

# ELISHA

## The Great Things That

Jehoram. Jehu was also commanded to kill Jehoram, and he did, along with Ahaziah king of Judah, many more of the family of Ahab, and a

One of the great prophets and miracle-workers of the Bible was Elisha. His ministry after the translation of his master Elijah covered over fifty years, and was marked by mighty evidences of the power of faith in God. Let us let our faith grow as we study what Elisha did.

### Lesson #11: Miraculous Predictions

**Scripture:**  
II Kings 8:1-15;  
9:1-10

**Key Verse:**  
II Kings 8:7  
“And Elisha came to Damascus; and Benhadad the king of Syria was sick; and it was told him, saying, The man of God is come hither.”

### Hath Done

We have learned in this study that Elisha had good relations with several of the kings of his day. In order to understand the significance of certain prophecies he made, we must have in our minds the chronological facts about the kings who reigned during Elisha’s ministry.

1. King Ahab of Israel (I Kings 16:28 - 22:39):
  - a. Wicked king who introduced Baal worship to the Northern Kingdom.
  - b. Nemesis of Elijah the prophet (I Kings 17-21).
  - c. Elisha called by Elijah to be his servant and successor about 9 years before Ahab’s death (I Kings 19).
2. King Ahaziah of Israel (I Kings 22:40 - II Kings 1:18).
  - a. Son of wicked King Ahab.
  - b. Dies after only two years as king because of his sins, according to the word of the Lord through Elijah (II Kings 1).
3. King Jehoram of Israel (II Kings 1:17 - 9:26):
  - a. Another son of Ahab, also called Joram.
  - b. Not to be confused with Jehoram, son of Jehoshaphat, king of Judah.
  - c. Elisha’s filling with the Spirit and the beginning of his ministry as the primary prophet of Israel after Elijah’s translation took place at the first of Jehoram’s reign.
  - d. II Kings 3:1 describes this king as evil but not as bad as Ahaziah and Ahab (his brother and father).
  - e. Elisha helped Jehoram in a battle with the Moabites (II Kings 3).
  - f. Several of Elisha’s most famous miracles took place in the reign of Jehoram (II Kings 4, 5, 6).
  - g. Elisha helped Jehoram in the Syrian siege of Samaria (II Kings 7).
  - h. Jehoram joined with Ahaziah, king of Judah, in a war against Syria. This Ahaziah was the grandson of Jehoshaphat and the nephew of Jehoram king of Israel (because Ahaziah’s father had married a daughter of Ahab).
  - i. Jehu was anointed by “one of the children of the prophets” (II Kings 9:1-3) to be king of Israel instead of

### (II Kings 8:4)

- j. Jehoram’s reign lasted 12 years.
4. King Jehu of Israel (II Kings 9:1 - 10:36):
  - a. Made king of Israel when Elisha sent a student-prophet to anoint him.
  - b. Promised four generations of his seed on the throne of Israel (II Kings 10:30—Jehoahaz, Jehoash, Jeroboam, Zachariah).
  - c. Reign lasted 28 years.
5. King Jehoahaz of Israel (II Kings 13:1-9):
  - a. Son of Jehu who continued the idolatrous worship in Israel.
  - b. Reigned 17 years.
6. King Joash of Israel (II Kings 13:9 - 14:16):
  - a. Also called Jehoash. Not to be confused with Joash king of Judah, the son of Ahaziah.
  - b. On his deathbed, Elisha counseled King Joash and rebuked him for his lack of faith.
  - c. Elisha died during his reign and his final miracle was performed through his dead body.
  - d. Joash warred with Judah.
  - e. He reigned a total of 16 years.

Elisha’s active ministry must have been well over 50 years long. In his work were fulfilled the commissions to Elijah, his teacher, as recorded in I Kings 19:15-17.

“Anoint Hazael to be king of Syria: and Jehu the son of Nimshi shalt thou anoint to be king over Israel: and Elisha. . .shalt thou anoint to be prophet in thy room. And it shall come to pass that him that escapeth the sword of Hazael shall Jehu slay: and him that escapeth from the sword of Jehu shall Elisha slay.”

### I. A Prediction That Rescued (II Kings 8:1-6)

This incident took place during the reign of Jehoram. The “famine” mentioned in verse 1 is the “dearth” spoken of in II Kings 4:38. The story is placed here because of the effect of its fulfillment near the end of Jehoram’s reign. Elisha told his friend the Shunammite

(II Kings 4) about the famine the Lord was going to bring upon Israel for seven years. He told her to leave the country, and stay away until the famine was over.

