

Dr. John Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 24.1, 2 Kings 13-14, Part 1 Resources from NotebookLM

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Briefing Document, 4) Study Guide, and 5) FAQs

1. Abstract of Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 24.1, 2 Kings 13-14, Part 1, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

Dr. Oswalt's lecture analyzes the biblical books of 2 Kings 13-14, focusing on the reigns of Jehoash and Jeroboam II in Israel, and Amaziah in Judah. He explores Jehoash's complex character, noting his partial adherence to God and his reliance on the prophet Elisha. **The lecture highlights Elisha's ministry as a symbol of God's grace and power, emphasizing its core message of life from death.** Oswalt connects the stories of these kings to themes of covenant faithfulness and God's reluctance to abandon his people despite their shortcomings. **The speaker emphasizes the lesson that God desires us to ask for more and to expect to receive it.** The lecture suggests a message of hope during the exile, reflecting the belief that God's promises endure even in difficult times.

2. 10 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 24.1 – Double click icon to play in Windows media player or go to the Biblicalelearning.org [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link there (Old Testament → Historical Books → Kings).



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on24_1.mp3**

3. Briefing Document: Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 24.1, 2 Kings 13-14, Part 1

Okay, here's a briefing document summarizing the main themes and ideas from the provided excerpts of Dr. John Oswalt's lecture on 2 Kings 13-14, Part 1:

Briefing Document: Oswalt on 2 Kings 13-14, Part 1

Subject: Analysis of 2 Kings 13-14 focusing on Jehoash, Amaziah, Jeroboam II, Elisha's Ministry, and God's Covenant Faithfulness.

Source: Excerpts from "Oswalt_Kings_EN_Session24_1.pdf"

Date: October 26, 2024

Main Themes:

- **The Ambiguous Reign of Jehoash (King of Israel):** Jehoash is portrayed as a king with a divided heart, acknowledging God yet continuing in the idolatrous practices established by Jeroboam I (worship of golden calves, non-Aaronic priests, altered festivals). Oswalt highlights the contradiction: "...he did evil in the eyes of the Lord, did not turn away from any of the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, which he caused Israel to commit, he continued in them." However, Jehoash also recognized Elisha as a vital defense and hope for Israel, echoing Elisha's own cry for Elijah: "My father, my father, he cried, the chariots and horsemen of Israel." This "one foot in each camp" approach, as Oswalt puts it, is ultimately detrimental.
- **The Significance of Elisha's Ministry:** Oswalt emphasizes that the narrative about Elisha's death and the events surrounding it is presented outside the typical announcement of Jehoash's reign to underscore Elisha's importance in Israel's history. He views the ministries of Elijah and Elisha as a single entity, "Elijah, Elisha is one ministry," and sees Jehoash's interaction with Elisha as a recognition of this. Elisha's actions, even towards an unrepentant king, are seen as an act of grace.
- **God's Grace and Unmerited Favor:** A key theme is God's grace extended even to those who do not fully deserve it. Elisha's granting Jehoash victory over Aram despite Jehoash's lack of complete repentance mirrors God's grace towards Ahab. Oswalt states, "God's grace comes flowing out of him to people who don't deserve it, to people who haven't earned it. In the hope that they will indeed turn

to him. Salvation doesn't begin with you and me. It begins with God." The story of Jehoash striking the ground only three times, and Elisha's subsequent disappointment, emphasizes the need to "Believe God for more," and to ask boldly for God's best.

- **Resurrection and Life from Death:** The final story of a dead man being resurrected upon touching Elisha's bones in his tomb is interpreted as a symbolic representation of Elisha's entire ministry. Oswalt argues, "When the body touched Elisha's bones, the man came to life and stood up on his feet...this, indeed, is what Elijah and Elisha's ministry was about. All those various miracles, all the issues, when you distill it all down, it's about bringing life from death." He desires this theme to be reflected in his own ministry.
- **God's Covenant Faithfulness:** Despite Israel's unfaithfulness and the impending exile, Oswalt emphasizes God's persistent commitment to his covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Even though they deserve to be punished, God is constrained by his promises, "But the Lord was gracious to them, had compassion, and showed concern for them because of what? Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob." This faithfulness is seen as enduring even into the exile, suggesting hope that God has not abandoned his people.

Key Ideas and Facts:

- **Chronology:** The lecture establishes a timeline of kings in both Israel (Northern Kingdom) and Judah (Southern Kingdom), including Jehoash, Jeroboam II, Amaziah, and Uzziah/Azariah, highlighting the co-regencies and conflicts between the kingdoms.
- **Jeroboam's Sin:** The repeated phrase "he followed in the footsteps of Jeroboam" refers to the idolatry, unauthorized priesthood, and altered festivals that Jeroboam I established in the Northern Kingdom.
- **Aram/Syria:** The Arameans (Syrians) were a constant threat to both Israel and Judah, starting from the time of Jehu.
- **Impact of Jehu's Purge:** Oswalt draws a parallel between Jehu's violent purge of leadership and Stalin's purge of the Russian army, suggesting that eliminating qualified leaders can have devastating long-term consequences.
- **Interpretation of "To This Day":** The phrase "to this day," referring to God's compassion on Israel, is interpreted as possibly referring to the time of the exile, indicating that even in exile, God's covenant faithfulness endures.

