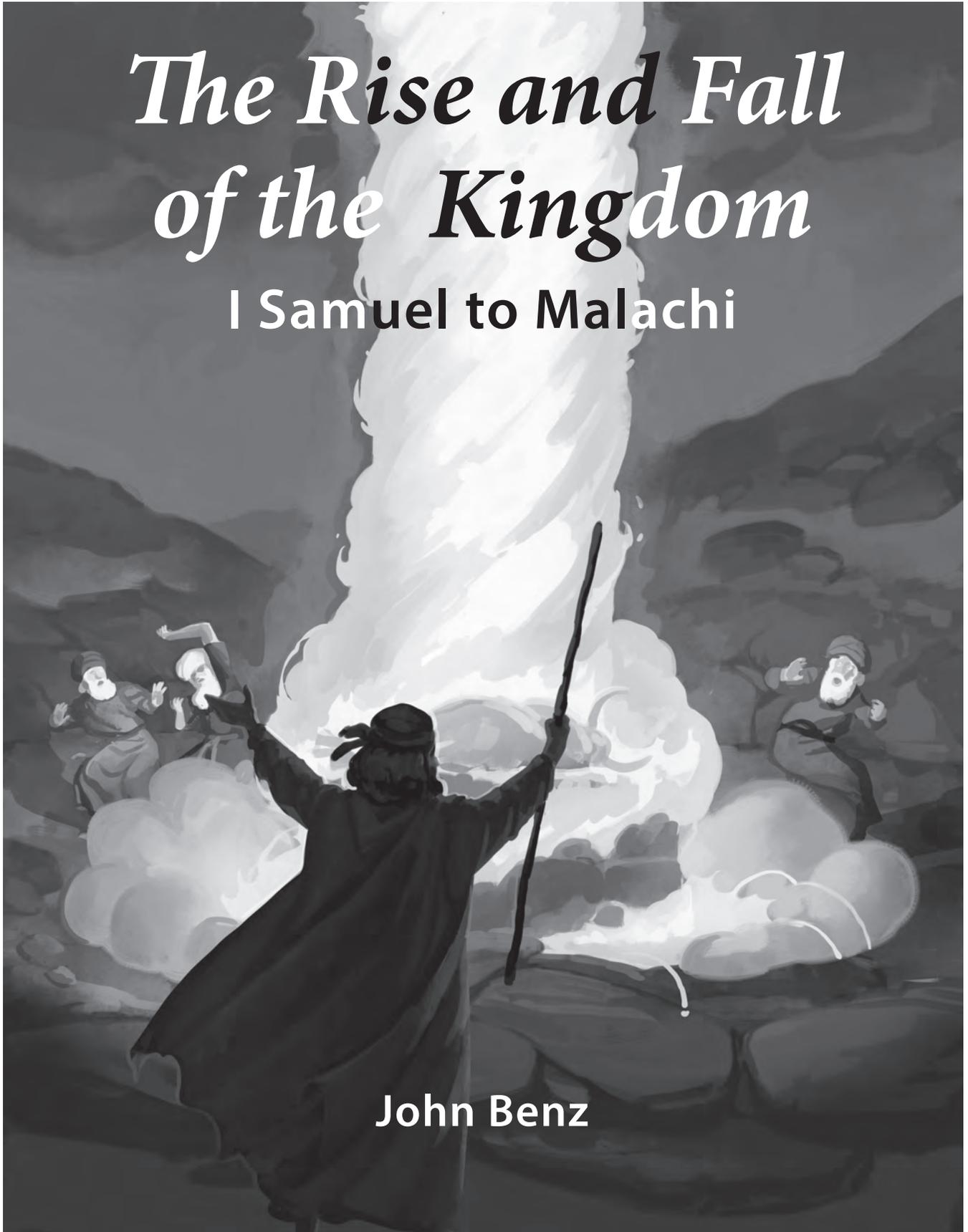

Studying God's Word Series

The Rise and Fall of the Kingdom

I Samuel to Malachi

John Benz



Bible Stories adapted from *Studying God's Word Book F: A Chronological Study of the Old Testament from First Samuel to Malachi* by Darrel A. Trulson
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Note to Parents:

In Deuteronomy 6:5–7, it says: “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.”

Scripture makes it clear that the primary responsibility for teaching children lies with the parents, particularly the fathers. This curriculum will be most effective if parents discuss each reading and lesson with the students after they do the work. The thought questions included with the lessons provide an excellent opportunity for discussion between parents and their students. In addition, parents are encouraged to use the weekly readings for family devotionals. Although these questions are not included with the curriculum, here are some questions that can be asked after each lesson:

1. What is something that this passage teaches you about God?
2. What is something you can pray for as a result of this passage?
3. What is one question you have from this passage?

When you discuss each passage with your students, they will be far more likely to think about the passage and how to apply it to their lives.

Introduction

The *Studying God's Word Series* is designed to have the student encounter the biblical text firsthand. Many students grow up hearing Bible stories in Sunday school or from their parents, or even from similar homeschooling curricula. The work that these people and programs do for children is very valuable for their growth and maturity. The goal of this curriculum is to go beyond the stories of the Bible and to have students read the Bible itself.

The Rise and Fall of the Kingdom, 1 Samuel to Malachi, covers the books of the Bible from 1 Samuel to Malachi. Students will learn about leading figures such as Samuel, Saul, David, and Solomon, as well as kings, priests, and prophets. They also will learn how the Kingdom of Israel was established, how the kingdom became divided, and how the people of God were sent into exile and then returned to the land of Israel. God's love for His people—reflected in His discipline, judgment, and restoration to fellowship with Himself—is prominent throughout these lessons.

The New King James Version (NKJV) is the translation used for this course. We chose this version because the King James Version of the Bible is the most widely used English translation, and the New King James Version of the Bible is a little easier for students to read. While it is possible to complete this curriculum using other translations of the Bible, the questions in the workbook use the language and phrases of the NKJV. As a result, it may be difficult at times to find the answers to these questions without using the NKJV.

This workbook is divided into four units, covering nine weeks per unit. Each week includes the following elements:

- ❑ **Day 1** has a lesson for students to read, followed by questions about the lesson.
- ❑ **Day 2** has students read the Bible passage for the week, followed by questions over the Bible reading.
- ❑ **Day 3** is designed for students to complete an activity (such as a word search puzzle, crossword puzzle, scrambled words puzzle, the decoding of a Bible verse, a genealogy completion, a maze, or some other activity, depending on the week), and to answer two or three thought questions, as well as a few review questions.
- ❑ **Day 4** includes an exercise (such as reading a Bible passage and answering questions, covering background material on a book of the Bible, answering review questions on previous lessons, doing a map study, or completing some other exercise, depending on the week).
- ❑ **Day 5** is set aside for students to review the week's material and take a ten-question quiz. Many of these questions are designed to bring out some of the important points in the biblical text.

