

## Sunday Morning Message

April 30, 2023

Title – *God Sent Them (Me) a Saviour*

Text – 2 Kings 13:1 - 9

Congregational Reading – 2 Kings 13:3 - 5

### Introduction

This morning we are going to do something a bit different from what we have been doing. We just finished a verse-by-verse sermon series through the Gospel of John and before that we examined some other New Testament books or letters. Today, and in the weeks to come, we will be preaching messages that are both textual as well as topical straight out of our daily devotional reading.

As a church, we have been reading through 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings together. If you are unfamiliar with our reading schedule, you can follow along with us each day by going to my website – [pastorerickson.com](http://pastorerickson.com). The site will direct you to the chapters of the day, and there are also some “second miler” passages that you can access every day if you are hungry for the Word of God. [Show the website up on the screens.]

There are audio links attached to each passage as well as a link to Blue Letter Bible, which is an online Bible Study source. There is also a short devotion connected to the daily reading each day.

On Sunday mornings for the foreseeable future, we will be taking one passage from the daily readings and developing a message out of it. This may be a passage that was dealt with briefly in the blog, but it also could be a completely different passage. We will pray and ask the Lord each week which passage that he wants us to focus on.

Today the Lord has impressed me to examine a passage of Scripture found in 2 Kings. The Books of the Kings of Israel and Judah are historical books that cover the period after the reign of King David. Saul was the first king, then David. In 1<sup>st</sup> Kings, chapter one, David’s son, Solomon is given the kingdom. After Solomon, the kingdom went to Solomon’s son, Rehoboam, but at the very beginning of his reign there was a civil war and the kingdom split into two – the northern kingdom of Israel and southern kingdom of Judah. Today, we will be discussing one of the kings from Israel, the northern kingdom.

As we have been reading through these chapters of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings, I have noticed that both the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah have both had many bad kings; kings that did evil in the sight of the Lord. In fact, the northern kingdom did not have any kings that did that which was right in the sight of the Lord. The southern kingdom had about eight kings that were good, but they also had twelve that were bad. If

you count the three kings that were around before the kingdom split, Israel (both kingdoms) had a total of thirty-two bad kings compared to ten good ones. Keep in mind, these kings were human. The good ones were not always good, and the bad ones were not always bad. Some of them started out good and became bad (Solomon). Some of them started out bad but toward the end of their life, they repented and turned to God (Manasseh), but they are still thought of as bad kings because of all the evil they did, or allowed, when earlier in their reign.

I am looking forward to doing a more in-depth study of the kings of Israel and Judah on Sunday evenings beginning about one month from now.

Read 2 Kings 13:1 - 9

*"1 In the three and twentieth year of Joash the son of Ahaziah king of Judah Jehoahaz the son of Jehu began to reign over Israel in Samaria, and reigned seventeen years. 2 And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, and followed the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, which made Israel to sin; he departed not therefrom. 3 And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel, and he delivered them into the hand of Hazael king of Syria, and into the hand of Benhadad the son of Hazael, all their days. 4 And Jehoahaz besought the LORD, and the LORD hearkened unto him: for he saw the oppression of Israel, because the king of Syria oppressed them. 5 (And the LORD gave Israel a saviour, so that they went out from under the hand of the Syrians: and the children of Israel dwelt in their tents, as beforetime. 6 Nevertheless they departed not from the sins of the house of Jeroboam, who made Israel sin, but walked therein: and there remained the grove also in Samaria.) 7 Neither did he leave of the people to Jehoahaz but fifty horsemen, and ten chariots, and ten thousand footmen; for the king of Syria had destroyed them, and had made them like the dust by 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 And Jehoahaz slept with his fathers; and they buried him in Samaria: and Joash his son reigned in his stead." (2 Kings 13:1-9)*

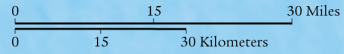
Verse 1 – In these Books of the Kings, you will notice that the kings of Israel are always compared chronologically with the kings of Judah, and vice versa. Another thing that makes it a little difficult to study these kings is that some of the names are similar (Joash and Jehoash; Ahaziah and Amaziah; Jehoiakim and Jehoiachin), and then there are also duplicate names (two Jeroboams and two Jehoahazes). Then there are kings that have two and, in one case, three names (Jehoiachin is Jeconiah and Coniah).

Jehoahaz reigned from 814 BC to 798 BC, which includes seventeen calendar years, though the actual duration of his reign was closer to sixteen years.

Samaria was the capitol of the northern kingdom (See Map).

