

JEHOAHAZ IN A FOXHOLE. 2 KN. 13:1-9. 12/31/23. #25.

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In the twenty-third year of Joash the son of Ahaziah, king of Judah, Jehoahaz the son of Jehu became king over Israel in Samaria, and reigned seventeen years. <sup>2</sup>And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, and followed the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who had made Israel sin. He did not depart from them. <sup>3</sup>Then the anger of the LORD was aroused against Israel, and He delivered them into the hand of Hazael king of Syria, and into the hand of Ben-Hadad the son of Hazael, all their days. <sup>4</sup>So Jehoahaz pleaded with the LORD, and the LORD listened to him; for He saw the oppression of Israel, because the king of Syria oppressed them. <sup>5</sup>Then the LORD gave Israel a deliverer, so that they escaped from under the hand of the Syrians; and the children of Israel dwelt in their tents as before. <sup>6</sup>Nevertheless they did not depart from the sins of the house of Jeroboam, who had made Israel sin, but walked in them; and the wooden image also remained in Samaria. <sup>7</sup>For He left of the army of Jehoahaz only fifty horsemen, ten chariots, and ten thousand foot soldiers; for the king of Syria had destroyed them and made them like the dust at threshing. <sup>8</sup>Now the rest of the acts of Jehoahaz, all that he did, and his might, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel? <sup>9</sup>So Jehoahaz rested with his fathers, and they buried him in Samaria. Then Joash his son reigned in his place.

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1. Like father, like son

- a. When Joash was 23 in Judah, Jehu's son, Jehoahaz, began to rule at Samaria in Israel
  - a1. Jehu had destroyed Baal worship, but had kept the Golden Calves of Jeroboam I
  - a2. Jehu declared that he had a zeal for the Lord, but it was only in things he wanted to do
- b. God demands complete obedience
  - a1. We are not to select what we want to obey & ignore what we don't want to obey
  - a2. God's will is clear & doable
- c. Jehoahaz kept the worship of the Golden Calves
  - a1. As his father did, he led Israel into continued idol worship
  - a2. The idol worship angered the Lord
- d. God had placed Jehu's family on the throne in the place of Ahab's line, but they showed no loyalty to God
- e. God sent Hazael to brutalize Israel because of their idol worship

2. A cry from the foxhole

- a. The Golden Calves did not help Jehoahaz
  - a1. They gave nothing in return

- a2. Worship of calves & wooden idols (Asherahs) was vain & ruinous
- b. Finally, Jehoahaz called upon the Lord for help
  - a1. His idols had done nothing for him
  - a2. God showed mercy and sent a deliverer to relieve Israel of the attacks of Hazael & his son, Ben Hadad III
- c. The deliverer of Israel
  - a1. We are not told who God sent to deliver Israel, but several historical names have been proposed
  - a2. Some view the deliverance as coming from Assyria, who attacked Syria's eastern border when Ben Hadad III was on the throne
  - a3. Israel had some relief from Syria until Assyria finally conquered Israel in 722 BC
- d. Israel was then allowed to dwell in their "tents" and not in the shelter of walled cities
  - a1. The army was reduced to 10,000 men, 50 horsemen, & 10 chariots
  - a2. God's mercy to Israel was given despite their evil behavior

3. Tone deaf

- a. Even though God showed mercy to them by relieving the pressure from Syria, Jehoahaz & Israel continued to worship idols & do evil
  - a1. No sense of gratitude or commitment to Lord
  - a2. They continued to worship idols that could do nothing for them
- b. God allowed Jeh. to reign 17 years, but he was afflicted by Syria throughout his reign
  - a1. He refused to repent
  - a2. He only called on God when desperate
- c. Many people call on God & make promises when in a crisis, but completely forget God when the crisis passes
  - a1. God will not be mocked, for their will be an accounting in full (Eccl. 5:4)
  - a2. By rejecting the evidence God sends us, we pile up more judgment against ourselves
- d. It makes no sense to rely upon those things that do not work & cannot save, while rejecting the living God
- e. If one calls upon God for help, is the person not acknowledging that there is a God, & only He can truly help?