Quotes of Significance:

- "If you keep one foot on the dock and put one foot on the boat, you're going to get wet." (Illustrates the danger of a divided heart.)
- "Salvation doesn't begin with you and me. It begins with God." (Emphasizes the primacy of God's grace.)
- "Oh, I was going to do so much more for you, but you didn't ask. I was going to do so much more, but you didn't believe me. You didn't dare." (Highlights the importance of bold faith and asking for God's best.)
- "This, indeed, is what Elijah and Elisha's ministry was about. All those various miracles, all the issues, when you distill it all down, it's about bringing life from death." (Summarizes the essence of Elijah and Elisha's ministry.)
- "God's intent is to bring life. God's intent is to purify the evil and the corrupt. But whether he brings life is up to us. We've got a choice." (Highlights humanity's role in receiving God's grace.)

Implications:

The lecture challenges listeners to examine their own hearts, to avoid half-hearted commitment, to embrace God's grace, to ask boldly for His best, and to be instruments of life and resurrection in the world. It also provides a perspective on understanding God's faithfulness even in the face of national and individual unfaithfulness, demonstrating that God's covenant commitments are long-lasting.

4. Study Guide: Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 24.1, 2 Kings 13-14, Part 1

Kings: 2 Kings 13-14 Study Guide

Quiz

Answer the following questions in 2-3 sentences each.

1. What sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat did the kings of the Northern Kingdom continue to commit?
2. What phrase did King Jehoash use when visiting Elisha that was previously used by Elisha when Elijah was taken up to heaven? What does this suggest about Jehoash's view of Elisha?
3. Why might the story of Elisha be told outside the actual story of Jehoash?
4. What did Elisha instruct Jehoash to do with the bow and arrow, and what did this symbolize?
5. Why was Elisha angry with Jehoash after he struck the ground with the arrows only three times?
6. What happened when a dead man was thrown into Elisha's tomb? What does this story emphasize about Elijah and Elisha's ministry?
7. How were Elijah and Elisha different from the kings "from Jehu on?"
8. Which king reigned before Jehoash, and who oppressed Israel during that reign?
9. Why was the Lord gracious, compassionate, and showed concern for Israel despite their unfaithfulness?
10. During what time period were the books of Kings completed? Why is "to this day" significant?

Quiz Answer Key

1. The kings of the Northern Kingdom continued to commit idolatry, worshipping the golden calves, using priests who were not of the Aaronic line, and holding festivals at different dates than the Lord had specified.

2. Jehoash cried, "My father, my father, the chariots and horsemen of Israel." This suggests that Jehoash recognized Elisha as a vital defense and source of hope for Israel, similar to how Elisha viewed Elijah.
3. The story of Elisha might be told outside the story of Jehoash to emphasize the importance of Elisha's ministry and to show how it ties back to Elijah. It also serves as a conclusion to the Elijah/Elisha narrative that began in 1 Kings 17.
4. Elisha instructed Jehoash to shoot an arrow out of the east window. This symbolized the Lord's arrow of victory and the impending defeat of Aram (Syria).
5. Elisha was angry because Jehoash should have struck the ground five or six times. By striking only three times, Jehoash limited his victory over Aram to only three defeats, when he could have completely destroyed them.
6. When the dead man's body touched Elisha's bones, he came back to life and stood up. This emphasizes that the ministry of Elijah and Elisha was about bringing life from death, and that it was miraculous.
7. Elijah and Elisha were fully committed to God, while the kings from Jehu on were half-hearted in their commitment, only following God's ways when it was convenient or didn't cost them anything.
8. Jehoahaz was the king who reigned before Jehoash. Hazael, king of Aram, oppressed Israel throughout Jehoahaz's reign.
9. The Lord showed them this favor because of his covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Despite Israel's unfaithfulness, God remained true to his promise to give their descendants the land.
10. The books of Kings were completed during the exile. The phrase "to this day" is significant because it suggests that even in exile, the writer believed that God had not completely abandoned them, remaining faithful to his covenant.

Essay Questions

1. Discuss the mixed portrayal of Jehoash, both as a king who "did evil in the eyes of the Lord" and as one who recognized the importance of Elisha. What does this reveal about the complexities of faith and leadership in the Northern Kingdom?
2. Analyze the significance of Elisha's final acts and the miracle of the dead man coming back to life. How do these events summarize the overall message and purpose of Elijah and Elisha's ministry?
3. Compare and contrast the leadership of the kings of Israel with the ministry of Elijah and Elisha. How did their different levels of commitment to God impact the nation?
4. Explore the theme of God's grace and covenant faithfulness as demonstrated in 2 Kings 13-14. How does God's relationship with Israel challenge the idea that blessings are solely dependent on human righteousness?
5. Examine the lessons of the story where Elisha is angry with Jehoash for not striking the ground enough times. What does it teach about faith, zeal, and our willingness to ask God for more?

