

2 Kings 13

Verses 1 - 5

In the twenty-third year of Joash the son of Ahaziah, king of Judah, Jehoahaz the son of Jehu became king over Israel at Samaria, *and he reigned* for seventeen years. ² He did evil in the sight of the Lord, and followed the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, into which he misled Israel; he did not turn from them. ³ So the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel, and He continually handed them over to Hazael king of Aram, and to Ben-hadad, the son of Hazael. ⁴ Then Jehoahaz appeased the Lord, and the Lord listened to him; for He saw the oppression of Israel, how the king of Aram oppressed them. ⁵ And the Lord gave Israel a savior, so that they escaped from under the hand of the Arameans; and the sons of Israel lived in their tents as previously.

In the twenty-third year of Joash the son of Ahaziah, king of Judah, Jehoahaz the son of Jehu became king over Israel at Samaria, *and he reigned* for seventeen years.

See chart 1305

Northern Kings

	King	Began	Ended	Years	Co-reign
10	Jehu	841	814	28	
11	Jehoahaz	814	798	17	
12	Jehoash (aka Joash)	798	782	16	
13	Jeroboam II	793/782	753	41	11 years
14	Zechariah	753	752	6 months	
15	Shallum	752	752	1 month	
16	Menahem	752	742	10	
17	Pekahiah	742	740	2	
18	Pekah	752	732	20	
19	Hoshea	732	722	9	

² He did evil in the sight of the Lord, and followed the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, into which he misled Israel; he did not turn from them.

The great sin of Jeroboam was setting up the golden calves in Dan and Bethel.

See map 1310



The excuse that the king gave for doing this was typical of a godless politician.

See 1 Kings 12:28

²⁸ So the king consulted, and he made two golden calves; and he said to the people, “It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem; behold your gods, Israel, that brought you up from the land of Egypt.”

The excuse that it was too much for the people to go up to Jerusalem seems pretty weak when one considers that God had already made a provision for this very situation.

See Exodus14:24-27

²⁴ But if the distance is so great for you that you are not able to bring *the tithe*, since the place where the Lord your God chooses to set His name is too far away from you when the Lord your God blesses you, ²⁵ then you shall exchange *it* for money, and bind the money in your hand and go to the place which the Lord your God chooses. ²⁶ And you may spend the money on whatever your heart desires: on oxen, sheep, wine, *other* strong drink, or whatever your heart desires; and there you shall eat in the presence of the Lord your God and rejoice, you and your household. ²⁷ Also you shall not neglect the Levite who is in your town, for he has no portion or inheritance among you.

God provided everything the people needed to be faithful to Him but they still chose to do the wrong thing.

³ **So the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel, and He continually handed them over to Hazael king of Aram, and to Ben-hadad, the son of Hazael.**

See chart 1315

Kings of Syria	
King	Reign
Ben-Hadad I	885-865 BC
Hadadezer (Ben Hadad II)	865 - 842 BC
Hazael	842–805 or 796 BC
Ben-Hadad III	796 to 792 BC
Rezin	754 BC–732 BC

⁴ Then Jehoahaz appeased the Lord, and the Lord listened to him; for He saw the oppression of Israel, how the king of Aram oppressed them. ⁵ And the Lord gave Israel a savior, so that they escaped from under the hand of the Arameans; and the sons of Israel lived in their tents as previously.

The savior mentioned here probably refers to Joash the son of Jehoahaz because he will win three victories over Syria and take back the cities of Israel (verse 25). However, Jeroboam II the son of Joash also fits the description of being a savior because he will reestablish the borders of Israel.

See 2 Kings 14:23-25

²³ In the fifteenth year of Amaziah the son of Joash king of Judah, Jeroboam the son of Joash king of Israel became king in Samaria, *and reigned for forty-one years.* ²⁴ He did evil in the sight of the Lord; he did not abandon all the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, into which he misled Israel. ²⁵ He restored the border of Israel from the entrance of Hamath as far as the Sea of the Arabah, in accordance with the word of the Lord, the God of Israel, which He spoke through His servant Jonah the son of Amittai, the prophet, who was from Gath-hepher.

