

Lesson 24 II Kings 1 – 13

STUDY QUESTIONS:

1. *Elisha and Elijah are linked inseparably as prophets. What is their relationship to Moses? What incidents in the two lives seem to be re-telling the same story? What are the differences in their prophetic style?*
2. *Syria is the enemy to the north. Why does Elisha anoint Hazael as King of Syria? Why does Elisha anoint Jehu, King of Israel?*
3. *Why must Ahab and Jezebel and their entire offspring be destroyed? How are both Judah and Israel contaminated? Trace the violence that comes against them. Who is the instrument?*
4. *Who travels with the armies? What is his role? How does Moab turn back the combined forces of Judah, Israel, and Edom?*

Psalms 125, 127, 128 and prayer.

There is faith despite all the apostasy. These psalms show the continuing faith of the common people. We might forget, like Elijah, that through all the years of apostasy, sin, idol worship, power grasping, foreign intrigue, and the rest of the sordid tale, many common people still trusted God. These beautiful songs, out of the roots of the faith of the People of God, express that faith that comes down to us today. The development of faith in His people that God nurtured so carefully was worth saving, and despite the widespread threat of error and sin, He would go to great lengths to save it.

Elijah and Elisha have tasks given by God. In a continual round of bloodshed and violent acts, all instigated by two prophets of God, Elisha and Elijah, the story continues. What is God saying through all the political turmoil of this distressing history? The two prophets, except for some minor details, seem to be one person - Elisha is an extension of Elijah. The focus is on them because of their tight relationship to Moses (see the outline for lesson 23), which lies behind the prophetic word spoken to Jehu in 10:30: "Because you have done well in carrying out what is right in my eyes and have done to the house of Ahab according to all that was in my heart, your sons shall sit on the throne of Israel." It

seems like an incredible statement. How, in light of the mayhem wreaked by Jehu, can God be behind this statement? To answer we go back to Exodus 34. Here is the beautiful story of Moses asking God for a more intimate knowledge of Himself. God hides him in the cleft of the rock and then passes very close to him in order to reveal more of himself to Moses. He covers Moses with his hand to protect him from the awesomeness of his Being, and allows him only to see his back. When he passes by he says, "The Lord, The Lord a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sins, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children to the third and fourth generation."

God is revealing His very nature to Moses. He is a God of love. He is forgiving. Moses is told how to prepare the people for that forgiveness. They are to repent, make sacrifice, and return to the ways of God. Then God forgives. To those who are unrepentant God will hold accounts against the evildoers. They are not automatically forgiven, instead, if they do not repent, they will reap the effects of their disobedience. In this day of permissiveness calling itself love, we tend to forget this side of the revelation of God. We take the stick out of our religion, forgetting that Jesus had that same hard unrelenting side to Him - only for our good. See Lu 19 where Jesus says that at the end the king will take those who do not submit to his rule and have them slain. Also, remember His hard words, "if your right hand offends, cut it off."

God sends curses for disobedience. In Deuteronomy 28, Moses under orders from this loving God who both blesses and curses, lays out the way the people are to go. . . or else. The 27th chapter is full of curses. Scan this chapter, and then scan the 28th chapter which lays out the blessings if the people obey the word of God. It is up to them and their choices. The chapter of curses includes a description of cannibalism which occurred in our reading. Samaria besieged by Syria resorts to eating children. This horror comes as punishment for unrighteousness, for having forsaken the God in whose hand Elijah and Elisha are instruments. This likeness to Moses is drawn out. In last week's lesson, Elijah fleeing from Jezebel goes to Mt. Sinai (Horeb). He hears Gods

instructions about how to bring down the curse upon the evil that Israel has become. On Sinai where Moses talked to God, receiving the words upon which blessings and curses are based, Elijah now gets the rest of the agenda.