**DIVIDED KINGDOMS AFTER SOLOMON AND OTHER KINGDOMS**

- City
- ★ Capital city
- Political boundaries



Verse 2 – Jehoahaz did evil in the sight of the Lord and is here compared to Jeroboam, the son of Nebat, who was the first king of Israel and obviously also a bad king.

Turn to I Kings 12:25 – 33

*"25 Then Jeroboam built Shechem in mount Ephraim, and dwelt therein; and went out from thence, and built Penuel. 26 And Jeroboam said in his heart, Now shall the kingdom return to the house of David: 27 If this people go up to do sacrifice in the house of the LORD at Jerusalem, then shall the heart of this people turn again unto their lord, even unto Rehoboam king of Judah, and they shall kill me, and go again to Rehoboam king of Judah. 28 Whereupon the king took counsel, and made two calves of gold, and said unto them, It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem: behold thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt. 29 And he set the one in Bethel, and the other put he in Dan. 30 And this thing became a sin: for the people went to worship before the one, even unto Dan. 31 And he made an house of high places, and made priests of the lowest of the people, which were not of the sons of Levi. 32 And Jeroboam ordained a feast in the eighth month, on the fifteenth day of the month, like unto the feast that is in Judah, and he offered upon the altar. So did he in Bethel, sacrificing unto the calves that he had made: and he placed in Bethel the priests of the high places which he had made. 33 So he offered upon the altar which he had made in Bethel the fifteenth day of the eighth month, even in the month which he had devised of his own heart; and ordained a feast unto the children of Israel: and he offered upon the altar, and burnt incense." (1 Kings 12:25-33)*

After the time of Jeroboam, King Ahab and others promoted Baal worship in Israel, which was worse than what Jeroboam did, but Baal worship was driven out by Jehoahaz' father Jehu.

Turn to 2 Kings 10:28 – 33

*"28 Thus Jehu destroyed Baal out of Israel. 29 Howbeit from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin, Jehu departed not from after them, to wit, the golden calves that were in Bethel, and that were in Dan. 30 And the LORD said unto Jehu, Because thou hast done well in executing that which is right in mine eyes, and hast done unto the house of Ahab according to all that was in mine heart, thy children of the fourth generation shall sit on the throne of Israel. 31 But Jehu took no heed to walk in the law of the LORD God of Israel with all his heart: for he departed not from the sins of Jeroboam, which made Israel to sin. 32 In those days the LORD began to cut Israel short: and Hazael smote them in all the coasts of Israel; 33 From Jordan eastward, all the land of Gilead, the Gadites, and the Reubenites, and the Manassites, from Aroer, which is by the river Arnon, even Gilead and Bashan." (2 Kings 10:28-33)*

So Jehoahaz and his father Jehu were bad, but not as bad as Ahab and Jezebel.

I guess if you wanted to compare yourself with others, you can always find somebody worse than you, but you will also find some that are better than you.

We know according to the New Testament Scriptures, there are none good, none righteous, no not one; because we all fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:10; 23; Mark 10:18; Matthew 9:17; Luke 18:19 Psalm 14:1,3; 53:1,3).

Verse 3 – Because Israel was wicked nation with an ungodly king, God allowed the enemies to get in.

Note – God will protect you from the enemies if you are walking within the will of God and are obedient to Word of God.

Look at vs. 22 – 25 for more info about the oppression from Syria:

*"22 But Hazael king of Syria oppressed Israel all the days of Jehoahaz. 23 And the LORD was gracious unto them, and had compassion on them, and had respect unto them, because of his covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and would not destroy them, neither cast he them from his presence as yet. 24 So Hazael king of Syria died; and Benhadad his son reigned in his stead. 25 And Jehoash the son of Jehoahaz took again out of the hand of Benhadad the son of Hazael the cities, which he had taken out of the hand of Jehoahaz his father by war. Three times did Joash beat him, and recovered the cities of Israel." (2 Kings 13:22-25)*

Verse 4 – Notice here that this wicked king who is in a crisis humbles himself and begs the Lord to help him, and the Lord answered heard him. He helped him.

1. Sometimes it takes a crisis to get somebody to humble themselves and turn to God.
2. The Lord was watching what was happening in Israel.
3. The Lord was not happy about what was happening to His people.
4. The Lord did not listen and reply until the king cried out to God.

It may be that there is somebody here in this room (or watching online) that is in a crisis. Maybe God is just waiting for you to humble yourself and cry out to him before he will help you. Maybe this crisis is god's way of getting your attention.

