

Luther's teachings and writings attracted attention throughout all of Germany and many people turned to prayer and the study of God's Word as a result. His teachings also attracted many students to study at the university of Wittenberg; at the same time, the number of religious pilgrims paying money to visit relics dropped. So it was no real surprise when Luther received a summons to appear before the council in Rome, charged with heresy. Fearing for his life, his friends insisted that he be tried in Germany instead; orders were sent to the official in Germany commanding that Luther must be stopped - if necessary he was to be thrown out of the church and cursed, and anyone found helping would receive the same treatment.

Although his friends still feared for his safety, Luther set out on foot and finally arrived in Augsburg, Germany to await his trial, yet he did not go before the council until he had been promised safe-conduct. The council planned to use friendliness to trick Luther into submitting, but Luther said he would not renounce his teaching unless they were proven wrong and he answered all the council's arguments clearly and in such a way that no one could argue against him.

Luther obtained permission to pre-write his next response and at the next interview he presented a clear, concise essay on his views, with supporting Bible verses. After hearing the essay, the legate (council leader) lost his temper, yelling, "Retract! Or I will send you to Rome!"

Despite the promised safe-conduct the council made plans to seize and imprison Luther, but he left secretly during the night to return to his home in Wittenberg, Saxony. The legate was furious when he found out and sent a letter to Frederick the elector (ruler) of Saxony, demanding that Luther be banished from Saxony and sent to Rome.

Although Frederick did not know much about Luther's teachings, his work through the university had not gone unnoticed. Frederick wrote the following response, "Since Dr. Martin has appeared before you at Augsburg, you should be satisfied. We did not expect that you would endeavour to make him retract without having convinced him of his errors. None of the learned men in our principality have informed me that Martin's doctrine is impious, anti-Christian, or heretical.' The prince refused, moreover, to send Luther to Rome, or to expel him from his states." (From the Great Controversy, EGWhite, quoting D'Aubigne, b. 4, ch. 10)

The War of Good and Evil

Sabbath

Look up the missing words in these texts and complete the crossword.

The second Commandment Exodus 20:4, 5^{NLT} "You must not make for _____ (4Across) an idol of any kind or an image of _____ (7d) in the heavens or on the _____ (6a) or in the sea. You must not _____ (1a) down to them or _____ (2d) them, for I, the _____ (12a) your _____ (11d), am a _____ (3d) God who will not tolerate your affection for any other gods. I lay the sins of the parents upon their children; the entire family is affected – even the children in the _____ (9d) and _____ (5d) generations of those who reject me."

Jezebel and Ahab worshiped the idol Baal and taught their children and grandchildren to do the same.

God's curse on Ahab given by the Prophet Elisha, after Jezebel killed Naboth so that Ahab could steal his vineyard 1 Kings 21:21, 23^{NIV/NLT}

"I am going to bring _____ (8a) on you. I will wipe out your descendants... _____ (10a) will eat Jezebel's body at the plot of land in Jezreel."



Sunday

After Jehoshaphat, his son Jehoram became the king of Judah, he reigned for only eight years and worshiped idols like King Ahab of Israel had done. It was during this time that the Edmonites revolted – they had been paying taxes to Israel. So King Jehoram took his chariots to attack the town of Zair, but the Edmonites were ready; when Jehoram tried to attack during the night, his army deserted him.

Ahaziah, the son of Jehoram was the next king and he ruled for only one year. His mother was Athaliah, a daughter of the wicked king Ahab and Athaliah and now King Ahaziah followed the example of Ahab and the wicked queen Jezebel.

One day, Elisha told a young prophet to privately anoint Jehu, son of Jehoshaphat and grandson of Nimshi. The young prophet did as he was told, calling Jehu away from his fellow officers before saying, "I anoint you king over Israel. You are to destroy the house Ahab and avenge the murder of God's prophets and servants who were killed by Jezebel." As soon as he had delivered his message, the young prophet ran away as Elisha had told him to.

Jehu's fellow officers were curious so he told them what the young prophet had said. Then they spread their cloaks on the step, blew a rams horn and shouted, "Long live King Jehu!"

Taking a company of troops, Jehu rode in a chariot to Jezreel where King Ahaziah of Judah was visiting his uncle, King Joram of Israel.

When King Joram heard that Jehu was approaching, he sent messengers to him, but the messengers stayed with Jehu and did not return to King Joram. So King Ahaziah and King Joram rode out to meet Jehu demanding, "Do you come in peace?"

Jehu replied, "How can there be peace while the idol worship and witchcraft of your mother Jezebel are here?"

