VIII. WE SEE THE DEATH OF JEHOASH (JOASH) AND THE ASCENSION OF HIS SON JEROBOAM II TO THE THRONE! (2 KINGS 13:12-13)

That’s our Bible study for this evening and by what we just read we might think that we’re done with *JEHOASH (JOASH)*, but we’d be wrong!

Next week we will see the Prophet **ELISHA** fell sick and was on his deathbed and **JOASH** went to visit him! During that visit, a very interesting discourse took place between the two of them prior to **ELISHA’S** death that has to do with **JOASH’S** partial success against Syria!