Elijah receives three commands at Mt. Sinai. In I Kings 19 three commands are given to Elijah: 1) to crown Hazael King of Damascus 2) to crown Jehu King of Israel, 3) to anoint Elisha to take his, Elijah's place. Elijah does the last thing first, anointing Elisha, and handing on to him the other two divine orders. Elisha follows Elijah, perhaps for days, to be with him when he is taken to heaven so that he will receive a double portion of his spirit. Together they cross the Jordan where Elijah like Moses parts the waters by striking them with his cloak. Elijah is taken to heaven near Mt. Nebo where Moses also died about whose death the scriptures say, "the Lord buried him." We are reminded that Moses and Elijah return to talk with Jesus on the Mt. of Transfiguration, preparing Him for His death. These are inseparable images Moses the lawgiver and Elijah the punisher of Israel for breaking the law.

Elijah begins his work on Mt. Carmel. By killing 450 priests of Baal, Jezebel's darlings, Elijah undertakes the cleanup of Israel. An unendurable evil upon the people of God, the evil house of Ahab and Jezebel must be destroyed for its sin. Following the outline, Ahab's line is eliminated in the purge of evil from Israel. First Ahaziah of Israel, Ahab's son, falls through a lattice and lies ill. A true son of Jezebel, he sends for a priest of Baal to ask if he will recover. Elijah meets the messenger and prophesies that Ahaziah will die. "Is there no God in Israel that you go to the Baal?" asks Elijah. At his death the first branch of the Jezebel/Ahab family tree is stricken off. Jehoram, Ahaziah's brother takes his place. A sister, Athaliah, has married Jehoram king of Judah (there are two Jehorams), in keeping with the alliance that Ahab had with his father, King Jehoshaphat.

Elisha takes up Elijah's work by anointing Jehu. Elisha sends a messenger, one of the prophets, to Ramath-gilead where the war with Syria is going on. He tells him to anoint Jehu - the second instruction

given Elijah on Mt. Sinai. So Jehu, this violent man ("he drives furiously") is anointed and proclaimed king. Both kings, Jehoram in Israel and Jehoram in Judah are thoroughly contaminated with the sins of Jezebel. The daughter of Ahab and Jezebel, Athaliah, is wife of Jehoram of Judah, and queen in Jerusalem. What potential she has to be the ruination of whatever is left of the Lord's religion! Jehoram of Judah dies and his son Ahaziah takes his place, still of the contaminated line of Ahab and Jezebel. Athaliah is now the Queen Mother. Jehu, however, is to be the bloody remedy. Crowned by prophetic utterance and anointing, he sets out to get both kings. King Ahaziah goes up to Jezreel to visit his recuperating uncle, King Jehoram, who has been injured in the Syrian war. Jehu drives to Jezreel. The kings come out to meet him in their chariots. He murders the one, then follows the other to Beth-haggan and kills him near Naboth's field where Elijah had prophesied this wicked family's doom.

Contamination has reached Jerusalem. So two more have been stricken from the family tree - Kings Ahaziah and Jehoram. Jehu now has undisputed kingship of Israel. Meanwhile, the Queen mother in Jerusalem kills all the grandchildren that might contend with her for the throne, thereby eliminating the next generation of Ahab/Jezebel's progeny herself. She takes the throne. Another Jezebel, she is sole ruler in Jerusalem where the ancient prophets had said only a son of David will reign, and forever. It is immensely important that a baby of the Davidic line be saved from the brutality of Athaliah. A sister of Ahaziah, Jehosheba, (perhaps not a daughter of this Queen, but another child of Jehoram by a different mother) has rescued the youngest baby of the household, a son of Ahaziah. This child, Joash, is protected and hidden in her home with her husband, Jehoida, priest of the Temple. He is the "lamp of David that must not go out in Jerusalem."

Jehu cleanses Israel of Baal worship. Jehu, carrying out his orders against this corrupt house in the north, goes to Jezreel and eliminates the evil woman behind all this misery, Jezebel. There is a hint in the scriptures that had Ahab been a man who had married an Israelite and not this daughter of the high priest of Baal, things might have been different. By himself he had some decent tendencies. But he was weak, and allowed Jezebel to do the dirty work. For his use of her he was

equally guilty. Again we witness the power of the woman who governmentally or politically may seem to have no power, but who has tremendous influence through her character, in this case for evil. Jehu kills all of King Ahaziah's (Judah) relatives whom he meets along the way between Judah and Israel. Then he goes on to eliminate all the worshippers of Baal in Samaria and the priests of Baal. Feigning worship of Baal he tricks them into the temple where he has arranged for their annihilation. There the last blood bath takes place. God's curses through Moses have been carried out and God commends Jehu for having done all that was in God's heart to do. The evil house of Ahab which threatened revealed faith has been cut off.

