

2 Kings 9, 10

From heaven you pronounced judgement, and the land feared and was quiet - when you, O God, rose up to judge, to save all the afflicted of the land.

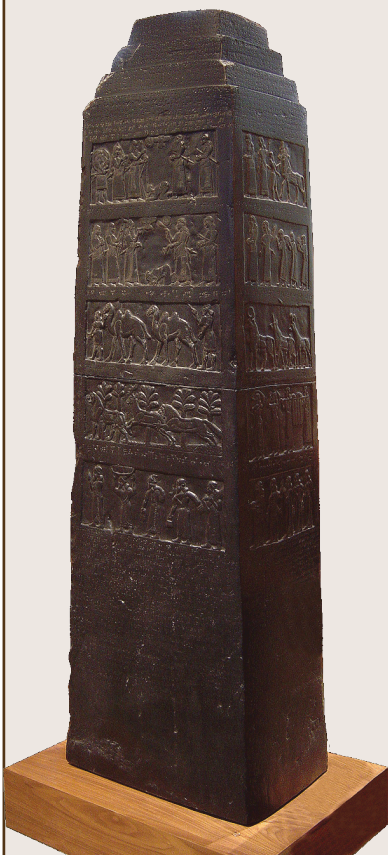
Psalm 76:8-9

Readings this week:

- S 2 Kings 8:7-15
- M 2 Kings 8:25-29
- T 2 Kings 9:1-13
- W 2 Kings 9:14-29
- Th 2 Kings 9:30-37
- F 2 Kings 10:1-17
- S Psalm 94

The history of the kingdom of Israel is littered with intrigue, rebellion and murder - mostly within the royal palace! In this lesson looks at the way in which the family of Ahab was overthrown. In the cartoon strip on the opposite page use the references to help you to fill in what the people were saying.

The Black Obelisk of Shalmaneser III



The "Black Obelisk of Shalmaneser III" is a black limestone carved pillar from Assyria (now northern Iraq). It is about 2 metres high, and is in the British Museum in London. It has 5 carved panels on each side, so 20 altogether,



commemorating the deeds of Shalmaneser III who reigned from 858 to 824 BC - the same time as Jehu was king of Israel. One of the panels (above) shows Shalmaneser receiving gifts from a king who is subject to him. The king is bowing before Shalmaneser, and behind the king are people carrying gifts. Above the panel is an inscription, written in Assyrian cuneiform: "The tribute of Jehu, son of Omri: I received from him silver, gold, a golden bowl, a golden vase with pointed bottom, golden tumblers, golden buckets, tin, a staff for a king [and] spears."

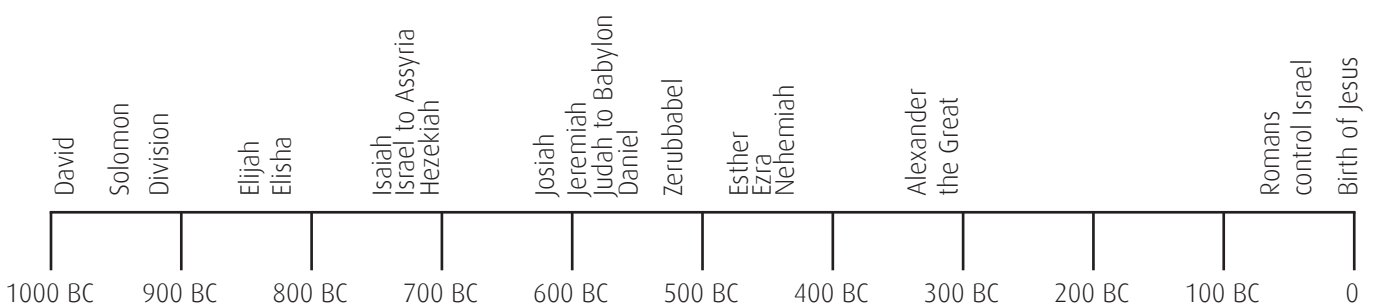
We know that the Bible is God's true word but it's good to have proof from another source.

