

21.16 Israel's Jehoahaz¹¹ ☹; Jehoash/Joash¹² ☹; Death of Elisha (2 Kings 13:1–25)

✓ “Check” it out; opinion, inference, supposed conversation, or fact one can verify follows.

[. . .] Brackets indicate a remark to the teacher that will not be read aloud, and they show answers to questions.

Visuals and Tools:

- Pictures and other visuals found at the end of this lesson. Check “Activities” and “Handwork” found below for additional materials. Please give credit to the sources of pictures.
- Children’s bow and arrows (These can be purchased at a discount store for less than \$20.)

Bible Time Tips and Terms to Teach: Vocabulary words are enlarged for flashcards at the end of this lesson. Print, cut out, and glue to card stock, or just print on colorful cardstock.

- *foot soldiers*: soldiers that marched on foot and did not ride horses
- *mercy*: God’s taking away judgment or revenge from those who deserve judgment and revenge
- *grace*: God’s giving good things to those who don’t deserve good
- *savior*: deliverer; someone who is strong enough to cause people to escape bondage
- *tomb*: cave where dead people are placed

Scripture: (ESV)

2 Kings 13:1 In the twenty-third year of Joash the son of Ahaziah, king of Judah, Jehoahaz the son of Jehu began to reign over Israel in Samaria, and he reigned seventeen years. 2 He did what was evil in the sight of the Lord and followed the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, which he made Israel to sin; he did not depart from them. 3 And the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel, and he gave them continually into the hand of Hazael king of Syria and into the hand of Ben-hadad the son of Hazael. 4 Then Jehoahaz sought the favor of the Lord, and the Lord listened to him, for he saw the oppression of Israel, how the king of Syria oppressed them. 5 (Therefore the Lord gave Israel a savior, so that they escaped from the hand of the Syrians, and the people of Israel lived in their homes as formerly. 6 Nevertheless, they did not depart from the sins of the house of Jeroboam, which he made Israel to sin, but walked in them; and the Asherah also remained in Samaria.) 7 For there was not left to Jehoahaz an army of more than fifty horsemen and ten chariots and ten thousand footmen, for the king of Syria had destroyed them and made them like the dust at threshing. 8 Now the rest of the acts of Jehoahaz and all that he did, and his might, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel? 9 So Jehoahaz slept with his fathers, and they buried him in Samaria, and Joash his son reigned in his place.

10 In the thirty-seventh year of Joash king of Judah, Jehoash the son of Jehoahaz began to reign over Israel in Samaria, and he reigned sixteen years. 11 He also did what was evil in the sight of the Lord. He did not depart from all the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, which he made Israel to sin, but he walked in them. 12 Now the rest of the acts of Joash and all that he did, and the might with which he fought against Amaziah king of Judah, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel? 13 So Joash slept with his fathers, and Jeroboam sat on his throne. And Joash was buried in Samaria with the kings of Israel.

14 Now when Elisha had fallen sick with the illness of which he was to die, Joash king of Israel went down to him and wept before him, crying, “My father, my father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” 15 And Elisha said to him, “Take a bow and arrows.” So he took a bow and arrows. 16 Then he said to the king of Israel, “Draw the bow,” and he drew it. And Elisha laid his hands on the king’s hands. 17 And he said, “Open the window eastward,” and he opened it. Then Elisha said, “Shoot,” and he shot. And he said, “The Lord’s arrow of victory, the arrow of victory over Syria! For you shall fight the Syrians in Aphek until you have made an end of them.” 18 And he said, “Take the arrows,” and he took them. And he said to the king of Israel, “Strike the ground with them.” And he struck three times and stopped. 19 Then the man of God was angry with him and said, “You should have struck five or six times; then you would have struck down Syria until you had made an

end of it, but now you will strike down Syria only three times.”

20 So Elisha died, and they buried him. Now bands of Moabites used to invade the land in the spring of the year. 21 And as a man was being buried, behold, a marauding band was seen and the man was thrown into the grave of Elisha, and as soon as the man touched the bones of Elisha, he revived and stood on his feet.

22 Now Hazael king of Syria oppressed Israel all the days of Jehoahaz. 23 But the Lord was gracious to them and had compassion on them, and he turned toward them, because of his covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and would not destroy them, nor has he cast them from his presence until now.

24 When Hazael king of Syria died, Ben-hadad his son became king in his place. 25 Then Jehoash the son of Jehoahaz took again from Ben-hadad the son of Hazael the cities that he had taken from Jehoahaz his father in war. Three times Joash defeated him and recovered the cities of Israel.