Friday

Read the story on the back page.

Remembering that Satan is a mighty general with an army of evil angels, think about and answer the following questions.

What is Satan's aim with Luther:_____

What are his plans to achieve this?_____

How does God ruin Satan's plans?_____

Even now, YOU are in the middle of this same war. Those little and big annoying things that happen to you are a part of the war and you can either become angry about them or you can ask God to take care of them. You can be like an innocent victim of the war or you can be a soldier for good. Read Ephesians 6:10-19

Your greatest weapon in this war is not a sword or a gun but prayer. When you read the Bible and pray for yourself and others, God's angels fight for you and those you prayer for. Will you be a soldier like Luther?

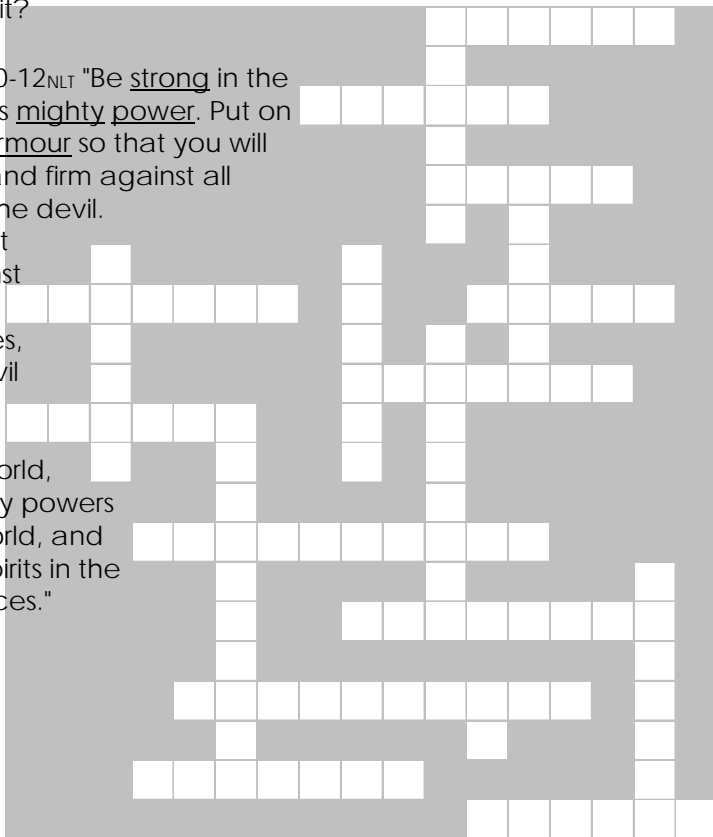
Thursday

Read the following and then fit the underlined words into the grid below.

"Satan summons all his forces and throws his whole power into the battle. Why is it that he meets with no greater resistance? Why are the soldiers of Christ so sleepy and uncaring? – Because they do not realise their danger and Satan's power and hate. They do not know that their enemy is a mighty general who controls the minds of evil angels, and that with carefully laid plans and skilful movements he is warring against Christ to prevent the salvation of souls. He is working everywhere, sowing hatred, trouble and murder." (Paraphrased from Spirit of Prophecy p327)

What does this mean for us? Do we need to be afraid? What should we do about it?

Ephesians 6:10-12^{NLT} "Be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on all of God's armour so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places."



Monday

Jehu said, "How can there be peace while the idol worship and witchcraft of your mother Jezebel are here?"

King Joram of Israel who was the son of the wicked King Ahab and Queen Jezebel and King Ahaziah of Israel who was a grandson to King Ahab realised Jehu did not come in peace. They turned their chariots and fled, but could not escape; Joram died at the vineyard of Naboth which Ahab had stolen, and Ahaziah died as well. Then Jehu ordered Jezebel thrown out of her palace window, but when they went to bury her body later, it was gone – dogs had taken it, just as Elisha had said.

At that time Ahab's 70 other sons were living in the city of Samaria, so Jehu sent letters to the officials in Samaria saying "The king is dead, select a new king and then prepare for war, because I am coming to destroy the house of Ahab."

But the officials in Samaria were afraid of Jehu, so they sent a message saying, "We are your servants – we will do anything you tell us to."

Jehu sent a message telling them to kill all of Ahab's sons and they did. Then Jehu set out with his men for Samaria. On the way they met, captured and killed 42 more relatives of King Ahaziah.