On average, the student will read about one chapter of the Bible per week. A separate answer key for all workbook questions is available through Christian Liberty Press.

Finally, a separate quiz packet is available through Christian Liberty Press. There is one quiz per week, a total of thirty-six quizzes for the whole course. The quizzes cover material found in the textbook and Bible passages.

John Benz

Introduction to Chronological Bible Study

Welcome to one of the most important discoveries you will ever make, the discovery of God's Word. Throughout your life, you will have the opportunity to study the Bible. Each time you do, the Holy Spirit will be there to guide and direct your thoughts to help you learn and grow in the Lord Jesus Christ. It is the hope and prayer of everyone involved in producing this book that through your study you will grow in the wisdom and understanding of God (Ephesians 1:17–19).

In order to make studying the Bible more interesting and beneficial, this book is written to follow the Old Testament in a historical-chronological pattern. We believe it is of utmost importance to you, the student, that as you study the Bible, you will understand how all the separate stories and books fit together. Imagine a large jigsaw puzzle of a beautiful mountain village. If you were to take a few pieces from different points and study them individually, could you understand what the complete picture was? Of course not. You need to see all the pieces in the correct pattern in order to understand the “big picture.” The Bible is the same way. If all we do is read one story here and another one there, we will not understand the true meaning of God's Word. We have to look at the Bible completely and study it as one unit in order to understand God's “big picture.”

Throughout this book, in addition to studying significant stories of the Old Testament, there will also be background information to each of the books as they appear in chronological order. This is available as helpful material so you can further understand the events that happen within the Bible itself.

At the end of this introduction, there is a complete listing of the Old Testament books in chronological order. Please study and memorize this chart so you can later fill in the blanks when a particular section is being reviewed.

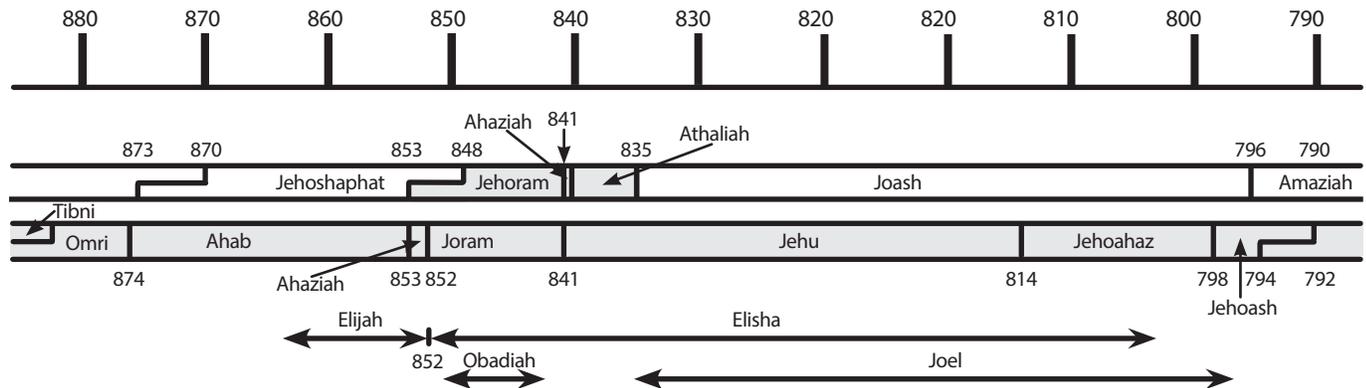
On the chart, the top line of boxes contains the eleven main books of the Old Testament. The books from 1 Samuel and onward in this line cover most of the stories and themes presented in this workbook. Although the focus of our study will be in these books, the other books are included to give you a true feeling for the flow of history that is recorded in the Bible.

The second row of boxes also has historical books of the Old Testament. These are not included in the first row because they do not chart the main flow of history, but rather provide details to what was taking place at that time. For example, 2 Chronicles adds details to the events and stories presented in 1 and 2 Kings.

The third horizontal group of boxes includes Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and the Song of Solomon. This group represents the poetic section of the Old Testament. Job is offset from the rest of the books of poetry because it was written much earlier, during the times of the Patriarchs.

The Passing of the Mantle

YOU ARE HERE.



Week 20

Lesson Goal: To understand the importance of learning from others and passing down that knowledge to the next generation

Background Text: 2 Kings 2

Memory Verse: And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. (2 Timothy 2:2)

Day 1

Lesson 20

Have you ever had to fill in for someone who was really good at something? Perhaps you were playing a sport and you had to sub in for the best person on the team. Or perhaps you were working on a project with someone who was really good at the project, and one day he or she was not there and you had to work on the project by yourself. It can be scary to try to fill the shoes of great people who have come before you. You may worry that you might disappoint people or that you will not live up to the expectations of the person you are filling in for. In today's story, we are going to see the great prophet Elijah pass down the mantle of his ministry to the prophet Elisha. Considering the incredible stories of Elijah, these are great shoes to fill.

During Elijah's life, he had begun two schools at Bethel and Jericho. Here he trained men to become messengers of God's Word. Before Elijah died, he went back to these men to give them final

instruction from God's Word. Elijah used the last hours of his life to encourage and strengthen the people who would continue the work of the Lord after he was gone.

When the time came for Elijah to die, he was not allowed to see death as we might imagine. Instead, God took him into heaven by a whirlwind. Elisha, the prophet who would succeed Elijah, now had the challenging task of carrying on his mentor's work. This is why Elisha asked for a double portion of Elijah's spirit. He was not sinfully coveting or seeking to be greater than Elijah. Rather, Elisha based his request upon the Law (Deuteronomy 21:17), which gave the firstborn son a double portion of his father's inheritance. Elisha was the "firstborn prophet" because he was the successor to Elijah, his mentor. Since this spirit was not Elijah's to give, he could not promise it to Elisha. Elisha had to wait to see if God would give him the double portion that he requested.

As Elijah was lifted into heaven, his mantle fell from him and lay on the ground before Elisha. The prophet's mantle was the outward sign of his office and the tool of the Spirit's power in that

Elijah Being Lifted into Heaven and Leaving His Mantle for Elisha



person's life. The mantle had no power by itself, but the power came from the Spirit of God that worked within the prophet. Elisha took Elijah's mantle and used it to continue the work that the older prophet had begun.