Introduction/Review:

Who was the prophet before Elisha? [Elijah.] Let me remind you about how Elijah died. When he and Elisha had walked to the Jordan River, Elijah stuck the river with his “mantle,” and the river parted so that they could walk across on dry ground. As they walked further, suddenly, Elijah dropped his coat, and a fiery chariot and horses took Elijah to heaven while Elisha watched. Elisha cried, “My father, my father, the chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” ✓This probably means that Elijah’s praying and prophesying was better for Israel than chariots and horsemen could be. (See John Gill’s Commentary on 2 Kings 2:12.)

In our last lesson we learned about the words *avenge*, *revenge*, and *vengeance*. They mean — what? [To pay back.] Should we pay back people when they do wrong to us? [No.] Why not? [Because vengeance belongs to God; He will repay (Deuteronomy 32:35; Psalm 94:1; Romans 12:19). What if God waits a long time to pay back? That should not be our concern; God will do right.

Why did God take vengeance on Joash? [Because he slew Jehoiada’s son, and because he led Judah back into worshipping idols.] What did God do to pay back Joash? [Caused war with Syria; had Joash get wounded; had his two servants slay him.]

Joash had reigned as king over Judah [locate] forty years. That’s a long time. While he was king in Judah, three different kings reigned in Israel [locate]. One we’ve already learned about. His name was Jehu. We learned that he was the king who took vengeance on Ahab’s family, slaying them all.

Story:

Jehoahaz

The next king of Israel was Jehu’s son, Jehoahaz. Was he a good king or a bad one? [Remind students that every northern king was bad; so he was an evil king.] What did these kings do that they are known as evil? They led Israel to worship idols, which was totally against God’s commandments? God was angry when Jehoahaz disobeyed and caused the people to worship other gods. God took vengeance on Israel. The country he used to bring vengeance is the same one we’ve learned about in other lessons—Syria [locate].

Let me explain what happened. Because Israel kept on worshipping idols, God kept on sending Hazael, king of Syria, and his son, Ben-hadad, to war against Israel. Syria would come, conquer a city, take its people away, and take all its animals and other items away. Then, they would come again later and take another city and another and another. The situation was so bad in Israel that King Jehoahaz had only 100,000 foot soldiers, only 50 horsemen, and only 10 chariots. That is definitely not enough men, horses, or chariots for a country’s whole army! The idol-gods Israel was worshipping were not helping, for they are not gods at all.

Jehoahaz was desperate! So many people had been taken from his land! What could he do?! Ah! maybe the Lord God, the God of his fathers—Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—would help. ✓Did he dare ask? Did he dare pray to the God of Israel after all his worship of idols? Yes, he dared. “O Lord God of Israel,” he prayed. “You see our desperate situation. You have caused the Syrians to come into this land. The Syrians have taken away our people, our animals, our goods. Please, Lord God, please deliver us from the Syrians! O

God, I beseech You; I beg You. Save us from the Syrians!”

Did Jehoahaz deserve to have God answer this prayer? [No.] Would God have been just and right to let the Syrians keep on raiding Israel? [Yes.] But what else do we know about God besides His vengeance on evil? We know He is full of compassion (love) and delights to do good to those who don't deserve it.

God saw how the Syrians were oppressing Israel, and He showed *mercy* to Israel. The Bible states, “But the Lord was gracious to them and had compassion on them, and he turned toward them, because of his covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and would not destroy them” (2 Kings 13:25).

Even though Jehoahaz didn't deserve it, God lovingly showed mercy to him. God sent what the Bible calls a savior or a deliverer. The savior led them in victory against Syria. Some of the people who had been taken to Syria escaped and came back to their houses in Israel. In other cases, when Syria came to raid, Israel escaped from them, and no Israelites were captured.

God was good to Israel. Were they good back to God? I'm sorry to say, no. They still served other gods—those gods who had done them absolutely no good.

There is one great Saviour whom God sent to save us from our sins. He is the Lord Jesus Christ, who died on the cross to pay for the sins of all who will believe on Him. I pray that you will trust Him to be your true Saviour.

Jehoash

So, the first northern king during Joash's reign was Jehu; then his son Jehoahaz. After Jehoahaz died, his son, Jehoash,¹ became king of Israel in the north. Was he a good king? [No.] How do you know? [Teacher has said all the kings in the north were evil and not good.] Why was Jehoash considered a bad king? What did he do to get this reputation? [He led the people in worshiping false gods.]