Jeroboam II restored the northern and southern borders of Israel (the two white lines to the North and South) which means he conquered a large part of Syria.

See Maps 1320



These were the original borders that God had promised to Israel but they were not attained until the reign of Solomon. This area was lost over time but under Jeroboam it will be retaken and once again become a part of Israel.

See 2 Kings 14:28-29

²⁸ Now as for the rest of the acts of Jeroboam and all that he did and his might, how he fought and how he recovered for Israel Damascus and Hamath, which had belonged to Judah, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel? ²⁹ And Jeroboam lay down with his fathers, with the kings of Israel, and his son Zechariah became king in his place.

Verses 6 - 9

⁶ Nevertheless they did not abandon the sins of the house of Jeroboam, into which he misled Israel; *rather*, they walked in them; and the Asherah also remained standing in Samaria. ⁷ For he left to Jehoahaz no more of the army than fifty horsemen, ten chariots, and ten thousand infantry, because the king of Aram had eliminated them and made them like the dust at threshing. ⁸ Now as for 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 lay down with his fathers, and they buried him in Samaria; and his son Joash became king in his place.

⁶ Nevertheless they did not abandon the sins of the house of Jeroboam, into which he misled Israel; *rather*, they walked in them; and the Asherah also remained standing in Samaria.

The great victory mentioned in verse 5 will not take place for a number of years so we are brought back to the current reality in Israel. The sins of the people have left them under the control of Syria and they are a hard taskmaster.

⁷ For he left to Jehoahaz no more of the army than fifty horsemen, ten chariots, and ten thousand infantry, because the king of Aram had eliminated them and made them like the dust at threshing.

During the reign of Ahab, Israel had over 2,000 chariots but now they were reduced to 10. King Hazael of Syria had complete control over Israel at this time.

Verses 10 - 13

¹⁰ In the thirty-seventh year of Joash king of Judah, Jehoash the son of Jehoahaz became king over Israel in Samaria, *and he reigned* for sixteen years. ¹¹ He did evil in the sight of the Lord; he did not turn away from all the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, into which he misled Israel; *rather*, he walked in them. ¹² Now *as for* the rest of the acts of Joash and all that he did, and his might with which he fought against Amaziah king of Judah, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel? ¹³ So Joash lay down with his fathers, and Jeroboam sat on his throne; and Joash was buried in Samaria with the kings of Israel.

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

See chart 1325

Northern Kings					
	King	Began	Ended	Years	Co-reign
10	Jehu	841	814	28	
11	Jehoahaz	814	798	17	
12	Jehoash (aka Joash)	798	782	16	
13	Jeroboam II	793/782	753	41	11 years
14	Zechariah	753	752	6 months	
15	Shallum	752	752	1 month	
16	Menahem	752	742	10	
17	Pekahiah	742	740	2	
18	Pekah	752	732	20	
19	Hoshea	732	722	9	

King Jehoash is called "Joash" in verse 12 so we have a king Joash in both Israel and Judah for about 2 or 3 years.

See chart 1330

Southern Kings

	King	Began	Ended	Years	Co-reign
1	Rehoboam	930	913	17	
2	Abijam (aka Abijah)	913	911	3	
3	Asa	911	870	41	
4	Jehoshaphat	873/870	848	25	3 years
5	Jehoram	853/848	841	8	5 years
6	Ahaziah (aka Jehoahaz)	841	841	1	
	Athaliah	841	835	6	
7	Joash (aka Jehoash)	835	796	40	
8	Amaziah	796	767	29	
9	Uzziah (aka Azariah)	791/767	740	52	24 years
10	Jotham	750/740	731	16	10 years

Northern Kings

	King	Began	Ended	Years	Co-reign
10	Jehu	841	814	28	
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19	Hoshea	732	722	9	

¹² Now *as for* the rest of the acts of Joash and all that he did, and his might with which he fought against Amaziah king of Judah, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel?