The Davidic king, Joash is rescued. In Judah, however, there is still Athaliah to be taken care of. When the saved baby Joash is seven, Jehoida takes him into the Temple and proclaims him king. They draw Athaliah out of her palace to be brutally killed. That is the end of the whole line. The cleansing of the contamination oozing from the house of Ahab and Jezebel is complete. Joash, a true descendant of David is put on the throne at the age of seven years with his priest-protector as regent. He has been educated by Jehoida to be a faithful, just man who effects a reform in the land, purifying the worship, and eliminating false gods.

The third part of the Mt. Sinai instruction is yet to be carried out. Elisha enters a nation that at one time was part of the Davidic kingdom. In Syria he has prophetic stature and is recognized as "the man of God". Foreign countries recognize these truly great men of Yahweh. Benhadad II is ill and asks Elisha whether he will regain his health. He sends his servant, Hazael, with the question. Elisha recognizes that this man will kill Benhadad, so his answer is a puzzle. (Remember that this Benhadad had been put under the ban by Yahweh, but Ahab had refused to carry out the ban, making a covenant with him instead - an action condemned by the prophets.) Elisha says, "Tell him he will live and recover, but he will die." This seems like a carte blanche for Hazael to kill him. And so it happens. Hazael kills Benhadad and takes the kingship for himself. Elisha knows that in time this commander of Syria

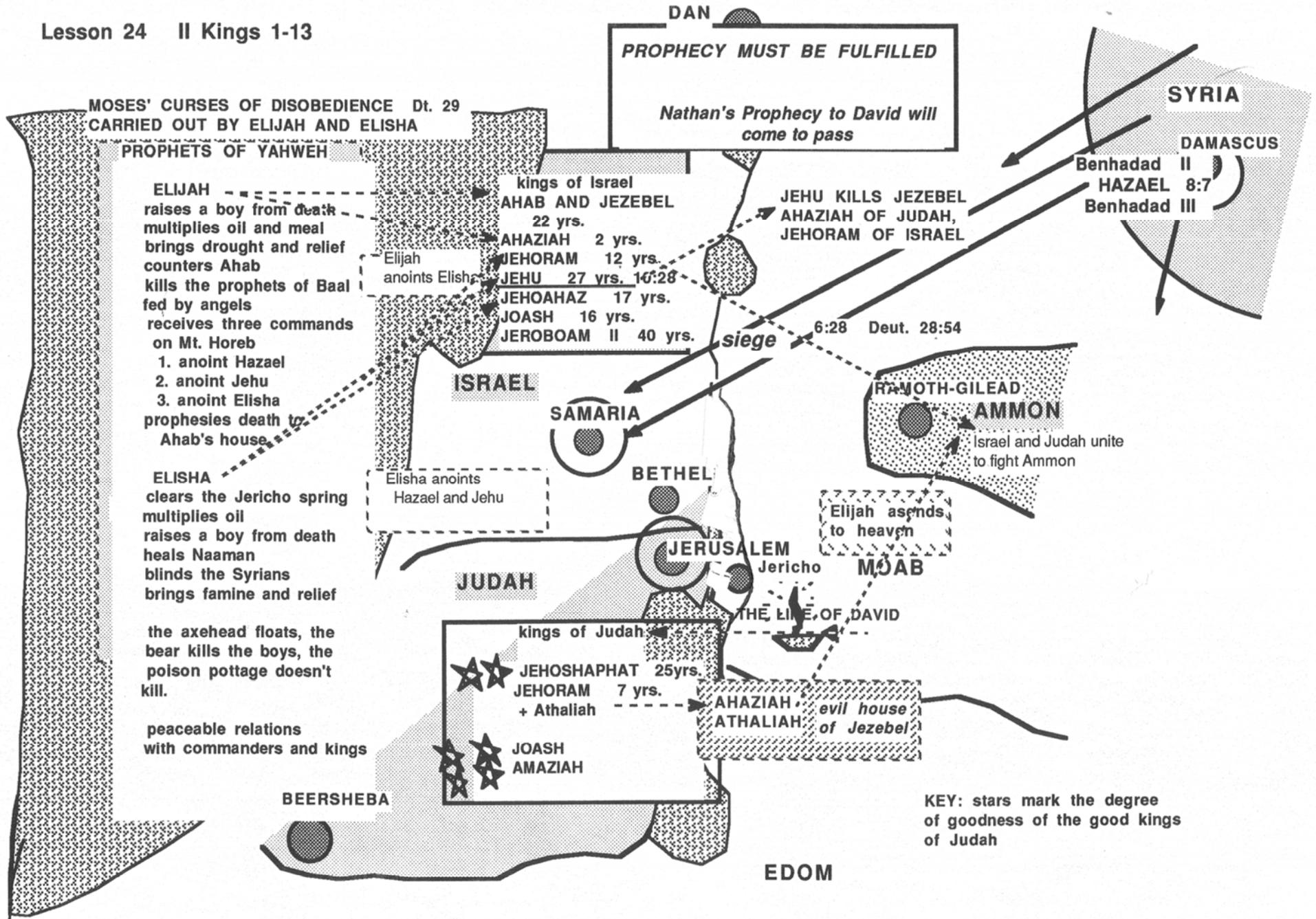
will inflict heavy punishment on the people of Israel. Hazael will be another instrument of punishment in the hand of God. The instructions of Mt. Sinai, the Mosaic curses against disobedience, have been carried out.