In your life, you will have great mentors from whom you will get to learn many valuable truths and life lessons. However, all great mentors or teachers know that someday they will have to pass on the mantle to the next generation. This is true with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Every generation has the responsibility to protect that gospel and share it with others. The time will eventually come when that responsibility will be passed on to your generation. The time will also come when you will need to pass that responsibility on to the next person.

In the New Testament, the apostle Paul taught a young man named Timothy as much as he could about God's Word. He told Timothy that he would need to pass down that information to the next generation; they, in turn, would be able to continue the work that Paul started. We all need to have "Pauls" in our lives who can teach us and train us, but we also need to have "Timothys" whom we can teach and train after us. Who is the Paul or Elijah in your life that is teaching and training you in God's Word? Who might be in your life that you can help teach or train?

Lesson 20 Questions

Answer the following questions.

1. Write out the memory verse and reference. _____

2. What had Elijah begun at Bethel and Jericho? _____

3. Why did Elijah go back to the men from Bethel and Jericho?

4. How was Elijah taken into heaven? _____

5. Who had the challenging task of carrying on his leader's work?

6. According to the Law, who would receive a double portion of his father's inheritance?

7. Why didn't Elijah promise to give the Spirit to Elisha?

8. The prophet's mantle was a sign of what? _____

9. Regarding the gospel, what is the responsibility of each generation?

10. In the New Testament, whom did Paul teach about God's Word?

Day 2

Bible Reading & Questions

Read 2 Kings 2 and circle the correct answers to the following questions.

1. Elijah and Elisha went down to what city? (2 Kings 2:2)

| | |
|------------|--------------|
| a. Bethel | c. Jerusalem |
| b. Jericho | d. Samaria |
2. What did the sons of the prophets tell Elisha? (2 Kings 2:3)
 - a. Ahab would be killed.
 - b. Elisha would go up in a whirlwind.
 - c. The Lord would take away Elijah from Elisha today.
 - d. It would not rain for three years.
3. How many sons of the prophets viewed Elijah and Elisha at the Jordan? (2 Kings 2:7)

| | |
|-------|--------|
| a. 40 | c. 100 |
| b. 50 | d. 30 |
4. What happened when Elijah struck the water? (2 Kings 2:8)

| | |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| a. nothing | c. He got wet. |
| b. The water divided. | d. It rained. |

5. What did Elisha request of Elijah? (2 Kings 2:9)
 - a. to see Elijah die
 - b. God's blessing
 - c. Elijah's mantle
 - d. a double portion of Elijah's spirit
6. What appeared when Elijah and Elisha were walking? (2 Kings 2:11)
 - a. the Lord
 - b. the sons of the prophets
 - c. wicked Jezebel
 - d. a chariot and horses of fire
7. What did Elisha tear into two pieces? (2 Kings 2:12)
 - a. Elijah's mantle
 - b. his own clothes
 - c. the water
 - d. the chariots and horses of fire
8. How long did the sons of the prophets search for Elijah?
(2 Kings 2:17)
 - a. 40 days
 - b. 10 days
 - c. 3 days
 - d. 3 hours
9. How did the Lord heal the water in Jericho? (2 Kings 2:21)
 - a. Elisha touched it.
 - b. Elisha prayed over it.
 - c. Elisha cast his mantle in it.
 - d. Elisha put salt into it.
10. To tease Elisha, the children said what? (2 Kings 2:23)
 - a. Go away, fat man!
 - b. Go up, you baldhead!
 - c. Go up, old man!
 - d. Leave us alone, big feet!

Day 3

Activity

Thank You Cards

Write out a thank you card for the mentors who are taking the time to teach and train you to know the Word of God.

Write out a thank you card for each person that you mentioned as “Elijahs” in question 3 below.

Thought Questions

1. Think about a time when you had to fill in for someone else who was good at something. Then answer the following questions.
 - What was the situation, and what did you need to do?
 - How did you feel when you had to fill in for this person?
 - How did you do when you filled in?

2. In the story for today, why do you think that Elisha asks Elijah for a double portion of his spirit before Elijah leaves?

3. Who are the “Elijahs” in your life who are teaching and training you in God’s Word? Who are the “Elishas” in your life whom you can teach and train in God’s Word?

“Elijahs”: _____

“Elishas”: _____

Day 4

Review Questions

Match the correct answers to the following statements.

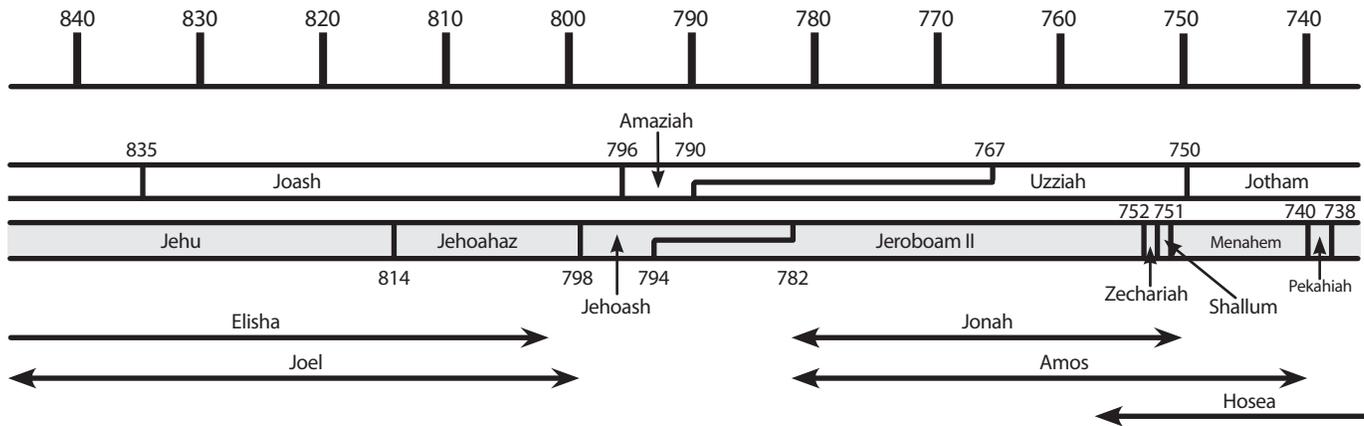
- | | |
|---|------------------|
| _____ 1. This person became the king after Solomon. (Lesson 17) | |
| _____ 2. He rejected the advice which the elders had given him, and consulted the _____ men who had grown up with him. (Lesson 17) | a. prophets |
| _____ 3. This is what the bride is called in the Song of Solomon. (Song of Solomon Background) | b. Carmel |
| _____ 4. This person ruled the Northern Kingdom during the days of Elijah. (Lesson 18) | c. Rehoboam |
| _____ 5. In the past, God had raised up judges, but in Elijah's day God was using _____ to attack the pagan culture. (Lesson 18) | d. David |
| _____ 6. This person is called "the Tishbite." (Lesson 18) | e. twelve |
| _____ 7. Obadiah feared this person. (Lesson 18) | f. young |
| _____ 8. After the defeat of Baal and the death of his prophets on Mt. _____, the worship of Baal began to decline in Israel. (Lesson 19) | g. Elijah |
| _____ 9. Elijah takes this many stones to build the altar. (Lesson 19) | h. the Shulamite |
| _____ 10. In 1 Kings 11:15–16, this person completely subdued the Edomites. (Obadiah Background) | i. the Lord |
| | j. Ahab |

Day 5

Spend some time reviewing what you have learned this week, and then take Quiz 20.