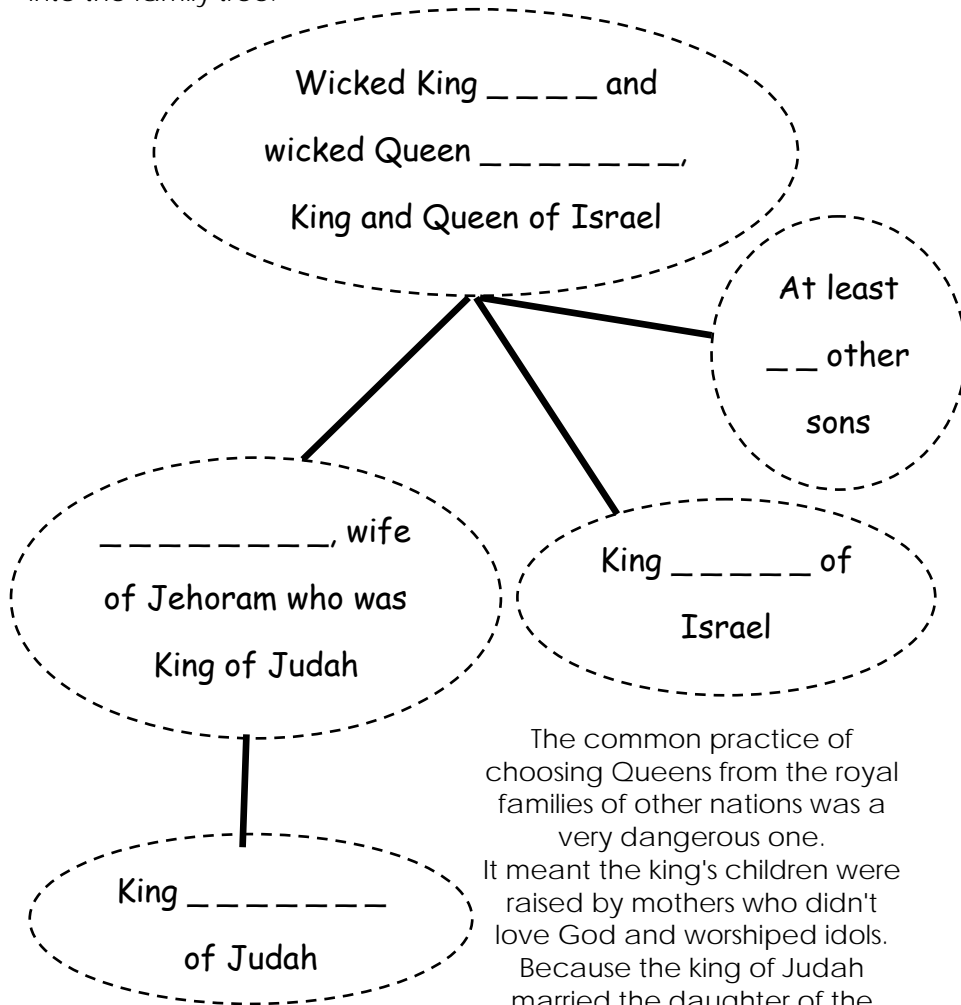
When Jehu arrived in Samaria, he executed the rest of Ahab's family.

Then Jehu sent a message throughout the land calling all of the prophets and worshipers of Baal to a great sacrifice at the temple of Baal. Jehu sacrificed the burnt offering as everyone watched; then, Jehu's soldiers rushed in to killed all the Baal worshipers. So Jehu stopped all Baal worship in the land of Israel and they turned the temple of Baal into a public toilet.

Unfortunately, Jehu did not follow God with all his heart and still allowed some idol worship, but God was pleased that he had destroyed Baal worship in Israel, and destroyed the family of the very wicked king Ahab and so God said that Jehu's descendants would reign over Israel for four generations.

Tuesday

Use the lessons from Sunday and Monday to fill the missing names into the family tree.



The common practice of choosing Queens from the royal families of other nations was a very dangerous one.

It meant the king's children were raised by mothers who didn't love God and worshiped idols.

Because the king of Judah married the daughter of the wicked Jezebel, Baal worship spread to Judah.

Can you think of some other kings who got into trouble because they followed this practice: _____

Wednesday

Find the underlined words from Sunday and Monday.



God had warned His people over and over again of the dangers of idol worship.

Even though it seemed like Israel and Judah had totally rejected God, God still loved them and wanted to bring them back to Himself.

If Jehu had chosen to follow God with all of his heart, to remove ALL idol worship from the land and to lead the people to worship God in His sanctuary in Jerusalem again, the history of Israel might have ended very differently.