Glossary of Key Terms

- **Aram:** An ancient kingdom also known as Syria, with its capital in Damascus. Often in conflict with Israel and Judah.
- **Baal:** A Canaanite god of fertility, often worshipped by the Israelites in violation of their covenant with God.
- **Golden Calves:** Idols established by Jeroboam I in the Northern Kingdom as alternative worship sites to Jerusalem, a key sin that persisted throughout the Northern Kingdom's history.
- **Jeroboam son of Nebat:** The first king of the Northern Kingdom of Israel after the kingdom divided. His idolatrous practices became a standard of evil against which later kings were judged.
- **Samaria:** The capital city of the Northern Kingdom of Israel.
- **Jehu:** King of Israel who led a violent purge of Baal worship, but did not remove the golden calves.
- **Jehoash (of Israel):** Also known as Joash, he reigned over the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Despite some positive interaction with Elisha, he continued the idolatrous practices of Jeroboam.
- **Amaziah:** King of Judah, son of Joash (Jehoash). He was captured by Jehoash of Israel, highlighting the conflict between the two kingdoms.
- **Elisha:** A prophet of God who succeeded Elijah. His ministry was marked by numerous miracles and his influence on the kings of Israel.
- **Exile:** The period of time when the Israelites were forcibly removed from their land and taken into captivity in foreign lands, such as Assyria and Babylon.
- **Covenant:** A binding agreement or promise between God and his people, outlining the terms of their relationship.
- **Grace:** God's unmerited favor and love extended to humanity, despite their sinfulness.

5. FAQs on Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 24.1, 2 Kings 13-14, Part 1, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

Here is an 8-question FAQ based on the provided source:

FAQ on 2 Kings 13-14

1. What were the main sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat that the kings of the Northern Kingdom, including Jehoash, continued to commit?

The sins of Jeroboam included idolatry (worship of the golden calves), using priests who were not from the Aaronic line, and celebrating festivals on dates different from those specified by the Lord. These actions represented a departure from the divinely ordained ways of worship and governance.

2. What was the seemingly contradictory nature of King Jehoash's character and actions?

Jehoash is depicted with a divided heart. On one hand, he continued the idolatrous practices of Jeroboam. On the other hand, he recognized Elisha as a true defender of Israel, echoing Elisha's cry when Elijah was taken up to heaven ("My father, my father, the chariots and horsemen of Israel!"). This suggests a partial acknowledgement of God's power, coexisting with continued disobedience.

3. Why is the story of Elisha's death and the miracle associated with his bones included in the narrative about Jehoash, even though it seems separate from the king's direct actions?

The inclusion emphasizes the importance and the enduring impact of Elisha's ministry on the history of Israel. It highlights the theme of life from death, which encapsulates Elisha's overall mission and is presented as a closing statement to the Elijah/Elisha ministry which began in 1 Kings 17.

4. What is the significance of Elisha's instructions to Jehoash to shoot an arrow eastward and then strike the ground with arrows?

The shooting of the arrow symbolized God's victory over Aram (Syria). The number of times Jehoash struck the ground with the arrows determined the extent of Israel's victory. Jehoash's limited zeal in striking the ground only three times resulted in a limited victory, highlighting the importance of wholeheartedly seeking God's best.

5. What does Elisha's willingness to grant Jehoash victory over Aram despite Jehoash's lack of complete repentance reveal about God's nature?

It illustrates God's grace. God offers blessings and opportunities even to those who are undeserving, hoping that such acts of grace will lead them to repentance and a fuller commitment to Him. This is similar to how God showed up for King Ahab. Salvation begins with God.

6. What is the significance of the miracle where a dead man is resurrected upon touching Elisha's bones?

This miracle serves as a final testament to the power of God manifested through Elisha, symbolizing the theme of resurrection and life from death that characterized his ministry. It underscores that even in death, Elisha's ministry brought life and hope.

7. Why does the text emphasize God's covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in explaining His continued compassion for Israel, even during times of their disobedience?

The emphasis is on God's faithfulness to His promises. He made an unconditional covenant to give Abraham's descendants the land of Israel. Even though the Israelites deserved punishment for their sins, God's commitment to His covenant with the patriarchs motivates Him to show mercy and preserve them.

8. What does the phrase "to this day" imply in the context of 2 Kings, and how does it relate to the exile?

The phrase "to this day" suggests that the books of Kings were completed during the exile. It conveys the author's belief that even in exile, God had not completely abandoned His people. It shows faith that God remained faithful to His covenant and would eventually restore them, even in their seemingly hopeless situation.