Naaman's Leprosy

YOU ARE HERE.



Week 21

Lesson Goal: To understand the difference between contentment and being envious

Background Text: 2 Kings 5

Memory Verse: Now godliness with contentment is great gain. (1 Timothy 6:6)

Day 1

Lesson 21

As we consider the story of Elisha and Naaman, there are two secondary characters we need to watch closely. These two individuals, the maid to Naaman and Elisha's servant Gehazi, both learned valuable lessons concerning contentment and covetousness.

The maid in Naaman's household was captured and taken from Israel when the Syrian army invaded Israel during a war. Although this young girl was away from her home and family, she still seemed content and trusted God. Theologian Matthew Henry further suggests that "she desired the health and welfare of her master, though she was a captive, a servant by force."

It was God who brought this maid to Naaman's household so she could tell him about the prophet Elisha. Think what would have happened if the girl was sad or depressed about being a slave. She would have been too busy feeling sorry for herself to notice and care about her master's leprosy.

Now compare her life to that of Gehazi, Elisha's servant. Gehazi was a believer who had the opportunity to serve Elisha and to sit under his instruction and guidance. Unfortunately, this was not good enough for him. Gehazi became greedy and coveted the riches of Naaman. As his punishment, he was cursed with leprosy for the rest of his life. On the one hand, contentment saved the life of Naaman through his maid; while on the other hand, covetousness ruined the life of a servant of God.

In order to fully understand the condition of Naaman, we need to look into the significance of leprosy. Leprosy is a dreadful disease that the Bible mentions often. Its symptoms include a scab or bright spot on the skin, which tends to spread and turn white. Eventually, raw flesh will appear and the person's hair will fall out. In severe cases, the person's fingers and toes will shrink up and fall away. Then the nose, eyes, tongue, and palate will slowly be consumed.

The social consequences of leprosy were just as bad as the physical ones. A person who contracted leprosy was forced to leave his job, house, friends, and family. No one wanted the leper around him because the disease was hated and was looked upon as a curse. The leper would oftentimes live in a community of lepers where they had to rely upon begging for food and money to survive.

Naaman was a wealthy man and highly regarded in the Syrian army, so he was not completely outcast like most lepers. However, he still suffered from the physical effects of the disease and wanted to be cured of it.

Lesson 21 Questions

Answer the following questions.

1. Write out the memory verse and reference.

TRUE/FALSE:

Circle whether the following statements are true or false.

2. Naaman's maid and Gehazi both learned valuable lessons concerning faith and love.

True

False

3. The maid in Naaman's household was captured and taken from Edom.
True False
4. Though she was a captive, Naaman's maid desired the health and welfare of her master.
True False
5. God brought the maid to Naaman's household so she could tell him about Elisha.
True False
6. Gehazi was content simply sitting under the instruction and guidance of Elisha.
True False
7. As his punishment, Gehazi was cursed with boils for the rest of his life.
True False
8. Contentment saved the life of Naaman; covetousness ruined the life of a servant of God.
True False
9. Leprosy is a mild disease and is barely mentioned in the Bible.
True False
10. A person who contracted leprosy was forced to leave his job, house, friends, and family.
True False

Day 2

Bible Reading & Questions

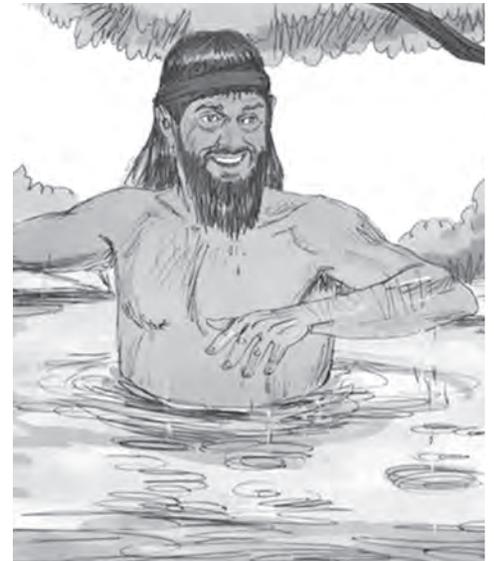
Read 2 Kings 5 and answer the following questions.

1. What was Naaman's position in the Syrian army? (2 Kings 5:1)

2. The little maid waited on whom? (2 Kings 5:2)



Naaman Washing in the Jordan River



Naaman Being Cleansed of Leprosy

Sweet Media CC BY-SA 3.0

3. What did Elisha tell his messenger to say to Naaman? (2 Kings 5:10)

4. What did Naaman think Elisha would do for him? (2 Kings 5:11)

5. What happened to Naaman's flesh? (2 Kings 5:14)

6. What did Elisha refuse to receive from Naaman? (2 Kings 5:15-16)

7. Naaman wanted the Lord to pardon him for what? (2 Kings 5:18)

8. Who was the servant of Elisha? (2 Kings 5:20) _____
9. For what did Gehazi sinfully ask? (2 Kings 5:22) _____

10. What happened to Gehazi because he sinned? (2 Kings 5:27)

Day 3

Activity

In this exercise, you will learn whether you have more of an attitude of gratitude or of envy.

1. On a small sheet of paper, draw a line down the middle of the sheet.
2. Title the left side “Gratitude” and the right side “Envy.”
3. For an entire day, place a check mark on the left column for every time you say “thank you” or have been grateful for something that you have been given. Every time you say that you want something or wish you had something, check the right column for “envy.” For more accurate results, do this for an entire week. You may also ask others to help you with this.
4. At the end of the day (or week), compare your marks and answer the following questions:
 - a. Are you more prone to be grateful or envious? Were the numbers fairly even, or was one significantly higher than the other?
 - b. How often did you find yourself wanting something that you did not have? Why do you think this is?
 - c. Is it wrong to want something that you do not have? If it is not always wrong, when does it become sinful to want things that your friends or other people have?
 - d. How might gratitude help you be more content rather than covetous or envious?
 - e. What are some practical things you can do to help yourself be more content?