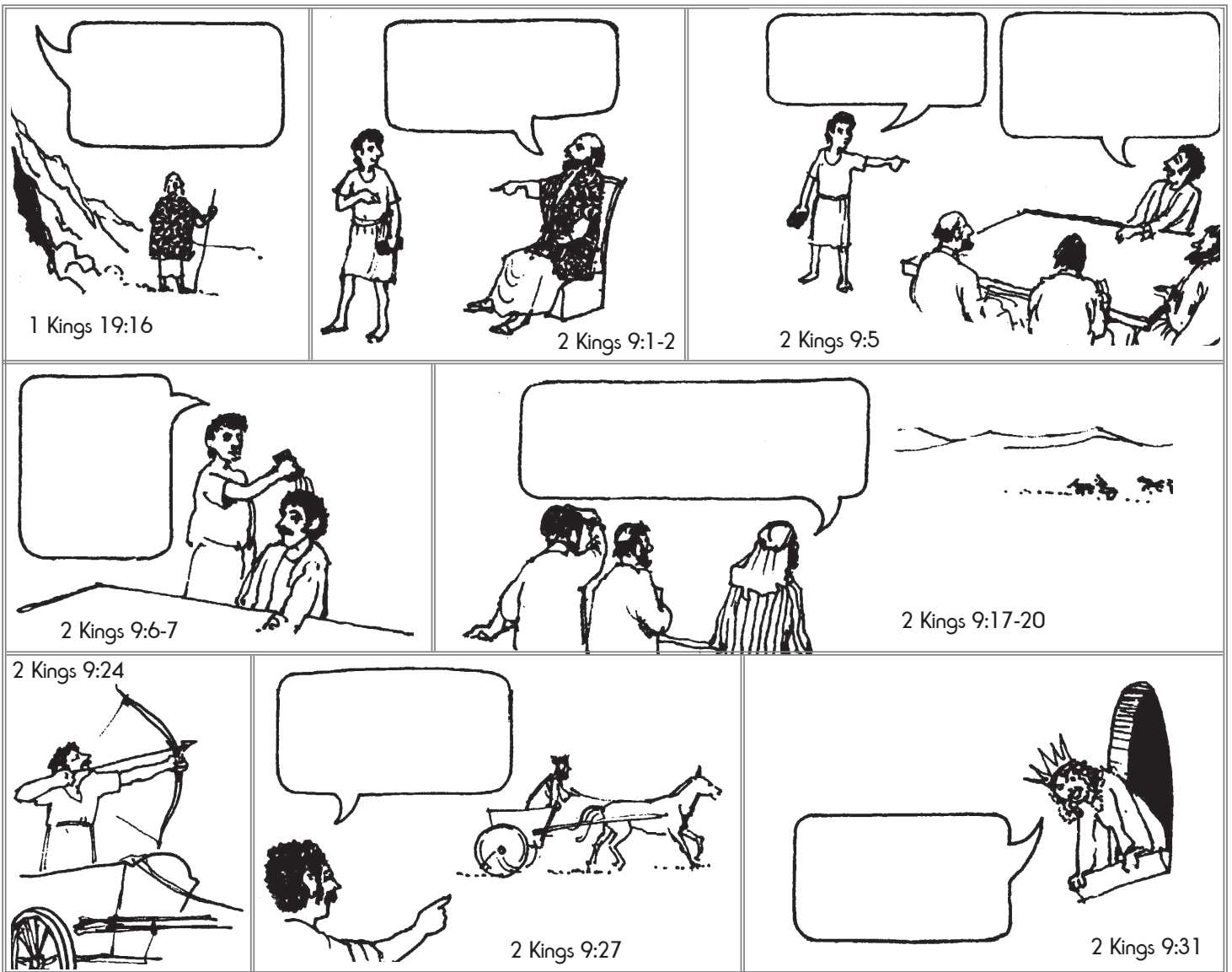
What happened to Ahab's family was God's judgment on their wicked ways.

Is wickedness always punished?

What is the effect of punishments not happening straight away?

Can you think of any modern day examples?





Digging Deeper

Some Minor Prophets - Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah and Jonah.

The Old Testament books after Daniel are sometimes called the minor prophets. This is because they are smaller books not because they are less important.

When were they written and to whom? Look at the first verse or two of Hosea, Amos, Obadiah and Jonah and identify the reigns of the relevant kings and/or the country the prophecy was written to.

We can't be sure when Joel prophesied. His book doesn't mention Assyria or Babylon or Israel but it does mention temple worship so it could have been written at around 800 BC or 400 BC. Some people think Obadiah may have been the same man that helped Elijah but others think his message is very much like that of Jeremiah so would have been a little later than the times we have been looking at in these lessons. 2 Kings 14:23 and 25 tell us when Jonah prophesied.

Find on a time chart like the one at the front of the workbook when these prophets lived, so that you can understand what the times were like and what God wanted them to understand. Look at a few verses in each book to find the message of the prophets. E.g Hosea 4:1-3, Amos 2:6-8, Jonah 1:2 Obadiah 12-13, Joel 2 12-14. You will be learning about Jonah in two weeks.

Can you remember the names of these five books in order?

- Hosea
- Joel
- Amos
- Obadiah
- Jonah

Pray that Jesus will come back soon to stop all wickedness.