5. God did not allow the Syrians to oppress Israel to punish them, He allowed them to come against Israel so that Israel would cry out to God.

Verse 5 – What did God do? He sent Israel a saviour – a deliverer. In this historical context the Bible is talking about someone who came along and removed the oppression of the Syrians. Some historians believe that it is a reference to the Assyrians who had invaded Syria at this time. Syria was conquered by the Assyrians long before Israel was.

This saviour brought peace to Israel.

Here is the application that we can make from this verse: I was a bad guy who did evil in the sight of the Lord but about 33 years ago now, when my life was in crisis, I cried out to the Lord for help, and He sent me the Saviour. And when I received the Saviour, I received peace in my heart: peace with God and the peace of God.

God sent you a Saviour as well, and if you don't have to wait until you are in a crisis to cry out to Him and receive Him, but if you are in a crisis, let me assure you that the only one who can give you peace is the Lord Jesus who is our Saviour and Lord.

Verse 6 – Notice however that after the Lord delivered Israel and the crisis was abated, the people of Israel continued doing the bad stuff they were doing before they were delivered.

Notice the reference to “the grove:”

*"30 And Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the LORD above all that were before him. 31 And it came to pass, as if it had been a light thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he took to wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Zidonians, and went and served Baal, and worshipped him. 32 And he reared up an altar for Baal in the house of Baal, which he had built in Samaria. 33 **And Ahab made a grove**; and Ahab did more to provoke the LORD God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel that were before him." (1 Kings 16:30-33)*

This grove (Hebrew אֲשֶׁרָה אֲשֶׁרָה - 'ăšērâ) – a place where Astarte, a Canaanite goddess was worshipped. (BDB - a Canaanitish goddess of fortune & happiness; having prophets 1 K 18:19, an image 15:13 = 2 Ch 15:16 2 K 21:7, sacred vessels 2 K 23:4, houses v. 7. **b.** a symbol of this goddess, a *sacred tree* or *pole* set up near an altar.)<sup>1</sup> Apparently, when Jehu cleaned out all the Baal worship, he left this grove, and Jehoahaz left it as well. It was a place of idolatry.

See also 1Kings 21:25 – 29 – regarding Ahab.

Unfortunately, sometimes those crisis conversions do not produce lasting change in a person's heart. Wiersbe said: “Crisis faith is rarely deep or lasting. Once people see hope of deliverance and their pain eases up, they forget the Lord and return to their old ways until the next crisis.”<sup>2</sup> Sometimes, God moves in a person's heart during a time of trouble and the person will ask God for help with the problem and God in his mercy will help them, but the person then forsakes God. That is not saving faith. Faith that saves will continue:

---

<sup>1</sup> Brown, Francis, Samuel Rolles Driver, and Charles Augustus Briggs. 1977. In *Enhanced Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon*, 81. Oxford: Clarendon Press.

<sup>2</sup> Wiersbe, Warren W. 2002. *Be Distinct*. “Be” Commentary Series. Colorado Springs, CO: Victor.

*"31 Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;" (John 8:31)*

However, sometimes people when in a crisis, cry out to God for salvation, not just from the crisis, but from everything, and God saves them, and their faith continues.

Verse 7 – Because Jehoahaz' faith and the faith of Israel did not continue; they could never thrive as a nation. They were delivered from the immediate threat of Syria but were unable to recover the land that Syria had taken from them, and they were unable to rebuild their army. They were weak.

God does not just want you to survive, He wants you to thrive.

God does not just want to save you from a crisis, He wants to take over and give you an abundant life.

*"10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." (John 10:10)*

## Conclusion

*"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 And Jehoahaz slept with his fathers; and they buried him in Samaria: and Joash his son reigned in his stead." (2 Kings 13:8-9)*

Jehoahaz had enough faith to cry out to God for help in his crisis, but not enough faith to allow God to rule the kingdom.

1. If you are in a crisis cry out to God for help.

He may help you but realize that asking God to fix a problem or heal a disease is not eternal salvation. Salvation occurs when trust Christ as your Saviour after realizing that you are a hell-deserving sinner in need of salvation.

2. If you have never trusted Christ for your salvation, cry out to him to save you from going to Hell by repenting of your sin and believing that Jesus Christ shed His blood and died on the Cross to pay your sin debt.
3. If you have trusted Christ, give your life wholly over to him and let him guide you in every area.
  - Spend time with him every day reading His word and praying.
  - Go to church every time you can. Don't forsake the house of God.
  - Find ways to serve Him by serving other people.
  - Tell others about the Lord.