Thought Questions

1. What other Old Testament characters were brought into a strange land and used by God in that country?

2. Explain the way you would feel if, like Naaman's maid, you were taken from your home and forced to work for someone else.

Review Questions

Answer the following questions.

1. How was Elijah taken into heaven? (Lesson 20)

2. What appeared when Elijah and Elisha were walking? (Lesson 20)

3. How long did the sons of the prophets search for Elijah?
(Lesson 20)

Day 4

Joel Background

Author of Joel: Joel (Joel 1:1)

Date of Writing: Around 835 B.C.

Purpose of Joel: To admonish the people of Judah to repent and return to God before the “Day of the Lord” destroys them. “So rend your heart, and not your garments; return to the LORD your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness; and He relents from doing harm” (Joel 2:13).

Outline of Joel:

- I. The Destruction of Judah (Joel 1:1–2:17)
- II. The Deliverance of Judah (Joel 2:18–3:21)

The Big Idea of Joel: The prophet Joel ministered during the reigns of Queen Athaliah and King Joash of Judah. Joel prophesied concerning a severe drought and an invasion of locusts, which were punishments for the sins of the people. Joel is a book of judgment.

Joel focuses his attention upon the “Day of the Lord.” This phrase is presented five times within the book and refers to God’s punishment of the unrepentant hearts of the Israelite people. Joel calls the people to repent and to humble themselves before God. He also asks the priests to stand outside the temple and to cry unto God Almighty, appealing to His faithfulness. Joel also prophesies about the coming of the Holy Spirit (Joel 2:28–32), which is fulfilled in the book of Acts. Peter refers to this passage in Acts 2:17–21.

During the time of writing, the people of Judah were bowing to the idols of Baal, the weather god, and breaking the laws of God. The priests and Levites were no better. They had stopped teaching the Law and were not serving God with a clean heart. Through Joel’s prophecy, God warned the people of His judgment and instructed them to be holy.

Background Questions

Fill in the blanks in the following sentences.

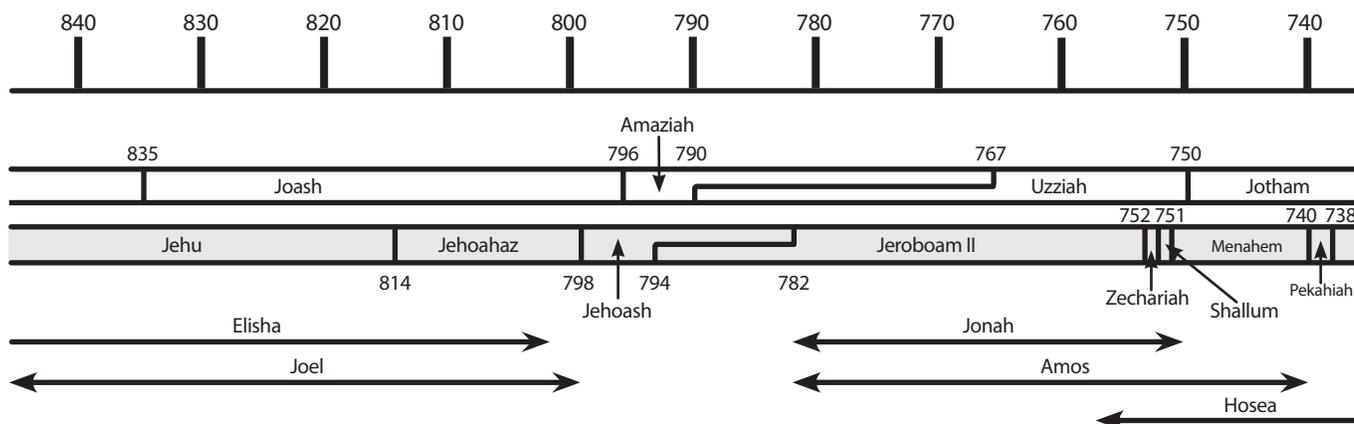
1. Joel was written around _____ B.C.
2. The purpose of Joel was to admonish the people of Judah to _____ and _____ to God.
3. “Rend your _____, and not your _____.”
4. Joel ministered during the reigns of Queen _____ and King _____.
5. Joel prophesied concerning a severe _____ and an invasion of _____.
6. Joel is a book of _____.
7. Joel focuses his attention upon the _____ of the _____.
8. Joel asks the priests to _____ outside the _____ and to _____ unto God, appealing to His _____.
9. Joel also prophesies about the coming of the _____, which is fulfilled in the book of _____.
10. During the time of writing, the people of _____ were bowing to the idols of _____ and breaking the _____ of God.

Day 5

Spend some time reviewing what you have learned this week, and then take Quiz 21.

God Saves His People

YOU ARE HERE.



Week 22

Lesson Goal: To understand that, no matter how desperate things can get, God is always capable of saving His people

Background Text: 2 Kings 6–7

Memory Verse: Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them. (2 Kings 6:16)

Day 1

Lesson 22

The Bible is full of stories of people in impossible situations who were rescued by the direct intervention of God. Abraham and Sarah were much too old to have a child, yet God intervened and gave them a child. Israel was trapped between the Red Sea and the army of Egypt, yet God put a wall of fire between them and parted the Red Sea. The book of Judges is filled with such miraculous stories. In the reading for today, we are going to look at three stories of people in impossible situations and the incredible intervention of God to save His people.

STORY 1

The first story seems like an insignificant story of an axe head being lost, but for the person who lost this axe head it was a big deal. Some of the prophets had decided to make a trip to the Jordan River in order to find some trees to cut down to build a

new home for themselves. However, as they were chopping down the trees, the axe head of one of the prophets fell into the water. Not only did this prevent him from doing his task, but the axe was borrowed so, according to the Law, he would have to pay back the owner the value of the axe, as well as 20 percent more. When Elisha saw this, the Lord used him to force the iron axe head to float so that the man could recover it. How many times have you ever lost something and prayed for God to help you find it? In that moment of panic, God hears your prayers and many times He leads you to where that lost item is.

STORY 2

The second story shows us that God is always working around us, even though many times we cannot see it. Elisha had made an enemy of the king of Syria by prophesying and giving away the plans of the Syrians to the people of Israel. As a result, the king of Syria sent his army to Elisha in order to capture him. Elisha's servant saw this army surrounding the city where they were staying, and he was terrified. However, Elisha prayed for God to open the eyes of his servant so that he could see the army of angels surrounding the city. At Elisha's request, God's army of angels blinded the Syrian army, and Elisha single-handedly captured the Syrian army and led them into Samaria, the capital city of Israel. At first glance, there is no way that Elisha could stand up to an entire army, but God has an army of His own that is far more powerful than any earthly army, and He can save His people.