Despite his being an evil king, Jehoash did respect God's prophet, Elisha. It's been a long time since we've talked about Elisha. In fact, about 45 years had gone by since the last recorded act Elisha had performed— anointing Jehu king of Israel and anointing Hazael king of Syria. In those 45 years, Jehu had died, his son Jehoahaz had died, and Jehu's grandson had become king. Hazael of Syria had been troubling Israel just as Elisha had prophesied, but now Hazael was about to die.

Elisha also was sick and close to death after sixty years of serving the Lord. Jehoash came to visit Elisha as he lay in bed. When he saw Elisha, Jehoash wept, saying exactly the same thing Elisha had said when Elijah was taken up to heaven: “My father, my father, the chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” ✓Jehoash must have heard about these words and now applied them to Elisha too. ✓Elisha's prayers and prophesies, just like Elijah's, had been better for Israel than horsemen and chariots.

Although Elisha was soon to die, his work of being a prophet was not quite done. He said to Jehoash, “Get a bow and some arrows.” Jehoash did so. “Take the bow in your hands.” [Teacher, place bow and an arrow in the hands of a student.]

When Jehoash had done this, Elisha placed his hands on the king's hands. [Teacher, like Elisha, place your hands on the child's as [s]he holds the bow and arrow.] “Open the east window!” commanded Elisha. (Syria was east of Israel.) Jehoash opened the east window. “Now, shoot!” said Elisha. Jehoash shot.

What was this all about? Elisha explained: “The Lord's arrow of victory, the arrow of victory over Syria! For you shall have victory over the Syrians at Aphek” [locate just inside Syria]. Perhaps the Syrians had warred against Israel at Aphek before.

“Now, take the arrows,” said Elisha. ✓Jehoash might have been puzzled at this command, but he surely must have known that those arrows had something to do with victory over Syria. Nevertheless, when Elisha next commanded, “Strike the ground with the arrows,” Jehoash struck only three times and quit. [Teacher, do so.]

Elisha was angry with Jehoash and said, “You should have struck the ground five or six times; then you would have struck down Syria until you had completely destroyed it. Since you struck the ground only three times, you will strike down Syria only three times.”

Three times would not be enough to destroy this enemy of God and of Israel, but, just as Elisha said, Jehoash later defeated the king of Syria three times and got back the cities of Israel.

The dead man

One more little story about Elisha. He was used of God even after his death. This is what the Bible says: “Now Moabite [locate Moab] raiders used to enter the country every spring. Once while some Israelites were burying a man, suddenly they saw a band of raiders; so they threw the man’s body into Elisha’s tomb. When the body touched Elisha’s bones, the man came to life and stood up on his feet” (2 Kings 13:20, 21).

¹The name of King Jehoash in Israel, like that of Joash in Judah, was shortened to Joash. However, to maintain a distinction between the two, this story will use the name Jehoash for Israel’s king.

Lessons from This Lesson:

- We see Jesus:

There is one great Saviour whom God sent to save us from our sins. He is the Lord Jesus Christ, who died on the cross to pay for the sins of all who will believe on Him. I pray that you will trust Him to be your true Saviour.

The man whose body touched Elisha’s corpse was brought back to life. Eventually, he died finally. Jesus, however, was raised to life three days after He died. He lives forever and ever.

- We have learned about God’s judgment and revenge. This week we learned about His compassion, mercy, and grace to Jehoahaz. God insists that we obey Him, or we may expect judgment. We must repent from our sinful ways. When we do, perhaps God will show mercy, compassion, and grace. God is good and does good to those who love Him.

Activities:

- Play dough: A bed for Elisha; a tomb; a dead man. Have the dead man “come to life” after being in the tomb.
- Snack: Fruit by the Foot[®] to be reminded of the few “foot” soldiers under Jehoahaz
- Strike arrows the number of times that answer the questions. How many times did Jehoash strike? [3]; . . . did Elisha think he should strike? [5 or 6]; . . . How many times would you have struck? [?]
- Shoot arrows toward the east. Put *N*, *S*, *E*, or *W* signs on the walls. Play a game: “Which way am I facing?” When Jesus comes again, He will come from the east.
- Discuss that some people think God in the Old Testament was always a God of vengeance and in the New Testament he was full of grace. This is not true. According to an unofficial count taken by the author of this website, throughout the Bible, God’s mercy and grace occurs three times more frequently than his vengeance.
- Review questions: (Game: Let a student who answers a question correctly shoot an arrow from a play bow and arrow set or from the item made in “Handwork” below.)
 1. Why was the Lord angry with Israel? [Because the kings led them to worship idols.]
 2. Whom did God send to punish Israel? [Syria’s Hazael and Ben-Hadad.]
 3. When the situation got desperate, what did King Jehoahaz do? [Begged the true God for help.]
 4. How did God show compassion on Israel? [Sent a savior; allowed some Israelites to escape from

- Syria; kept some from be captured.]
5. Whom did Jehoash visit? [Elisha.]
 6. What objects did Elisha use to prophesy how Israel would gain an advantage over Syria? [Bow and arrows.]
 7. Why was Elisha angry when Jehoash struck the arrows on the ground only three times? [Jehoash would not gain a true victory over Syria. If he had struck the ground five or six times, that would have indicated total victory.]
 8. What happened to the dead man whose body touched Elisha's corpse? [He lived again.]