There are differences between the two prophets who merge as one. Elijah, a loner, seems to have no genealogy, coming out of nowhere and ascending right to heaven. He even seems to try to shake off Elisha as he follows him to the end. He had no truck with kings and never traveled with the armies. He was always opposed to reigning power. On the other hand, Elisha is the head of a band of prophets, as many as fifty. Living with them, he has a lot to do with their comings and goings. Whenever we read about a battle he is close by, as in the story about Moab when the child sacrifice so horrified the Israelites that they didn't consolidate their victory. When the widow and her son (whom he had resuscitated) come back for their property, Elisha is able to use his influence with the King of Israel to have it restored. He has a cozier relationship with kings and commanders than Elijah, even though he is to be the instrument for their final destruction. Stories about Elijah and Elisha have many parallels - dead sons that are revived, oil that never gives out.

Jehu, the violent, has a buddy Jehonadab. This son of Rechab shares his friend, Jehu's, zeal. Jeremiah tells us the Rechabites were fundamentalists - even extremists (Jer 35:6-11). Chronicles also tells us that this was a Kenite tribe, related back to Moses' father-in-law. These people even up to the time of Jeremiah lived only tents, would not drink wine or engage in agriculture, believing that the old nomadic ways were purer. Jehonadab made an excellent, zealous companion for Jehu.

Elisha heals the Syrian commander. The Naaman story is especially beautiful in detail, even though it is at this time that Elisha's faithful servant displays his weakness. Naaman believes the earth of Israel belongs to The Lord and has His Presence in it, therefore he carts home soil upon which to base his future worship in gratitude for his healing. Behind all this prophetic/fulfillment emphasis lies the great prophecy that must be fulfilled - a son of David will come who will have the throne forever. The promises of II Samuel 7 must be fulfilled.