The Army of God's Angels
Revealed to Elisha's Servant

STORY 3

The third story is also a story about an impossible situation. The Syrian army had decided to attack again, this time besieging Samaria, the capital city of Israel. Because cities like this had massive walls around them to protect the people, armies would often surround the cities for months and even years at a time in order to starve out the people. Often, these cities would surrender without even a battle after they ran out of food. The Syrians had been besieging Samaria for some time, and it appeared that Samaria was at the point of breaking. Out of desperation, the king had even sent servants to kill Elisha, blaming him for this situation. However, Elisha informed the king that everything would be fixed within a day. That same day, four lepers from the city decided to desert to the Syrians, hoping to receive mercy from them. Yet, when they got to the Syrian camp, they found that it had been abandoned. God had scared the Syrians away, and they had abandoned their supplies and their camp. The people of Samaria raided the camp, and the city of Samaria was saved.

God wanted His people to write down these stories and share them with future generations so that we could be encouraged in similar situations to trust in the Lord. These are not just made up stories designed to teach a lesson, but they are actual historical events in which people were saved by God. The good news is that the God we serve is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8). Undoubtedly, there will be situations that you will face that will seem impossible. Yet do not forget that God is sovereign and powerful enough to save, no matter the situation.

Lesson 22 Questions

Fill in the correct answers.

1. Write out the memory verse and the reference.

2. The Bible is full of _____ of people in _____ situations who are rescued by the direct _____ of God.

3. Some of the _____ had decided to make a trip to the _____ in order to find some trees to cut down to build a new _____ for themselves.
4. When _____ saw this, the Lord used him to force the iron axe head to _____ so that the man could _____ it.
5. Elisha had made an _____ of the king of _____ by prophesying and giving away the _____ of the Syrians to the people of Israel.
6. Elisha prayed for God to open the eyes of his _____ so that he could see the army of _____ surrounding the city.
7. God's army of angels _____ the Syrian army, and Elisha was able to _____ the army into the _____ city of Israel, _____.
8. The _____ army had decided to attack again, this time _____ Samaria, the capital city of Israel.
9. Out of _____, the king had even sent _____ to kill _____, blaming him for this situation.
10. God had _____ the Syrians away, and they had abandoned their _____ and their _____.

Day 2

Bible Reading & Questions

Read 2 Kings 6 and 7, and circle the correct answers.

1. Who was telling the king of Israel the words that the king of Syria spoke in his bedroom? (2 Kings 6:12)

| | |
|----------------|-----------|
| a. his servant | c. Elijah |
| b. Elisha | d. Gehazi |

2. What did the king of Israel want to do to the captives? (2 Kings 6:21)

| | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| a. set them free | c. make them slaves |
| b. flog them | d. kill them |

3. What did the two women boil and eat? (2 Kings 6:29)

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. a dab of dove's droppings | c. their last meal |
| b. some food | d. the first woman's son |

4. What was the king wearing beneath his clothes? (2 Kings 6:30)

| | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| a. a blanket | c. nothing |
| b. sackcloth | d. more clothes |

5. What made the Syrians flee and leave their tents? (2 Kings 7:6–7)
 - a. the four lepers
 - b. the army of Israel
 - c. the noise of chariots, horses, and a great army
 - d. the Hittites and Egyptians

6. Whom did the lepers tell about the Syrians' camp? (7:10)
 - a. the gatekeepers of the city
 - b. the king's house
 - c. other lepers
 - d. the king of Syria

7. What was the king afraid the Syrians might do? (2 Kings 7:12)
 - a. leave them and go back to their own country
 - b. give the people plenty of food to eat
 - c. kill everyone in Samaria
 - d. hide themselves and capture the people when they came out of the city

8. What did the messengers find when they pursued the Syrians?
(2 Kings 7:15)
- the Egyptians and Hittites
 - the army waiting to capture the people of Samaria
 - garments and weapons the Syrians had cast away in their haste
 - the angels of the Lord protecting Elisha
9. Whom did the king appoint as keeper of the gate? (2 Kings 7:17)
- Elisha
 - two messengers
 - the officer on whose hand the king leaned
 - the elders of the city
10. What happened to the person who had charge of the gate?
(2 Kings 7:20)
- He saved the city from famine.
 - The people trampled him in the gate, and he died.
 - He gave awards to the four lepers.
 - He kept the Syrians out of the city.



The Lepers Eating
in the Camp of the Syrians

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Letting the Soldiers Know
That the Syrians Had Fled

Day 3

Activity

In this exercise, you will interview older Christians in your life, asking them to share when they were in a difficult or hopeless situation in which they needed to trust the Lord to save them.

1. Identify 3 to 5 Christians that you know who have been Christians for over ten years. You might choose your mother or father, older brother or sister, uncle or aunt, Sunday school teacher, or youth leader.
2. Interview them and ask them if they can think of a time when they were in a hopeless situation and God came through to save them. You may record your conversations or write down notes on each of your interviews.
3. Write down their stories in your prayer journal.

Thought Questions

1. How does it make you feel to think that there may be an army of angels protecting you at any point?

2. Why do you think that Elisha knew that the angels were already there but his servant could not see them at first?

3. Has there ever been a time when you felt completely helpless? How did God help you through that time?

4. In light of today's lesson, what advice can you give someone who is really worried about something out of his or her control?

Review Questions

Answer the following questions.

1. Who interceded for her husband and kept David from committing a terrible sin? (Lesson 8)

2. What was the name of Elisha's servant who sinned and became a leper? (Lesson 21)

3. What was the purpose of the book of Joel? (Joel Background)

Day 4

Map Study 2

In the first map study, we considered the united Kingdom of Israel. This map study will focus upon the divided kingdoms of Israel and Judah. Please review the map on the next page and answer the following questions. Throughout this book, you may want to refer back to this map to further understand the stories and their locations as they are presented.

