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## Daily Rice 2024 April 11

YouTube Prayer Link

You have to love God with all your heart

2 Kings 13

2 Kings 13 begins with Jehoahaz, the son of Jehu, ruling the kingdom of Israel. This chapter describes the difficult times Israel faced under Jehoahaz and his successor, Joash.

Jehoahaz is described as a wicked king who continues to commit the sins of Jeroboam, the first king of Israel. As a result, God allowed the king of Syria (Syria) to oppress Israel. The Israelites suffered greatly under the rule of the Syrians, but Jehoahaz cried out to Jehovah for help.

God heard his plea and sent a deliverer, Jehoash, the son of Jehoahaz. With the help of the prophet Elisha, Joash defeated the Syrians and regained some of Israel's lost territory.

However, even after this victory, Israel continued to fight the Aramaeans. Jehoash is described as a righteous king in the eyes of Jehovah, but he did not remove the golden calf that Jeroboam had set up in Israel. As a result, the kingdom of Israel continued to be weakened and oppressed by its enemies.

The chapter ends with the death of the prophet Elisha, who played an important role in Israel's history. Even after his death, God continued to show His mercy to the Israelites, leading them to their eventual victory over the Syrians.

2 Kings 13 reminds us that God hears the cry of his people and is willing to help them in times of trouble. It also emphasizes the importance of obeying God's commands and removing anything that may lead to idolatry and sin. Finally, this chapter commemorates the life and legacy of the prophet Elisha, who played an important role in Israel's history.

God said, "You must love God with all your heart and with all your strength. 』

Joash, king of Israel: The prophet told him to shoot arrows, and promised to destroy Syria, but he only struck three times and then stopped, and the prophet was angry, not because he could not do it, but because he lacked zeal and faith, and he stayed here, and we can destroy our sin and the power of darkness by God, but do we think that three times is enough?

Surviving in this noisy generation is like looking for a quiet corner in the midst of chaos. In these noisy and anxious times, we often feel lost and lonely, as if we are drifting away from our inner peace. However, it is precisely at such times that we need to face challenges with firm faith and a calm mind.

In this hectic world, we are surrounded by countless voices and face all kinds of temptations and challenges all the time. Our minds are overwhelmed by the flood of information, and our hearts are swallowed up by waves of anxiety. In such cases, we often forget our true nature and inner peace.

If a person lives by God, there is nothing that cannot be reversed! If a person grasps a few things worthy of boasting in his life, but lives in a very miserable situation, he needs to think carefully about whether he has grasped the wrong thing? We Christians want to have an eternal and glorious life before God, and it is not a few things to boast about.

Elisha died and was buried. Another dead man was thrown into Elisha's grave, and when the dead man touched Elisha's bones, he rose back to his feet. This is not a story we usually hear, but remember how Eliah, Elisha's teacher, got away? Elisha's retreat was also very peculiar, God brought the dead back to life through Elisha's bones. God seems to have told us through Eliah and Elisha that death is not the end, but life is! We need to build our cohesion on the LORD God, not on one person. We often fall into such sin without paying attention. A man of God is still

in power even if he dies physically, and a worldly thing of Jeroboam is nothing when he dies. Although this thought can rule people, it cannot bring power. In this chapter we see that God's power is still manifested even in the dead. This is beyond our comprehension.

Here are some verses from the Bible about loving God with all your heart and soul:

Deuteronomy 6:5: Thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength.

Matthew 22:37-38: Jesus said to him, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment.

Luke 10:27: He replied, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, with all thy strength, and with all thy mind, and thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." "

Mark 12:30: Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, with all your mind, with all your strength.

1John 4:19-20: We love because God first loved us. Whoever says, "I love God," and hates his brother, is a liar, for he cannot love God who has not seen without loving his brother.

These verses emphasize that loving God with all our heart and soul is one of the core of the Christian faith.

We pray together:

Heavenly Father, thank you for giving us life and love. In your grace, we come to you and pray to you. We come to you today and ask you to give us the strength and wisdom to love you, our Lord and our God, with all our hearts and souls.

Lord, You are a God of great love and mercy, and Your love surpasses all our understanding. You not only created us, but you also gave us your endless love. May your love kindle a fire in our hearts and fill us with awe and gratitude for you.

Please help us to make our lives a response to your love. Help us to always remember Your Word, obey Your commandments, and spread your love to

everyone we meet. May our actions, words, and thoughts demonstrate your love and make the world feel your love and peace because of us.

Lord, as we face challenges and trials, please give us unwavering faith and courage so that our love never fails. May your Spirit work in our hearts so that our love can be as deep and lasting as your love for us.

In the name of Jesus Christ I pray, amen.

## 2 Kings 13

13:1 In the twenty-third year of Joash the son of Ahaziah king of Judah, Jehoahaz the son of Jehu reigned king of Israel in the seventeenth year of his reign in Samaria.

13:2 And Jehoahaz did what was evil in the eyes of Yahweh, and did not turn away from the sin of Jeroboam, the son of Nebat, who made the Israelites into sin.

13:3 So the anger of Yahweh was directed against the Israelites, and they were repeatedly delivered into the hands of Hazael king of Syria and his son Benhadad.

13:4 Jehoahaz pleaded with Yahweh, and Yahweh answered him, seeing the Israelites oppressed by the king of Syria.

13:5 And Yahweh gave the Israelites a savior, and delivered them out of the hand of the Syrians. So the Israelites still dwelt in their homes.

13:6 But they did not depart from the sin of the house of Jeroboam, which had made the Israelites to sin, and they went and left the Asherah in Samaria.

