

Lesson 9
2 Kings 8:1-27

RESTORATION, DECEPTION, AND CONTAGION

The Shunammite's Land is Restored (2 Kings 8:1-6)

110. Do you think this incident took place chronologically before or after the narrative of 2 Kings 6 and 7? Explain the reason(s) for your answer.
111. Why specifically did the Shunammite woman and her family leave Israel to live in Philistia? What situation did she face when she returned home? What does her dilemma teach us about our lives as Christians striving to be faithful to God's will?
112. Remember that 1 and 2 Kings was written after the kingdoms of Israel and Judah had been destroyed and the people sent into exile. How would the exiles have been encouraged by 2 Kings 8:1-6?

Elisha, Hazael, and Ben-Hadad (2 Kings 8:7-15)

113. Why did Ben-Hadad seek out Elisha rather than a prophet of an Aramean god? What was the purpose of Ben-Hadad's lavish gift to Elisha?

114. Verse 10 is ambiguous as the NIV footnote points out. What is the essence of Elisha's message to Hazael? Do you think Elisha was being deceptive?

115. Re-read verse 12 and compare it to 1 Kings 19:15-17. How did the selection of Hazael to be king of Aram mark a turning point in the ministry of Elisha? What does this teach us about God and the way He works in the world?

116. Read Amos 1:3-5. If Hazael was God's appointed agent to punish Israel for its sins, why did He later on punish Aram for its aggression against Israel?

Jehoram and Ahaziah, Kings of Judah (2 Kings 8:16-27)

117. Why do you think the writer of 2 Kings repeated Ahab's name so frequently in this block of verses? What is meant by the expression "he walked in the ways of the house of Ahab?"

118. Read 2 Chronicles 21:4 and 16-20 for additional information about Jehoram and his reign. What did Jehoram do to his brothers? How were Jehoram and his kingdom punished for their sins? What was the attitude of the people when Jehoram died?

119. Find Edom on the map in Appendix A. How were the Edomites related to the Israelites (see Genesis 25:19-34 if necessary)? According to 2 Samuel 8:13-14, what had David done to Edom? What is the connection between Jehoram's loss of control over Edom and the spiritual state of the kingdom of Judah?
120. Compare what the writer of 2 Kings says about the intermarriage between the houses of David and Ahab to 2 Corinthians 6:14. Why is it dangerous for a Christian to marry a non-Christian? How did this danger manifest itself in the lives of Jehoram and Ahaziah?

Where is Jesus?

121. What is significant about the fact that the Shunammite woman returned to her home at the end of seven years of famine? Now read Hebrews 4:9-10. Based on this text, what does the story of the Shunammite woman's restoration teach us about Jesus?
122. Compare 2 Kings 8:11-12 to Christ's words in Luke 19:41-44? What do both of these passages teach us about God?

123. 2 Kings 8:19 says that the LORD refused to destroy Judah during Jehoram's reign. Why did God spare Judah from destruction? How does this foreshadow God's mercy to us for Christ's sake?

124. What is the lamp referred to in 2 Kings 8:20?