Map Study Exercises

1. Cross out the city that Jeroboam built. (1 Kings 12:25)
2. Circle the capital of Judah where all the kings of Judah lived. (1 Kings 14:21)
3. Put an “X” over the mountain where Elijah confronted the prophets of Baal. (1 Kings 18:19)
4. Put a “Z” over the city where Naboth’s vineyard was located. (1 Kings 21:1)
5. Underline the two cities where Elijah had the schools for the prophets. (2 Kings 2:3, 4)
6. Circle the body of water where Naaman washed himself. (2 Kings 5:10)
7. Put a box around the city into which Elisha led the blinded Syrians. (2 Kings 6:19)
8. Put a “Y” over the city held under siege by the Syrians for over a year. (2 Kings 6:24)

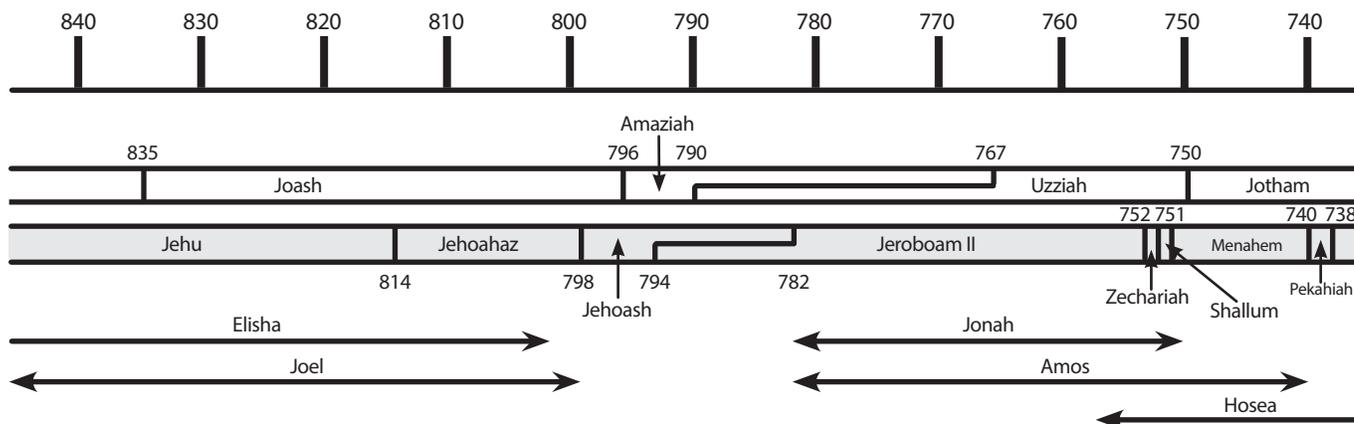
Day 5

Spend some time reviewing what you have learned this week, and then take Quiz 22.



Joash the Child King

YOU ARE HERE.



Week 23

Lesson Goal: To understand that you are never too young to serve God

Background Text: 2 Kings 11–12; cf. 2 Chronicles 24:1–14

Memory Verse: But Jesus said, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 19:14)

Day 1

Lesson 23

If you ever study the history of the kings of any nation, you would quickly see that there were many fights and struggles among the members of the royal family. Oftentimes, if a person wanted to be king, he would kill off his parents, brothers, and sisters until the throne belonged to him. This is what happened in our story today.

Queen Athaliah had all the royal descendants killed when she heard that her son was dead. She wanted to be the ruler of Judah, and she did not want anyone else to interfere with her plans. Queen Athaliah was the daughter of King Ahab and evil Jezebel of Israel. She continued the worship of Baal in Judah, which her mother had promoted in Israel.

Athaliah's plan to overtake the throne failed a few years later when it was discovered that she did not kill all of the royal family. Under the guidance of high priest Jehoiada, Joash (sometimes spelled Jehoash) was hidden for six years until he was seven years old.

Jehoiada then sought the help of several soldiers who overthrew Athaliah and set Joash in power. After King Joash gained the throne, he established order in the kingdom and followed the teachings of the Word of God.

People oftentimes ask, “What can I do for God? I am either too young, too short, too old, or too insignificant to accomplish anything for God.” We can make up all kinds of excuses



Anointing Joash, the Child King

as to why we cannot serve God, but this is not right. At the age of seven, what did Joash know about being a king? It could not have been very much. However, he did understand that his obedience to God's Word would guide him in the decisions he had to make. He trusted the high priest Jehoiada to help him make those decisions. The little child Joash was able to restore worship of God in Judah by repairing the temple and making the worship of the Lord God the priority in Judah. Since he listened to God, he was able to lead the entire nation into repentance.

In your own life, what is more important than your trust in Christ Jesus? Nothing should be as important as this. As opportunities arise, take what gifts and abilities you have and use them for God. This world is made up of thousands of Christians doing small things every day for the kingdom of God. When these things are combined together, they are no longer small but very great. Have you ever ridden in an airplane? When you are on the ground, all you can see is the small bit of area around you; but up in the sky, you can see for miles and miles. The same principle applies to your service for God's kingdom. By itself it may seem small, but when you combine it with all the righteous actions of other Christians, it becomes very great.

Lesson 23 Questions

Fill in the blanks to the Bible verse and answer the following questions.

1. But Jesus said, “Let the little _____ come to Me, and do not _____ them; for of such is the _____ of _____.” (Matthew 19:14)

2. Oftentimes, if a person wanted to be king, what would he do?

3. What did Queen Athaliah do when she heard that her son was dead?

4. Who were Queen Athaliah’s parents? _____

5. Whom did Athaliah worship? _____

6. Athaliah’s plan to overtake the throne failed when what was discovered?

7. Joash was hidden for six years under the guidance of whom?

8. Jehoiada sought the help of whom in order to overthrow Athaliah?

9. After Joash gained the throne, what did he do? _____

10. How was the little child Joash able to restore worship of God in Judah?

Day 2

Bible Reading & Questions

Read 2 Kings 11 and fill in the missing words in the following sentences.

1. When Athaliah, the mother of _____, saw that her son was _____, she destroyed all the royal _____. (2 Kings 11:1)
2. _____, the daughter of King Joram, stole him from among the king's sons who were being murdered and hid him and his _____ in the _____. (2 Kings 11:2)
3. In the seventh year _____ sent and brought the captains of _____—of the _____ and the _____—and brought them into the _____ of the Lord. (2 Kings 11:4)
4. The priest gave the captains of hundreds the spears and _____ that were in the _____ of the LORD. (2 Kings 11:10)
5. They brought out the king's son, put the _____ on him, and gave him the _____; they made him _____ and anointed him, and they clapped their hands and said, “_____!” (2 Kings 11:12)
6. When _____ heard the noise of the _____ and the _____, she came to the people in the _____ of the Lord. (2 Kings 11:13)
7. The king stood by a _____, according to custom; and the _____ and the _____ were by the king. All the _____ of the land were rejoicing and blowing trumpets. (2 Kings 11:14)

8. Jehoiada made a _____ between the _____, the _____, and the _____, that they should be the _____ people. (2 Kings 11:17)
9. The people of the land went to the temple of _____, and tore it down. They thoroughly broke in pieces its _____ and _____. (2 Kings 11:18)
10. All the people of the land _____; and the city was _____, for they had slain _____ with the sword in the _____ house. (2 Kings 11:20)

Day 3

Activity

This week, set aside one hour to give to your church or someone in need and answer the following questions.