See 2 Kings 14:11-14

¹¹ But Amaziah would not listen. So Jehoash king of Israel went up; and they faced each other, he and Amaziah king of Judah, at Beth-shemesh, which belongs to Judah. ¹² And Judah was defeated by Israel, and they fled, every man to his tent. ¹³ Then Jehoash king of Israel captured Amaziah king of Judah, the son of Jehoash the son of Ahaziah, at Beth-shemesh, and came to Jerusalem and tore down the wall of Jerusalem from the Gate of Ephraim to the Corner Gate, four hundred cubits. ¹⁴ And he took all the gold and silver and all the utensils which were found in the house of the Lord, and in the treasuries of the king's house, the hostages as well, and returned to Samaria.

Amaziah was defeated because he had forsaken the Lord.

See 2 Chronicles 25:20, 27

²⁰ But Amaziah would not listen, for it was from God, so that He might hand them over *to Joash*, because they had sought the gods of Edom.

²⁷ From the time that Amaziah turned away from following the Lord they conspired against him in Jerusalem.

Verses 14 - 19

¹⁴ When Elisha became sick with the illness of which he was to die, Joash the king of Israel came down to him, and wept over him and said, "My father, my father, the chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" ¹⁵ And Elisha said to him, "Take a bow and arrows." So he took a bow and arrows. ¹⁶ Then *Elisha* said to the king of Israel, "Lay your hand on the bow." And he laid his hand *on it*, then Elisha put his hands on the king's hands. ¹⁷ And he said, "Open the window toward the east," and he opened *it*. Then Elisha said, "Shoot!" So he shot. And he said, "The Lord's arrow of victory, and the arrow of victory over Aram; for you will defeat the Arameans at Aphek until you have put an end *to them*." ¹⁸ Then he said, "Take the arrows," and he took *them*. And he said to the king of Israel, "Strike the ground," and he struck *it* three times and stopped. ¹⁹ Then the man of God became angry at him and said, "You should have struck five or six times, then you would have struck Aram until you put an end *to it*. But now you shall strike Aram *only* three times."

¹⁴ When Elisha became sick with the illness of which he was to die, Joash the king of Israel came down to him, and wept over him and said, “My father, my father, the chariots of Israel and its horsemen!”

Joash (the northern king) came down to say goodbye to the dying prophet and the king wept over him.

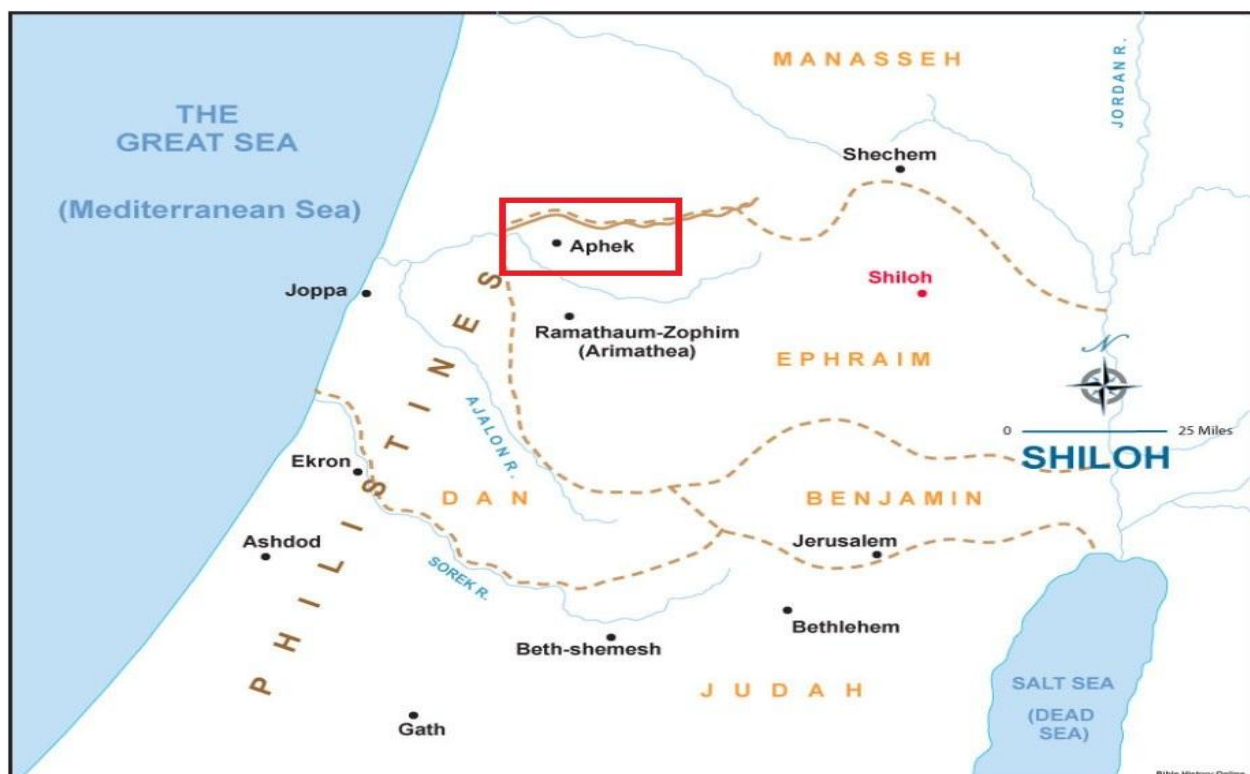
Elisha used this same phrase after witnessing Elijah being taken up to heaven in a chariot of fire.