Lesson 24 II Kings 1-13



Lesson 24 II Kings 1 - 13
Synopsis

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| <p>1. Ahaziah is injured in a fall he sends to inquire of Baal Elijah prophesies his death the army comes to get him 50 soldiers are consumed twice the third group is spared Elijah goes with them to the king Ahaziah dies as Elijah prophesied Jehoram, his brother, now reigns</p> <p>2. Elijah is assumed into heaven Elisha goes with him to the end the sons of the prophets follow he parts the waters of the Jordan if Elisha sees Elijah's departure he gets two portions of his spirit he sees chariot of fire and horses a whirlwind takes Elijah up Elisha receives Elijah's spirit the band of prophets seek Elijah he is not to be found Jericho's springs are purified bears eat the mocking boys</p> <p>3. Jehoram, Ahab's son, rules Israel there is trouble with Moab Israel and Judah together are plagued by a drought Elisha regards Jehoshaphat but not Jehoram with minstrel music he prophesies a dry stream will be full of pools Moab will fall into their hands Moab thinks red water is blood the victory over Moab is sure but Moab offers his eldest son in sacrifice and victory averted</p> | <p>4. by Israel's horror at this act Elisha provides oil for a widow a woman gives him a roof chamber he promises her a son by the Lord the child dies of heat stroke she seeks the prophet he comes and restores him in a famine a poisonous pottage is made palatable, bread multiplied Syrians have the upper hand Naaman a leper comes for healing he sends a letter to the king request for healing frightens him Elisha has Naaman sent to him Naaman scorns instructions but is encouraged by his servants to wash in the Jordan seven times he is healed and worships Yahweh Gehazi's greed brings on leprosy sons of the prophets build a house a lost axe head floats Elisha knows all Syria's moves the enemy surrounds Dotham to capture Elisha the blinded enemy is led to a feast they go away in peace with Syrian siege there is famine cannibalism is the result the king blames Elisha and God</p> <p>5. Elisha prophesies good fortune a man doubts his prophecy four lepers go to the Syrian camp they find that God has conquered report is given to king's household the besieged loot the camp man who doubted is trampled the widow and son are sojourners during the famine they return</p> <p>6. Elisha prophesies good fortune a man doubts his prophecy four lepers go to the Syrian camp they find that God has conquered report is given to king's household the besieged loot the camp man who doubted is trampled the widow and son are sojourners during the famine they return</p> <p>7. Elisha prophesies good fortune a man doubts his prophecy four lepers go to the Syrian camp they find that God has conquered report is given to king's household the besieged loot the camp man who doubted is trampled the widow and son are sojourners during the famine they return</p> <p>8. Elisha prophesies good fortune a man doubts his prophecy four lepers go to the Syrian camp they find that God has conquered report is given to king's household the besieged loot the camp man who doubted is trampled the widow and son are sojourners during the famine they return</p> | <p>their property returned thru Elisha Elisha anoints Hazael in Syria Benhadad II is killed by Hazael Jehoshaphat dies in Judah Joram (or Jehoram) rules a daughter of Jezebel is his wife Edom revolts, Libnah revolts Jehoram (J) dies, Ahaziah reigns Ahaziah and Joram (1) join forces in a war with Hazael of Syria Jehoram(I) is injured Ahaziah(J) goes to see him Elisha sends a prophet to Jehu to anoint him King of Israel Joram(I) sees Jehu coming he sends out messengers Jehu kills Joram(I) in his chariot Jehu kills Ahaziah(J), goes on to Jezreel where he kills Jezebel Ahab's sons killed by Jehu's plan Jehu is carrying out Elijah's plan he kills all Ahaziah's line Jehu's friend Jehonadab is one of the Rechabites Jehu kills all Baal worshippers the house of Baal is made a latrine Hazael cuts off pieces of Israel Jehu dies, his son Jehoahaz rules Athaliah reigns in Jerusalem she kills all the family Joash, her grandson, hidden Jehoida the priest leads a revolt kills Athaliah, and puts Joash (Jehoash) on the throne the covenant is renewed Baal worship is broken Jehoash reigns in Jerusalem he begins to repair the Temple</p> | <p>the priests don't cooperate money doesn't get used well money given direct to workman and the repairs go smoothly Hazael paid votive gifts to keep away from Jerusalem there is more Syrian pressure Jehoahaz(I) beseeches the Lord Israel is saved temporarily Jehoahaz dies, Jehoash(I) reigns Jehoash dies, Jeroboam II reigns Elisha ill unto death arrows shot with his blessing Syria will be defeated but only three times because Jehoash lacks resolve Elisha is powerful in death he raises a dead man who is thrown into his grave Hazael's pressure continues he dies, Benhadad III, is his son Jehoash recovers cities for Israel</p> |
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Lesson 24 II Kings 1 - 13 Outline