- a. What is something that you can do for the Lord's work to fulfill the one hour requirement?

- b. How will you go about arranging your time commitment? _____

- c. After your work is complete, explain how God used you to help someone in need.

Thought Questions

1. What is something that you have done, or can begin doing, to serve the kingdom of God?

2. What talents and gifts do you have to help you accomplish this task?

Review Questions

Answer the following questions.

1. What did Naaman need to do to be healed (cleansed) from leprosy? (Lesson 21)

2. Reread the information under the Proverbs Project on pages 101 and 102, and then answer the following questions.

- a. How can you rid a child of his rebellious spirit?
(Proverbs 22:15)

- b. Why should you never rejoice when your enemy falls or fails?
(Proverbs 24:17-18)

c. There is something that should be done before a man builds or buys a home. What is it? (Proverbs 24:27)

d. What can you do to another person that is likened to hitting him with a club, wounding him with a sword, or shooting him with a sharp arrow? (Proverbs 25:18)

e. What is compared to chewing with a sore tooth or running on a foot out of joint? (Proverbs 25:19)

f. How can you become as defenseless as a city with broken-down walls? (Proverbs 25:28)

g. What is worse than being a fool? (Proverbs 26:12)

h. How does the Christian know that he will never lack spiritual food? (Proverbs 10:3)

i. What may one understand about a person who is cruel to animals? (Proverbs 12:10)

j. What should be our attitude toward the poor? (Proverbs 14:21)

Day 4

Jonah Background

Author of Jonah: Jonah (Jonah 1:1; 2 Kings 14:25). Christ also refers to Jonah in Matthew 12:40–41.

Date of Writing: Around 760 B.C.

Purpose of Jonah: To show God's judgment and mercy upon both Nineveh and Jonah

Outline of Jonah: Outlining the book of Jonah is very interesting because you can become very creative with it. Here are a few examples of some different types of outlines. Perhaps you could even think up some of your own.

- I. Jonah 1 *Jonah Rerouting*
 - II. Jonah 2 *Fish Spouting*
 - III. Jonah 3 *Prophet Shouting*
 - IV. Jonah 4 *Jonah Pouting*
-

- I. Jonah 1 *Prodigal*
 - II. Jonah 2 *Praying*
 - III. Jonah 3 *Preaching*
 - IV. Jonah 4 *Pouting*
-

- I. Jonah 1 *In a Ship*
 - II. Jonah 2 *In a Stomach*
 - III. Jonah 3 *In the Suburbs*
 - IV. Jonah 4 *In a Stew*
-

- I. Jonah 1 *Jonah Runs from God*
 - II. Jonah 2 *Anxious Prayer of Repentance*
 - III. Jonah 3 *Warning Nineveh of Destruction*
 - IV. Jonah 4 *Sulking Prophet Taught Compassion*
-

- I. Jonah 1 *Fleeing from God*
- II. Jonah 2 *Inside the Fish*
- III. Jonah 3 *Shouting Repentance*
- IV. Jonah 4 *Hiding in a booth*

The Big Idea of Jonah: The book of Jonah is a story about the prophet Jonah, his attitudes toward God, and the heathen city of Nineveh.

Nineveh was the capital of Assyria, a very wicked country. It was Assyria that battled against Israel for several years and eventually led them away into captivity. When the Assyrians captured a city, they would crucify thousands of men before the eyes of their women and children. They would also impale men on sharp stakes to die or rot, like insects stuck on a pin. With evil torture practices like these, it was little wonder why Jonah wanted the people of Nineveh destroyed.

Jonah was a very proud and patriotic individual. He wanted to see Israel grow and prosper, while her enemies were defeated and destroyed. Jonah did not want to have anything to do with the repentance of Nineveh. He considered this city to be the greatest of Israel's enemies. God had a different plan for Nineveh. He used Jonah's ministry to teach a lesson about His mercy toward sinners.

People have called the repentance of Nineveh the greatest revival in the history of the world. Ancient history tells us that during the time period of Jonah, the country of Assyria became less aggressive as a conquering nation. There are hints that Jonah's influence upon Nineveh was profound.

Years after Jonah's ministry, Nineveh and Assyria went back to their old wicked practices. If you want to see what eventually happened to Nineveh, read the book of Nahum.

The life of Jonah is very similar to the death and resurrection of Christ Jesus. Christ even refers to it in Matthew 12:40. When Jonah was in the belly of the fish for three days, this represented Christ being dead for three days. Just as Jonah was released from the stomach of the fish, Christ overcame death and was resurrected. Death had no power or claim on the life of God's Son.

Amos Background

Author of Amos: Amos (Amos 1:1)

Date of Writing: Around 760 B.C.

Purpose of Amos: To illustrate that the people of Israel had hardened their hearts to become lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God

Outline of Amos:

I. The Crooks (Amos 1–2)

II. The Case (Amos 3–6)

III. The Condemnation (Amos 7–9)

The Big Idea of Amos: Amos was a layman. He was not a professional prophet. By trade he was a herdsman and orchardist (Amos 7:14). God gave him a call to preach to the people of the Northern Kingdom, called Israel. This was unique because Amos did not live in Israel, but in Judah, about ten miles south of Jerusalem. Amos was a country boy who went to the big city to preach against the idolatry of the people.

After preaching in Bethel, Amos returned to Judah where he wrote out his message. This message attacked the sinful attitudes of the nation. Amos 3–6 condemns the people for five different sins. These sins were *insincerity*, *indifference*, *ingratitude*, *insensibility*, and *indulgence*. He also warned them that because they did not repent when they were lightly punished, that God would bring about a more severe condemnation. As the people's hearts became harder, Amos's preaching and God's punishments became stronger.

Background Questions

Answer the following questions, using the Jonah Background (questions 1–6) and the Amos Background (questions 7–10).

1. When was the book of Jonah written? _____
2. The purpose of Jonah was to show what two things about God?

3. How many chapters are there in the book of Jonah? _____
4. The book of Jonah is about what city? _____
5. Jonah did not want to have anything to do with the repentance of Nineveh. What did he consider this city to be?

6. People have called the repentance of Nineveh what?

7. When was the book of Amos written? _____
8. The purpose of Amos was to show that the people loved what rather than God?

9. What kind of person was Amos? _____

10. What did Amos do by trade? _____

Day 5

Spend some time reviewing what you have learned this week, and then take Quiz 23.