13:7 And the king of Syria exterminated the people of Jehoahaz, and trampled them under foot like dust on the threshing floor, leaving Jehoahaz with fifty horsemen, ten chariots, and ten thousand infantry.

13:8 Now the rest of the acts of Jehoahaz, all his deeds, and his might, are they not written in the book of the kings of Israel.

13:9 And Jehoahaz slept with his fathers and was buried in Samaria. And Joash his son succeeded him as king.

13:10 In the thirty-seventh year of Joash king of Judah, Joash the son of Joahaz reigned in Samaria sixteenth year as king of Israel.

13:11 He did all the things which were evil in the sight of Yahweh, and did not depart from all the sins of Jeroboam, the son of Nebat, who had made the Israelites to sin.

13:12 Now the rest of the acts of Joash, and all that he did, and his courage in battle against Amaziah king of Judah, are they not written in the book of the kings of Israel.

13:13 Joash slept with his fathers, and Jeroboam sat on his throne. Joash was buried with the kings of Israel in Samaria.

13:14 And it came to pass, when Elisha was sick with mortal death, that Joash, king of Israel, came down to see him, and fell down on his face and wept, and said, My father. My father. O chariots and horsemen of Israel.

13:15 And Elisha said unto him, Take thy bow and arrows. So the king took the bow and arrows.

13:16 And he said unto the king of Israel, Take the bow in thy hand. So the king took the bow in his hand. Elisha laid his hands on the king's hand,

13:17 Say, "You open a window facing east." And he drove . Elisha said, "Shoot arrows." He shot arrows. Elisha said, This is the arrow of victory against the Syrians. for thou shalt fight against the Syrians in Apheth, until thou shalt utter them.

13:18 And Elisha said, Take some arrows. And he took it. Elisha said, "Hit the ground." He hit three times and then stopped.

13:19 And the man of God was angry with him, and said, Let him strike five or six times, and he shall be able to smite the Syrians unto utter destruction. Now they can only defeat the Armeans three times.

13:20 Elisha died, and he was buried. In the new year , there was a group of Moabites who were in the border ,

13:21 A man was burying a dead man, and suddenly he saw a crowd of people, and threw the dead man into Elisha's grave, and when he touched Elisha's bones, the dead man rose to life and stood up.

13:22                    During the years of Johaaz, Hazael king of Syria repeatedly oppressed the Israelites.

13:23                    But because of the covenant he made with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, he was gracious to the Seles, and had mercy on them, and cared for them, and did not destroy them, and did not drive them out from his presence.

13:24                    Hazael king of Syria died, and his son Benhadad succeeded him as king.

13:25                    Hazael fought with Joahaz, the father of Joash, and conquered cities, but now Jehoash the son of Joahaz defeated Benhadad the son of Hazael three times and recovered the cities of Israel.

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chapter commemorates the life and legacy of the prophet Elisha, who played an important role in Israel's history.

In 2 Kings 13, there are a few key verses:

One. Jehoahaz the son of Jehu reigned over Israel in Samaria seventeen years. (2 Kings 13:1)

Two. Jehoahaz asked the Lord for favor, and the Lord listened to him, because he saw how the king of Syria oppressed Israel. (2 Kings 13:4)

Three. "Elisha died and was buried. (2 Kings 13:20)

These verses provide important information about Jehoahaz's rule, his enlisting of Yahweh's help against the oppression of the Syrian king, and the death of the prophet Elisha.

In 2 Kings 13, we read about the reign of the Israelite kings Jehoahaz and Jehoash. This chapter offers a few points to think about:

**Consequences of Sin and Disobedience:** This chapter begins with an emphasis on Jehoahaz's sinful behavior and Israel's continued idolatry. As a result, God allowed the Israelites to fall into the hands of the oppressive Syrians. This reminds us of the consequences of turning away from God and disobeying His commands. It prompts us to reflect on the importance of obedience to God's Word and seeking repentance when we stray from the path of righteousness.

**God's mercy and His response to repentance:** God answered the Israelites' cries despite their oppression. He raised up a deliverer, Joash, and showed mercy by helping them overcome the Syrians. This account shows that God is willing to respond to repentance and desire to deliver His people from their afflictions. It reminds us of God's faithfulness and His readiness to extend mercy when we turn to Him with repentance.

Limitations of manpower: Joash's reign was marked by a military victory over the Syrians, but this chapter highlights the limitations of manpower. Even with God's intervention, Joash was unable to completely conquer the Syrians, retaking all the cities they had taken from Israel. This reminds us that no matter how powerful human efforts are, the ultimate victory and success come from God. It humbles us and calls us to rely on God's strength rather than our own.

The Importance of Faith and Trust in God: Before the prophet Elisha was dying during this time, Joash sought his advice and blessings. Through Elisha's instructions, Joash shot arrows as a symbol of victory and struck the ground to indicate the extent of his victory. This account emphasizes the importance of faith and trust in God's appointed messenger and his instructions. It encourages us to seek wisdom and guidance from God's Word and godly leaders, and to walk in faith, trusting that God will fulfill His promises.

Continuity of God's covenant: God remained faithful to his covenant despite the disobedience and unfaithfulness of Israel's kings and people. He continued to show mercy and provide salvation for His name and His promises to David. This reminds us of God's unwavering commitment to His people and His faithfulness to His promises, even if those promises are undeserved.

Overall, 2 Kings 13 reflects on the consequences of sin and disobedience, God's mercy and response to repentance, the limits of human power, the importance of faith and trust in God, and the continuity of God's covenant. It prompts us to examine our lives, seek repentance in times of need, trust in God's power,