- I. Background of II Kings (see outline 23)
- II. Elijah and Elisha are great prophets to Israel
 - A. They have a shared personality
 1. stories about one are told also about the other
 - a. raising a dead child 4:33 ff
 - b. providing continuous oil for worthy poor 4 :1ff
 - c. connection with drought and famine 3
 2. Elisha carries on Elijah's work
 - a. he anoints Hazael, King of Syria 8
 - b. he anoints Jehu, King of Israel 9
 - B. Elisha receives twice Elijah's spirit 2
 1. he follows him during his last days 2:1ff
 2. he is present when a chariot of fire takes him bodily to heaven 2:11
 - a. later writers tell of his return Mal 3:23-24, Mk 6:15,8:28
 - b. one of two (Enoch) who is worthy to go to heaven without death
 - c. "My, father, my father" title for a man of religion of ancient usage. 2:12
 3. immediately he has his powers
 - a. the band of prophets recognizes this 2:15
 - b. he purifies bad water in Jericho 2:21
 - 1) this is a symbol for the purifying of Baal influence
 - a) the poisoned water of Israel/ Judah is Jezebel's religion
 - b) his mission is to purify it
 - 2) Baal worship had brought death to two sons of Hiel for the refounding of Jericho prophesied earlier by Joshua Josh 6:26
 - c. prophets are not to be taken lightly - the bears and taunting boys 2:24
 - C. Differences between Elisha and Elijah
 1. Elijah is the solitary prophet
 - a. he comes on the scene with no genealogy
 - b. he is opposed to people in power
 - 1) fire from heaven consumes army men and their commanders 1:9ff
 - 2) he is set against Ahab and Jezebel continually
 - c. he is always a lonely figure from the wilderness
 - d. he is a true prophetic man of God
 - 1) his garments 1:8 John the Baptist will also wear Mt.3:4
 - 2) as Elijah of the New Testament prophesied in Mal 4:5
 2. Elisha is the communal prophet

- a. he travels between communities of prophets 2:3, 2:5, 2:7
 1. he has ecstasies, trances and other psychic manifestations
 2. a musical trance stimulates prophecy 3:15
 3. he is living a communal life 6:1
- b. he is a companion of kings and armies and is politically involved
 1. in the war on Moab he was present 3:14
 2. his influence with king restores Shunammite property 8:4 ff
 3. Elisha and Jehoram on good terms 6:21, on bad terms 6:30 ff
 4. Elisha and Joash of Israel on good terms 13:14
- c. some of the stories are mysterious
 1. the boys and the bear 2:23
 2. the gourd stew 4:39
 3. the floating axe head 6:6
 4. purifying water
- d. there is the usual foreshadowing of the New Testament
 1. a barren woman conceives 4:17
 2. death of the woman's son, raised from the dead
 3. multiplying bread 4:43
- e. death of Elisha 13:20
 1. a boy is resurrected just touching his grave 13:21

Elijah/Elisha's work and Moses

- A. Elijah's life has many parallels to Moses
 1. he is miraculously fed in the desert
 2. he spent forty days and forty nights on Mt. Horeb
 3. he hears God speak there
 4. he parts the waters of the Jordan 2:8
 5. he is taken up to heaven near where Moses died
- B. Elijah is Moses' extension
 1. Moses promises God's blessings to those who obey Dt 27
 2. he warns of punishment to those who disobey the commands of God
 - a. harsh words about the results of sin Dt 28
 - b. times would bring on terrible things, including cannibalism which happened during Syria's siege of Samaria
 3. Israel under Ahab/Jezebel rule is corruption, loss of Yahwehistic religion
 - a. Baal - Asherah worship is common, supported by the King
 - b. there is a temple to Baal in Samaria
 - c. the real prophets of God are persecuted and killed

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- d. child sacrifice is tolerated
- e. Elijah thinks he is the only faithful person; God says 7000 are left
- 4. the time has come for the punishments by Elijah as Moses' extension
- 5. the still small voice of Sinai tells Elijah to appoint two instruments of punishment - Hazeal and Jehu

