

Come, Let us Reason Together

Part 4

“A Half Hearted Prayer”

2 Kings 13

10 In the thirty-seventh year of Joash king of Judah, Jehoash son of Jehoahaz became king of Israel in Samaria, and he reigned sixteen years.

11 **He did evil in the eyes of the Lord and did not turn away from any of the sins of Jeroboam** son of Nebat, which he had caused Israel to commit; he continued in them.

14 Now Elisha had been suffering from the illness from which he died.

Jehoash king of Israel went down to see him and wept over him. “My father! My father!” he cried. “The chariots and horsemen of Israel!”

15 Elisha said, “Get a bow and some arrows,” and he did so. 16 “Take the bow in your hands,” he said to the king of Israel. **When he had taken it, Elisha put his hands on the king’s hands.**

17 “Open the east window,” he said, and he opened it. “Shoot!” Elisha said, and he shot. “The Lord’s arrow of victory, the arrow of victory over Aram!” Elisha declared. “You will completely destroy the Arameans at Aphek.”

18 **Then he said, “Take the arrows,” and the king took them. Elisha told him, “Strike the ground.” He struck it three times and stopped.** 19 The man of God was angry with him and said, “You should have struck the ground five or six times; then you would have defeated Aram and completely destroyed it. But now you will defeat it only three times.”

Vs. 11

He (Jehoash) did evil in the eyes of the Lord and did not turn away from any of the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, which he had caused Israel to commit; he continued in them.

This is interesting and a clear indicator in Scripture:
The account of Jeroboam is found in 1 Kings 11-14

*In regard to the Kings of Israel you will hear this phrase used over and over, **“He did evil in the eyes of the Lord and did not turn away from the sins of Jeroboam”**.*

This was the downfall of many of the Kings of Israel.

It is a repeated pattern especially among the Kings of Israel.

Jeroboam was the first King of Israel after the Kingdom was divided.

Jeroboam set a pattern that most of the Kings of Israel were not able to break.

It's as if it is a generational stronghold and a curse.

This is what the Bible says about Jeroboam:

1 Kings 11

28 Now Jeroboam was a man of standing, and when Solomon saw how well the young man did his work, he put him in charge of the whole labor force of the tribes of Joseph.

Lord spoke to Jeroboam:

31...'See, I am going to tear the kingdom out of Solomon's hand and give you ten tribes. **32** But for the sake of my servant David and the city of Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, he will have one tribe. **33** I will do this because they have forsaken me and worshiped Ashtoreth...

37 However, as for you, **I will take you, and you will rule over all that your heart desires; you will be king over Israel. 38 If you do whatever I command you and walk in obedience to me and do what is right in my eyes by obeying my decrees and commands**, as David my servant did, I will be with you.

This is what Jeroboam did:

1. He became fearful of his people going to the Temple of the Lord and their allegiance returning to Rehoboam.

1 Kings 12

27 If these people go up to offer sacrifices at the temple of the Lord in Jerusalem, they will again give their allegiance to their lord, Rehoboam king of Judah. They will kill me and return to King Rehoboam.”

2. He took advice from people instead of the Lord and he made idols for the people to worship.

1 Kings 12

28 After seeking advice, the king made two golden calves.

3. “Jeroboam appointed priests from all sorts of people, even though they were not Levites. He instituted his own festival...” **1 Kings 12:31-32**

In a nut shell:

1. He kept them from the Lord and the Temple of the Lord...
2. He lead them to worship other things...
3. And exchanged the sacred for the secular...
(He did it His way instead of God’s way)

Then things got tough King Jehoash...

Vs. 14

Jehoash king of Israel went down to see him and wept over him. “My father! My father!” he cried. “The chariots and horsemen of Israel!”

- Israel was in a desperate situation.
- King Johoash was in desperate need of God’s help.
- Israel’s Army was nearly wiped out by Aram.

Vs. 7

Nothing had been left of the army of Jehoahaz (army of Israel) except fifty horsemen, ten chariots and ten thousand foot soldiers, for the king of Aram had destroyed the rest and made them like the dust at threshing time.

Vs. 15,16

15 Elisha said, “Get a bow and some arrows,” and he did so. **16** “Take the bow in your hands,” he said to the king of Israel. **When he had taken it, Elisha put his hands on the king’s hands.**

- What an amazing picture of confirmation and affirmation...
- It’s as if God is himself affirming Jehoash’s obedience...
- It says Elisha said, and he did so...

- When God asks us to do something and we do it he puts his hands on our hands...

Vs. 17

“Open the east window,” he said, and **he opened it.** **“Shoot!”** Elisha said, **and he shot.** “The Lord’s arrow of victory, the arrow of victory over Aram!” Elisha declared. “You will completely destroy the Arameans at Aphek.”

“Open the east window,”
he opened it.
“Shoot!”
and he shot.

“The Lord’s arrow of victory, the arrow of victory over Aram!” Elisha declared.

Jehoash is learning quick...

Do what the Lord tells you to do and amazing things happen...

This obedience thing works...

Vs. 18

Then he said, “Take the arrows,” and the king took them. Elisha told him, “Strike the ground.” He struck it three times and stopped.

Strike:

to strike, smite, hit.

to strike for the sake of correction.

beat, slay, kill.

to send forth into the ground.

to strike into pieces.

Vs. 19

The man of God was angry with him and said, “You should have struck the ground five or six times; then you would have defeated Aram and completely destroyed it. But now you will defeat it only three times.”

“You should have struck the ground”

“You should have beat the ground”

“You should have killed the ground”

“You should have, whole heartedly struck into pieces, the ground”

“But now you will only defeat it three times.”

What a picture of how we ought to Come to the Lord

We come to him whole hearted...

We hold nothing back...

We don't desire to do it our way...

We desire to do it his way...

We don't desire to be recognized...

We desire that he be recognized...

We simply desire to be obedient and faithful...

“God didn't call me to be important, he called me to be faithful. And when you are faithful you are important,”