

Theme: Our rebellion and sin certainly tests the patience of God. But the patience and long-suffering of God clearly tests and challenges the mind and heart of humanity. It is beyond the sinner’s reason for it is rooted in God’s covenant faithfulness and love.

Background: Last week – Joash’s reign in Judah. This week – Jehu’s descendants and God’s grace

Introduction: Seeing things in scripture you missed before.

I. Jehu’s Legacy

- A. Four generations on Israel’s throne
 - From Jehoahaz, to Jehoash, to Jeroboam, to Zechariah
- B. Four unfaithful generations
 - 1. All “did what was evil in the sight of the Lord”
 - 2. All “did not depart from the sins of Jeroboam”

II. Jehovah’s Legacy

- A. *Compassion* (13:4,5) In the days of Jehoahaz...
 - 1. The Lord’s anger is kindled (13:3)
 - 2. Jehoahaz seeks God’s *favor* (13:4a)
 - 3. The Lord listens and hears (13:4b)
 - Like the days of the Judges
 - 4. The promise of deliverance (a savior) (13:5)
 - 5. Not for Jehoahaz (13:6-7)
- B. *Deliverance* (13:14-19,22-25) In the days of Jehoash...
 - 1. A very brief history (13:10-13)
 - 2. The defining point
 - a. Elisha is dying
 - b. Jehoash’s testimony (13:14b)
 - Israel’s real strength lies in the Word of the Lord (in the Lord’s prophet)
 - 3. Strike for the victory !
 - a. The “arrow of victory” (13:15-19)
 - b. A tepid response (18)
 - 4. The rebuke
 - You had them in your hand!
 - 5. The promise fulfilled
 - Syria will fall three times (24,25)

But why save them?

- C. *Faithfulness* – to the Covenant! (23)
 - The promise to their forefathers

NOTE: The Lord has not yet rejected this people, even though they are in exile. (“until now”)

APPLICATION: 1. Here is hope and encouragement for a struggling believer. 2. Here is a great challenge – To embrace the word of God and his plans wholeheartedly so as not to miss his blessing.

- D. *Restoration* (14:23-27) In the reign of...
 - 1. Jeroboam II
 - a. A long, evil reign

- b. With great suffering (14:26)
 - c. Because of great sin. Recorded by...
 - Hosea, Amos (2:6-8), Jonah
 - 2. The word of the prophet (Jonah)
 - a. Call to repentance
 - In Nineveh and in Israel
 - b. And restoration (27)
 - NOTE: How did I miss it? But I did.
 - Jeroboam I – Tears the nation apart, destroying the borders of “all Israel”
 - Jeroboam II – Starts to put it back together (50-60 years later)
 - c. What Jehu lost, the Lord restores (What a glorious legacy!)
 - 3. God is still calling Israel – She still has opportunity to turn and be restored!
 - D. *Life!* (13:20,21) Back to Elisha, even though he has died...
 - 1. The God of Elisha is the God of Life!
 - 2. Is Israel beyond redemption, beyond hope? Clearly, not yet.
 - 3. The life God promises doesn’t end with Elisha’s death
- NOTE: The promise is secured permanently with Jesus’ death – and resurrection!

III. A Living Legacy

- A. In Israel (and Judah)
 - 1. Compassion on/for a wayward, sinful, rebellious people
 - 2. Deliverance from bondage, oppression
 - 3. Faithfulness tied to his Covenant promise
 - 4. Restoration into the Lord’s favor and protection
 - 5. Life – defeating our greatest enemy

Where do we see most clearly this living legacy?
- B. In the Word made flesh
 - 1. God’s legacy is personalized, personified in the Son of God
 - David’s righteous heir and our redeemer
 - a. Compassion (Mark 6:34)
 - b. Deliverance (2 Corinthians 1:10; Galatians 1:3; Hebrews 2:14)
 - c. Restoration (1 Peter 3:18; Revelation 21:5; 2 Corinthians 5:17)
 - d. Covenant faithfulness (Luke 1:68-74; John 6:37; 10:28)
 - e. Resurrection life
 - 2. Old Testament hope
 - Abraham’s hope (cf. Genesis 22:5; Hebrews 11:19)
 - Job’s testimony (19:25-27)
 - David’s praise (Psalm 16:10)
 - 3. New Testament reality
 - Jesus is raised from the dead!
 - Jesus will raise us from the dead
 - To eternal life (John 3:36; 6:40)

CONCLUSION: What will your legacy be?

- The one you chart, with a little help from Jesus?
- Or the one the Lord has charted for your life in him? Leading to life for you and praise to him.

Next Week: 2 Kings 14 & 15