IV. Agents of punishment go out to apply the curses

- A. The house of Ahab must be totally destroyed
 - 1. Ahab is killed in battle with Syria at Ramoth-gilead; he ruled 22 yrs
 - 2. his son, Ahaziah rules 2 yrs and dies from injuries 1:2 ff
 - a. he sends to the Baal for word
 - b. the messenger meets Elijah - Is there no God in Israel?
 - c. he deserves death for serving Baal and worshipping him I Kgs.22:53
 - 3. his son, Jehoram rules in Israel 1:17
 - a. he evil but not as evil as his father 3:2
 - b. he put away the pillar of Baal
 - c. he clung to the sin of Jeroboam (the golden calves)
 - 4. his daughter, Athaliah, marries Judah's king, Jehoshaphat's son Jehoram
 - a. Joram dies after ruling 8 years influenced badly 8:18 by wife
 - b. their son, a grandson of Ahab, Ahaziah rules 1 yr. 8:25
- B. Jehu is anointed King of Israel by a prophet sent by Elisha 9:1 ff
 - 1. he kills Jehoram of Israel, Ahaziah of Judah, Ahab's son, grandson 9:24-27
 - a. Athaliah kills all the rest of her children and grandchildren 11:1
 - b. she takes the throne
 - c. a grandson survives, Ahaziah's infant son
 - 1) Joash saved by Jehoida's wife, Jehosheba 11:2
 - 2) Jehoida, high priest raises Joash to seven years
 - 3) he is declared king, a rightful Davidic king in Jerusalem 11:12
 - 4) Athaliah is killed - the end of Jezebel's line in Judah 11:16
 - 2. Jehu kills Jezebel according to prophecy 9:30
 - 3. he kills rest of Ahab's sons 10:1 ff all his friends and priests 10:11
 - 4. he kills all Ahaziah's kin - forty-two persons 10:12 ff
 - 5. he kills all the worshippers of Baal
 - a. turns the temple into a latrine 10:18ff
 - b. wiped out Baal from Israel
 - 6. Jehu is assisted by a Rechabite friend, Jehonadab 10:15ff
 - a. Rechabites are fundamentalists of their time Jer. 35:6-11
 - b. they idealized desert-nomadic days

- 1) wouldn't live in houses, only tents
- 2) wouldn't drink wine
- 3) wouldn't live by agriculture
- 7. Assyrian annals say Jehu paid them tribute first pressure from a country that will become an awesome foe
- 8. God praises Jehu 10:30ff
 - a. he has done what is right in wiping out Ahab
 - b. his sons shall have the throne for four generations
 - c. but, he has not walked in the law - Jeroboam's sin he continued
 - d. he ruled 28 yrs, dies, his son Jehoahaz rules in his place
- C. Elisha assists the rise of Hazeal of Syria
 - 1. Benhadad ill in Damascus asks Elisha his fate
 - 2. his servant Hazeal brings the question
 - a. Elisha says he will not die of illness but he will die
 - b. he grieves at the punishment Hazeal will inflict on Israel
 - 3. Benhadad is smothered by Hazeal who takes the throne
 - a. Benhadad was put under the ban by the word of prophecy
 - b. Ahab had ignored the ban
 - 1) he made a covenant with him instead
 - 2) it was a wrong that had to be righted.
 - 4. Syria continues to harass Israel

V. The lamp of David on the throne in Jerusalem 11:17

- A. Jehoash(Joash) is seven years old, a true Davidic king 11:19
- B. The regent is Jehoida, priest
 - 1. he made a covenant between the Lord, the king, and the people
 - 2. he tore down the house of Baal and images
 - 3. he slew the priest of Baal
- C. Joash is a good king who reigned forty years
 - 1, he repaired the temple with some troubles now 120 yrs. old 12:4
 - 2. he worked a general reform, but the high places continued
- D. He has trouble with Hazeal who is given tribute of everything valuable
- E. He is murdered by his own servants 12:20
- F. His son, Amaziah ruled in his place 12:21

VI. Prophecy/ fulfillment stories - Davidic oracle of Nathan must be fulfilled - Moses' words must be fulfilled

- A. With the curse of the boys in the name of the Lord, they are killed 2:24

- B. Elisha's prophecy of water and conquering Moab 3:17 -20, 25 is fulfilled
- C. Elisha's prophecy of a son for the Shunammite 4:16 is fulfilled 17
- D. Elisha "Give to the men that they may eat." 4:42 is fulfilled 44
- E. Elisha promises in midst of famine that two measures of barley will sell for a shekel this time tomorrow 7:1, it is fulfilled 7:16
- F. Grisly death of Jezebel 9:30 ff is prophesied in I Kgs 21-23 by Elijah
- G. Elijah's prophecy against the house of Ahab fulfilled in 10:10

