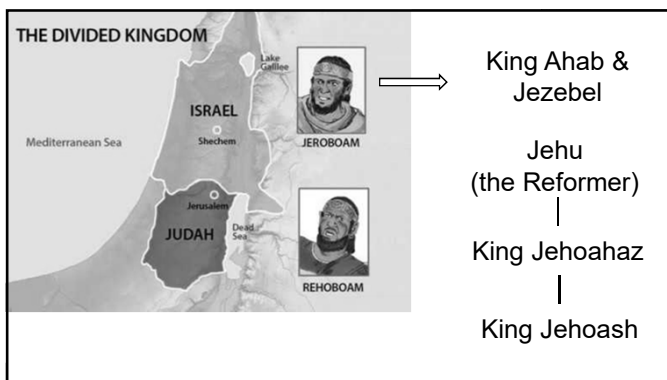




What is God like?

⁶ Then the LORD passed by in front of him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth; ⁷ who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin; yet He will by no means leave *the guilty* unpunished, visiting the iniquity of fathers on the children and on the grandchildren to the third and fourth generations." (Exodus 34:6-7)



Hope at the End of an Era **2 KINGS 13:1-25**

Glimmers of Hope

➤ *End of an Era*

- the prophetic ministry of Elijah/Elisha is now over – what's next?
- Elisha was the true protector of Israel, the Lord's agent of life in a land of death

Glimmers of Hope

1. Israel is not Destroyed...yet

- Yahweh is full of compassion and grace, and delights to save
- Yahweh provided a "savior," yet the people continued in rebellion

Glimmers of Hope

1. Israel is not Destroyed...yet

- Yahweh has been unwilling to destroy Israel because of His covenant with Abraham – “until now”

Glimmers of Hope

2. Life Beyond Death

- the divine life that was active in Elisha has not completely disappeared from Israel
- symbolic of Israel being “cast” into exile – hope of resurrection

Glimmers of Hope

2. Life Beyond Death

- foreshadows God’s ultimate deliverance of final resurrection...
- through a prophet greater than Elisha; one who tastes death for us and defeats it forever by His resurrection

⁵⁰ And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit. ⁵¹ And behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth shook and the rocks were split. ⁵² The tombs were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; ⁵³ and coming out of the tombs after His resurrection they entered the holy city and appeared to many.

(Matthew 27:50-53)