Notes:

*“And the women arose, and did after the saying of the man of God: and she went with her household, and sojourned in the land of the Philistines seven years.” (v. 2)*

When she returned, she arrived at the king’s palace just as Gehazi was telling Jehoram about the raising of this woman’s son. She was coming to ask that the real estate she had left seven years before be restored to her. Because the king had just heard her story from Gehazi, he asked her about it. The result of the whole incident was that everything was restored to her, and even *“all the fruits of the field since the day that she left.”* She was rescued from the famine by the prophecy of Elisha, and rescued from poverty by the providence of God in Elisha’s ministry to her.

Prophecy is one of the most convincing evidences of God and of the Bible being His Word. Much of Bible prophecy was written to rescue. The only real prophecy in the world is found in the Bible, and much of it has to do with God’s plan to redeem fallen mankind. So much of the prophecy concerning Christ and salvation has been so clearly fulfilled that only the most stubborn skeptic can still deny the miraculous nature of it. Salvation from sin and its consequences to man was to come in a Man, the *“Seed”* of the woman (Genesis 3:15). The *“Seed”* would be descended from Abraham (Genesis 12:3), Isaac (Genesis 26:4), and Jacob (Genesis 28:14). He would be descended from Jacob’s son Judah (Genesis 49:10). He would come from David’s family line in the tribe of Judah (II Samuel 7:16). This *“Seed”* of the woman would be born of a virgin girl (Isaiah 7:14). He would be a Son, God in flesh, and an eternal king (Isaiah 9:6-7). He would minister in Galilee (Isaiah 9:1-2). He would suffer and die as a sacrifice for the sins of mankind (Psalm 22 and Isaiah 53). He would rise from the dead (Psalm 16, Psalm 22, and Isaiah 53). His birthplace was to be Bethlehem of Judea (Micah 5:2). He was to be sold for thirty pieces of silver (Zechariah 11:12). He was to enter Jerusalem on an ass (Zechariah 9:9). His hands and feet were to be pierced (Psalm 22:16 and Zechariah 13:6). All of these and many other prophecies of Christ were fulfilled perfectly in the life of the Lord Jesus. Don’t think of prophecy as a mere curiosity. Realize that much of it was given to point you to Christ and His salvation.

**II. A Prediction That Killed  
(II Kings 8:7-15)**

How does prophecy work? To a large degree the Lord predicts the future because He has planned to do certain things and wants certain people to know what He is going to do. Remember that Elisha told the

Shunammite woman that *“the Lord hath called for a famine”* (II Kings 8:1). But God also foretells the actions of wicked people. These are not direct acts of God, and are often thoroughly abominable to God. Such is the case in Elisha’s prophecy about Hazael’s ascension to the throne of Syria. God had told Elijah that though Elisha he would make Hazael king of Syria. As we have seen, the prophet Elisha had a cordial relationship with the leaders of Syria as well as of Israel. On this occasion, he came to Damascus to visit the ailing Syrian king Ben-Hadad. In a conversation with a high official in Ben-Hadad’s government, Elisha predicted that the king could recover from his present illness but would die unnecessarily and that this official, Hazael, would be made king. He also predicted that Hazael would be a destroyer of Israel. Although Hazael denied all of these predictions, he also fulfilled them, murdering Ben-Hadad, taking his throne, and attacking Israel again and again. God foretells the sinful acts of the wicked first because He is all-knowing (omniscient). He knows what everyone will do (See Isaiah 46:9-10). He also is sovereign, ruling over the affairs of man and controlling even the wicked so that His ultimate will is accomplished even through the evil deeds of His enemies. See what the Bible says in Psalm 76:10.

*“Surely the wrath of man shall praise thee: the remainder of wrath shalt thou restrain.”*

God both predicted and used the wicked mind and acts of Judas Iscariot (Study Matthew 26:24 and Acts 2:22-23).

**III. A Prediction That Purged  
(II Kings 9:1-10)**

Here again the prophecy to Elijah was fulfilled, that Elisha would anoint Jehu to be king of Israel. Actually it was a pupil of Elisha that did it, so that Elijah’s ministry actually continued through two spiritual generations. Jehu was made king to destroy the royal house of Ahab and purge God’s people of the Baal-worship this family had brought to them. Look again at the prophecy to Elijah of I Kings 19:15-18. God was working through Elijah and Elisha to purge the Northern and Southern kingdoms of Baal-worship. Bible prophecy in general also speaks of purging. One of the most important doctrines of the Bible is that divine judgment is coming. Judgment in all its forms purges out evil. The judgment, of the Great Tribulation will purge the world in preparation for the Kingdom. The judgments of the Great White Throne will purge creation of all its sinful creatures so that the New Creation will be rid of them. Prophecy warns us of judgment so that we will repent and be saved. Learn about Bible

prophecy, and  
understand its  
message of God’s  
salvation, God’s  
sovereignty, and  
God’s judgment.