Memory Verses:

- Psalm 139:1–18, 23, 24 (NKJV)

(A very nice song book with black-and-white visuals [I water colored mine] and a CD is available as a learning tool at [Psalm 139 - NKJV \(thywordcreations.com\)](http://thywordcreations.com). Learning this psalm may take six months or more. Some teachers think saying/singing the whole psalm every week is a good way to learn it. However, this Psalm 139 song book breaks the passage after verse 13; therefore, a suggestion is to work on verses 1–13 for thirteen weeks and then the rest of the psalm for an additional eight weeks or more. Take one or two lessons to say/sing the whole psalm.)

¹O LORD, You have searched me and known *me*.

²You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off.

³You comprehend my path and my lying down, And are acquainted with all my ways.

⁴For *there is* not a word on my tongue, *But* behold, O LORD, You know it altogether.

⁵You have hedged me behind and before, And laid Your hand upon me.

⁶*Such* knowledge *is* too wonderful for me; It is high, I cannot *attain* it.

⁷Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?

⁸If I ascend into heaven, You *are* there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You *are there*.

⁹*If* I take the wings of the morning, *And* dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

¹⁰Even there Your hand shall lead me, And Your right hand shall hold me.

¹¹If I say, "Surely the darkness shall fall on me," Even the night shall be light about me;

¹²Indeed, the darkness shall not hide from You, But the night shines as the day; The darkness and the light *are* both alike *to You*.

¹³For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb.

¹⁴I will praise You, for I am fearfully *and* wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And *that* my soul knows very well.

¹⁵My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, *And* skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.

¹⁶Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When *as yet there were* none of them.

¹⁷How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them!

¹⁸*If* I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand; When I awake, I am still with You. . . .

²³Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties;

²⁴And see if *there is any* wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting.

Handwork:

- Make a bow and arrows as instructed at [Homemade Bow and Arrow : 6 Steps - Instructables](http://HomemadeBowandArrow.com). A paper towel core might work better than a toilet paper core, and plastic straws might work better than skewers.

foot soldiers

mercy

grace

savior

tomb

JUDEAN TOWNS OF MICAH 1

Verse	Name	Meaning
1:10	Gath	= "tell"
1:10	Beth-le-aphrah	= "house of dust"
1:11	Shaphir	= "beautiful"
1:11	Zaanan*	= "come out"
1:11	Beth-ezel*	= "house of taking away"
1:12	Maroth*	= "bitter"
1:13	Lachish	= "to the steeds"
1:14	Moreseth-gath	= "one who is betrothed"
1:14	Achzib	= "deception"
1:15	Mareshah	= "conqueror"
1:15	Adullam	= symbolic of hostility, i.e. David's exile in 2 Sam 23:13

* location unknown



MICAH'S ISRAEL & JUDAH

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Armies Compared

Solomon

300,000 men

12,000 horsemen

1,400 chariots

Jehoahaz

10,000 men

50 horsemen

10 chariots

Kings of Israel While Joash Ruled Judah

Jehu

Jehoahaz

Jehoash

Kings of Syria

Hazael

Ben-Hadad



[FreeBibleimages](#) :: [Elisha and the Syrian army](#) :: When Elisha is surrounded by the Syrian army, God's army comes to his rescue (2 Kings 6:8-23)



2 Kings 13 Bible Pictures: Elisha with boy with arrow (bibleencyclopedia.com)

*The LORD'S arrow
of victory! 2 Kings 13:17*





[Day 119. 2 Kings 13-14 - Live and Learn Journey](#)

King Jehoahaz of Israel

- Worshipped Jeroboam's golden calves
- The people were taken by Syrians
- His army consisted of 50 horsemen, 10 chariots and 10,000-foot soldiers
- King for 17 years in Samaria



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King Jehoash of Israel

- Worshipped Jeroboam's golden calves
- Visited Elisha when he was sick
- Elisha explained Syrian attacks with a bow & arrows
- He replied to Amaziah with a story
- King for 16 years in Samaria



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