VII. Relationships with Enemies

- A. Moab is in rebellion against Israel 3:4 ff
 - 1. Jehoshaphat allies with Israel, also Edom
 - a. army suffers lack of water
 - b. Jehoshaphat asks for a prophet
 - 1) Elisha is traveling with the army 3:11
 - 2) there will be water
 - 3) Moabites will be given into their hands
 - 2. they have a victory, but ...
 - a. it is short-lived because of human sacrifice 3:27
 - b. Israel is horrified, turns and goes home
- B. When Syria has the upper hand in Israel 5:1
 - 1. the commander of the army, Naaman, has leprosy 5:1 ff
 - a. a captured Israelite girl tells of Elisha's powers
 - b. he writes to the King of Israel
 - 1) appalled, thinks he picks a fight - has no such faith 5:7
 - 2) Elisha hears of it, word is sent to Naaman to come
 - 2. Naaman has an encounter with Elisha 5:10
 - a. not what he thought it would be
 - b. almost turns back, his servants prevent it 5:13
 - 3. Naaman is healed
 - a. takes earth back so Yahweh could be worshipped in Syria
 - b. he will act as though he worships Rimmon, is that all right? 5:18
 - c. "Go in peace"
 - 4. Gehazzi is caught in dishonest greed, leprosy is punishment 5:27
- C. Elisha troubles the Syrian king
 - 1. Elisha's clairvoyant powers help Israel 6:8
 - a. Syrian king thought there was a leak, traitor in his camp
 - b. servants say it is Elisha who knows what he says in his bedroom 6:12
 - 2. Syria sends an army to surround Dothan where Elisha is 6:16

- a. God protects his prophet with troops of the Lord 6:17
- b. army struck with blindness 6:18
- c. Elisha leads them to Samaria 6:19
- 3. Jehoram does not slay them, he and Elisha are on good terms
- D. Benhadad II sieges Samaria 6:24
 - 1. the cannibalism that Moses predicted happens
 - 2. the King blames Elisha; the prophet should do something about it
 - 3. he prophesies a reverse of fortune
 - 4. some lepers discover the camp of Syrians empty, the soldiers fled
 - 5. they plundered the camp for much food
 - 6. the man who doubted was trodden down in the rush
- E. Elisha in Damascus is treated with honor 8:7ff
 - 1. Benhadad is sick, sends Hazael to the prophet
 - 2. he will not die of illness, but he will die, says Elisha
 - 3. Hazael to be instrument of God, Elisha deeply regrets it
 - a. he will be king of Syria
 - b. he murders Benhadad (also recorded in the annals of Assyria)
- F. Edom revolts 8:20 and frees itself from Judah
- G. Libnah revolts and frees itself from Judah 8:22
- H. Israel and Judah fight Syria at Ramoth-gilead 8:28ff
 - 1. King Joram of Israel was wounded
 - 2. Ahaziah of Judah comes to visit his uncle
 - 3. Elisha uses the occasion to raise up Jehu as king
- I. Hazael cuts off parts of Israel, has great success
 - 1. dominates the Transjordan
 - 2. goes up against Jerusalem, paid handsome tribute by Joash 12:17
 - 3. has success against Jehoahaz, son of Jehu 13:3
 - a) he beseeches the Lord 13:4
 - b) God will give them a reprieve even though sin of Jeroboam goes on
 - 4. Jehoahaz subdued by Syria 13:22
 - a) he dies
 - b) his son, Joash rules 16 yrs, with the sin of Jeroboam dominated by Syria except -
- J. Elisha gives Joash three victories over Syria 13:14
 - 1. Elisha is ill unto death
 - 2. he has Joash shoot an arrow so he will have victory in Aphek
 - 3. Joash strikes the arrows - only three times - only three victories over Syria
 - 4. Joash takes back some cities from Benhadad III 13:24

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