See 2 Kings 2:12

¹² And Elisha was watching *it* and he was crying out, “My father, my father, the chariot of Israel and its horsemen!” And he did not see Elijah again. Then he took hold of his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

¹⁷ And he said, “Open the window toward the east,” and he opened *it*. Then Elisha said, “Shoot!” So he shot. And he said, “The Lord’s arrow of victory, and the arrow of victory over Aram; for you will defeat the Arameans at Aphek until you have put an end *to them*.”

See Map 1335



Israel defeated Syria about 60 years earlier (860 BC) in this same city.

See 1 Kings 20:29 – 30

²⁹ **So they camped, one opposite the other, for seven days. And on the seventh day the battle was joined, and the sons of Israel killed of the Arameans a hundred thousand foot soldiers in a single day. ³⁰ But the rest fled to Aphek into the city, and the wall fell on twenty-seven thousand men who were left. And Ben-hadad fled and came into the city, *going from one inner room to another.***

¹⁸ Then he said, “Take the arrows,” and he took *them*. And he said to the king of Israel, “Strike the ground,” and he struck it three times and stopped. ¹⁹ Then the man of God became angry at him and said, “You should have struck five or six times, then you would have struck Aram until you put an end to it. But now you shall strike Aram *only* three times.”

Some commentators believe that since Joash only struck the ground 3 times this showed that he was half-hearted about a complete victory over Syria. However, that implies that King Joash knew that each strike meant another victory. We know Elisha understood that to be the case because of his anger toward the king but did Joash have the same understanding? Using the same logic we can assume the king knew because it wouldn't be fair for Elisha to be upset at Joash if he didn't know the rules.

Verses 20 - 21

²⁰ **And Elisha died, and they buried him. Now the marauding bands of the Moabites would invade the land in the spring of the year. ²¹ And as they were burying a man, behold, they saw a marauding band; and they threw the man into the grave of Elisha. And when the man touched the bones of Elisha he revived and stood up on his feet.**

²⁰ **And Elisha died, and they buried him. Now the marauding bands of the Moabites would invade the land in the spring of the year.**

Elisha died in 797 BC.

If he was called to the ministry in 866 BC and he was about 20 years old at that time (that is two if's) then he lived to be about 90 years old.

