

THE DEATH OF ELISHA. 2 KN. 13:14-21. 01/07/24. #25.

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**14**Elisha had become sick with the illness of which he would die. Then Joash the king of Israel came down to him, and wept over his face, and said, "O my father, my father, the chariots of Israel and their horsemen!" **15**And Elisha said to him, "Take a bow and some arrows." So he took himself a bow and some arrows. **16**Then he said to the king of Israel, "Put your hand on the bow." So he put his hand *on it*, and Elisha put his hands on the king's hands. **17**And he said, "Open the east window"; and he opened *it*. Then Elisha said, "Shoot"; and he shot. And he said, "The arrow of the LORD's deliverance and the arrow of deliverance from Syria; for you must strike the Syrians at Aphek till you have destroyed *them*." **18**Then he said, "Take the arrows"; so he took *them*. And he said to the king of Israel, "Strike the ground"; so he struck three times, and stopped. **19**And the man of God was angry with him, and said, "You should have struck five or six times; then you would have struck Syria till you had destroyed *it!* But now you will strike Syria *only* three times." **20**Then Elisha died, and they buried him. And the *raiding* bands from Moab invaded the land in the spring of the year. **21**So it was, as they were burying a man, that suddenly they spied a band *of raiders*; and they put the man in the tomb of Elisha; and when the man was let down and touched the bones of Elisha, he revived and stood on his feet.  
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1. End of an era

- a. After nearly 50 years of ministry, Elisha is about to die
  - a1. The Word does not record any action of Elisha for 40 years (9:1)
  - a2. Elisha is fatally ill (fate of all men)
    - b1. Elijah was translated (2 Kn. 2)
    - b2. Heb. 9:27 Elisha dies of natural causes
- b. Jehoash visits Elisha on his sick bed
  - a1. Jeh. is hypocritical => he worshipped the Golden Calf & idols, but called on Lord in his need
  - a2. Elisha was a resource to the king, but not a spiritual mentor
- c. Jeh. bemoaned the loss of Elisha
  - a1. In God's mercy, He protected Israel against the incursions of Syria
  - a2. Jeh. recognized that Elisha was the link between Israel & God that provided him a shield
  - a3. Jeh.'s weak faith did not allow him to become a great spiritual leader in Israel
- d. After the death of Elisha, the northern kingdom would receive no prophetic guidance until their exile
- e. Jeh.'s recognition of God didn't mean conversion to God

2. Elisha's final prophecy

- a. Jeh. calls Elisha the *chariots & horsemen of Israel*
  - a1. 2 Kn. 2:12 same language Elisha used of Elijah
  - a2. God was the army of Israel, not soldiers
- b. Even though Jeh. was not a faithful king, God would help Israel for His covenant's sake
  - a1. God's mercy is not the same as God's approval
  - a2. Elisha cared deeply about Israel despite their rebellion, just as Paul did (Rom. 9-10)
- c. Elisha commanded Jeh. to take his bow & shoot an arrow into the ground out the east window
  - a1. East was the direction toward Syria
  - a2. Elisha declared that Israel would defeat Syria at Aphek (East of Gath)
- d. Elisha then commands Jeh. to keep shooting arrows
  - a1. Since Elisha had already predicted an Israelite victory after shooting 1 arrow, each arrow would represent a victory
  - a2. When the king with Elisha's hand on him stopped after shooting 3 arrows, Elisha was furious
  - a3. Elisha wanted Jeh. to empty his quiver into the ground to totally eradicate Syria's army
  - a4. Jeh.'s little faith yielded little results
- e. Elisha passed away, leaving Jeh. without a spiritual resource to consult
  - a1. God will remove unwanted help
  - a2. Ps. 106:15 God will allow us to go alone, but will not bless us in this endeavor
- f. Jeh.'s death is mentioned twice (13:12 & 14:15-16)
  - a1. He had defeated Amaziah of Judah
  - a2. He ruled for 16 years

3. Those dry bones

- a. Israelite burials included washing of the body & then wrapping the body with spice infused linen cloths
  - a1. There was no embalming as with the Egyptians
  - a2. The body decayed rapidly
- b. In the spring Moabite raiders came into Samaria
  - a1. Frightened mourners laid a body in Elisha's tomb & fled (to retrieve body later)
  - a2. When the body touched Elisha's bones, the man revived
  - a3. The miracle was a sign to Jeh. that God would deliver Syria into his hands 4 times