See chart 1340

1st Kings timeline

Ch.	Event	Other	Year
16	Ahab king of Israel	7n	874
17	Elijah fed by Ravens	m1	
18	Fire of the Lord / Baal prophets killed	m4	
19	The call of Elisha		866
20	Ben-Hadad attacks Samaria		
21	Naboth's vineyard		
22	Ahab killed at Ramoth Gilead		853

2nd Kings timeline

Ch.	Event	Other	Year
8	Woman of Shunem goes to Philistia		848 - 842
9	Jehu anointed king of Israel	10n	841
10	Ahab's family killed		841
11	Joash king of Judah	7s	835
12	The temple repaired		
13	Jehoahaz king of Israel	11n	814
13	Jehoash king of Israel	12n	798
13	Elisha died and was buried		797
13	body touches Elisha's bones and comes alive	m16	797
14	Amariah king of Judah	8s	796

²¹ **And as they were burying a man, behold, they saw a marauding band; and they threw the man into the grave of Elisha. And when the man touched the bones of Elisha he revived and stood up on his feet.**

Jews were buried in a tomb and in most cases it could be entered horizontally. It was then closed with a large stone rolled against the opening.

When that burial party saw the Moabites, they opened the first tomb they came to and threw the body of the dead man inside and it just happened to be the tomb of Elisha.

With this last miracle Elisha was blessed with the double portion of the spirit that he had requested just before Elijah was taken to heaven.

See chart 1345

Miracles of Elisha

2nd Kings timeline

2	The water divided	m1	852
2	The water made pure	m2	
2	2 bears mauled 42 boys	m3	
3	Moab rebels		
4	Water from Edom	m4	
4	The widows olive oil	m5	
4	Son of rich woman brought back to life	m6	A
4	Bad stew made good	m7	period
4	Feeding of 100 people	m8	of
5	Naaman healed of Leprosy	m9	4 years
6	An ax head floats	m10	
6	Army struck with blindness	m11	
6	Famine in Samaria		
7	Arameans hear sound of a great army	m12	
7	Famine ends	m13	
7	Unbelieving Officer gets trampled	m14	848
8	Woman of Shunem goes to Philistia		848
8	7 years of famine in Israel		848 - 842
8	Woman of Shunem returns home		842
8	Rich woman gets income back	m15	842
8	Hazael becomes king of Aram		842
8	Jehoram king of Judah	5s	848
8	Ahaziah king of Judah	6s	841
13	body touches Elisha's bones and comes alive	m16	797

The double portion can be seen in two ways.

1. Elisha performed twice as many miracles as Elisha.
2. Elisha raised two people from the dead and Elisha one.

It should be said that this was not a contest about who was the greatest prophet, but rather an answer to the request made by Elisha.

Verses 22 - 25

²² Now Hazael king of Aram had oppressed Israel all the days of Jehoahaz. ²³ But the Lord was gracious to them and had compassion on them and turned to them because of His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; and He was unwilling to eliminate them or cast them away from His presence until now. ²⁴ When Hazael king of Aram died, his son Ben-hadad became king in his place. ²⁵ Then Jehoash the son of Jehoahaz again took from the hand of Ben-hadad the son of Hazael the cities which he had taken in war from the hand of his father Jehoahaz. Three times Joash defeated him and recovered the cities of Israel.

Now Hazael king of Aram had oppressed Israel all the days of Jehoahaz

This was a period of 17 years.

See chart 1350

Northern Kings					
	King	Began	Ended	Years	Co-reign
10	Jehu	841	814	28	
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²³ But the Lord was gracious to them and had compassion on them and turned to them because of His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; and He was unwilling to eliminate them or cast them away from His presence until now.

They should have been taken away into captivity for their sin many years ago but God was patient with them because of his promise to the three patriarchs.

²⁴ When Hazael king of Aram died, his son Ben-hadad became king in his place.

See chart 1355

Kings of Syria	
King	Reign
Ben-Hadad I	885-865 BC
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²⁵ Then Jehoash the son of Jehoahaz again took from the hand of Ben-hadad the son of Hazael the cities which he had taken in war from the hand of his father Jehoahaz. Three times Joash defeated him and recovered the cities of Israel.

This was the fulfillment of Elisha's last prophecy when he predicted a triple victory of Joash over Syria.