

6/2/11

2Kings 3-4

Elisha has officially been confirmed by God to be the successor of the prophet Elijah.

God will be directing the steps of Elisha to do His will and accomplish the purposes of God in the midst of and idolatrous and rebellious people.

3:1-27 **The war campaign against Moab for rebelling against Jehoram.**

3:1-3 The reign of Jehoram over Israel.

- 1) Jehoram succeeded his father Ahab, as king over Israel at Samaria in the eighteenth year of Jehoshaphat king of Judah, and reigned twelve years. vs. 1
 - * Remember the two a tied by blood the so of Jehoshaphat married Atheliah, the daughter of Ahab and Jezebel.
- 2) The evil of Jehoram is in comparison to his parents. vs. 2
 - a) Jehoram committed evil in the sight of the LORD, but not as evil as his father and mother. vs. 2a-b
 - b) He removed the sacred pillar of Baal, his father Ahab had made, representing fertility rite phallic. vs. 2c

- 3) Jehoram, however is charged with the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, the calf idolatry, making Israel sin. vs. 3

3:4-8 The historical setting for the war campaign.

- 1) Mesha king of Moab a sheepbreeder was under tribute to the northern kings paying one hundred thousand lambs and the wool of one hundred thousand rams. vs. 4
 - * The Moabite Stone was discovered in 1868 by a German missionary, which contained the recording of the rebellion of King Mesha , which he erect at his capital of Dibon.
- 2) The rebellion took place after the death of Ahab. vs. 5
 - a) Seeing the weakened condition of Ahab, as he warred with Syria. 2Kings 1:1
 - b) Then being killed in battle.
- 3) Jehoram, in response went to Samaria and gathered all Israel. vs. 6
- 4) Jehoram also invited king Jehoshaphat of Judah to go to war with him against Moab. vs. 7
 - a) Johoshaphat responded that he would, indicating they were one.
 - b) Remember they are family related.

c) Jehoshapat had also agreed to go to war with Ahab against Syria, using the very same words, and it almost cost him his life.

* He was rebuked by the prophet Jehu when he returned from the battle, “And Jehu the son of Hanani the seer went out to meet him, and said to King **Jehoshaphat**, “Should you help the wicked and love those who hate the LORD? Therefore the wrath of the LORD is upon you.” 2Chron. 19:2

d) Jehoshaphat had not paid heed to not being unequally yoked with the wicked, even if they were family!

5) Jehoshaphat asked Jehoram the route to launch the attack, he said, “By way of the Wilderness of Edom.” vs. 8

a) This would allow them a surprise attack, going down to the southern end of the Dead Sea and march east to Edom, then north.

b) The terrain was treacherous and difficult.

3:9-19 The march towards the battle against Moab.

3:9-12 *The march is endangered by lack of water, so the Lord is enquired.*

1) The confederacy added the king of Edom, but their seven day march in the difficult gorges and canyons they ran out of water for themselves and their horses. vs. 9

2) Jehoram was so discouraged, he declared God had done this to deliver all three kings to Moab. vs. 10

a) He is a pagan king, yet he is blaming the Yahweh for his situation.

b) He as a leader was demoralizing all his troops.

3) In contrast Jehoshaphat asked if there was a prophet of Yahweh to inquire for them, a servants of the king of Israel said Elisha was in the vicinity. vs. 11

* The phrase, “who poured water on the hands of Elijah”, indicated he was his servant.

4) Jehoshaphat affirmed the word of the LORD is with Elisha, so he and Jehoram went down to see Elisha. vs. 12

3:13-19 *The prophet Elisha turned the endangered campaign into victory.*

1) Elisha rebuked Jehoram. vs. 13

a) For coming to him, rather than his false prhphets. vs. 13a-c

b) To which Jehoram affirm Yahweh had called them against Moab, a contradiction and lie. vs. 13d-e

* People often say God is directing them, but by what they are doing and how they are living, it is a lie!

- 2) Elisha rejected Jehoram. vs. 14
 - a) He sword by the Captian of he armies of heaven, “as the LORD of hosts lives.” vs. 14a-b
 - b) He declared he was his access to God, “before whom I stand.” vs. 14c
 - c) He said, if it wasn’t for Jehoshaphat, he would not even look at him. vs. 14d-e
- 3) Elisha proceeded to seek the mind of Yahweh. vs. 15-19
 - a) He requested a musician that the hand of the LORD came upon him. vs. 15
 - * David played for Saul to appease the evil spirits. 1Sam. ?
 - b) God said they were to make ditches in the valley. vs. 16
 - c) God would bring a flash-flood to provide water for them. vs. 17
 - d) God would do it through divine intervention, a miracle, a simple matter for God and deliver the Moabites to them. vs. 18
 - e) God declared they were to destroy everything in the land, removing all provisions of life. vs. 19

3:20-27 The defeat of Moab.

3:20-25 *The prophetic strategy brought victory.*

- 1) God brought the flash-flood, just as Elisha had prophesied. vs. 20
 - a) The time was in the morning, when the grain offering was offered. 6 AM.?
 - b) The water came by way of Edom, filling the land with water and the ditches.
- 2) The Moabites hearing of the three kings march to fight against them, gathered all able to bear arms, including the older and they stood at the border. vs. 21
- 3) The Moabites arose early in the morning, seeing the reflection of the sun, thought it to be blood and concluded the kings had turn on each other, so they gave the attacked. vs. 22-23
- 4) The Moabites ended up being slaughtered by the three kings. vs. 24
- 5) The three armies devastated the land as God had told them. vs. 25
 - * The only exception was Kir Haraseth, they left it intact, but harassed the inhabitants by slinging stones at it.

3:26-27 *The horrible act of desperation of the king of Moab.*

- 1) The king of Moab seeing his defeat, attempted to break through the battle-line to kill the king of Edom with 700 men, but failed. vs. 26
- 2) So he offered his eldest son to their god Chemosh on the wall, who would have reigned in his place, and it was seen as a great indignation against Israel, perhaps seeing themselves as the cause, so they returned to their land. vs. 27

4:1-44 The prophetic ministry and five miracles of Elisha

4:1-7 The miracle of multiplying the widow's oil.

- 1) The death of one of the godly sons of the prophets had died, leaving his widow wife unable to pay her debts. vs. 1
 - a) The Law made provisions for people to sell themselves to pay their debts, for six years or the Jubilee. Lev. 25:39-40
 - b) The creditors were requiring her sons to serve for the debt.
- 2) The prophet Elisha asked what he could do for her and what she had in her house, to which she answered, "nothing but a jar of oil." vs. 2
- 3) She obeyed Elisha and went out to borrow as many containers as possible

and pour oil from her own jar, till there were no more containers. vs. 3-6

- 4) The widow reported back to Elisha and he told her, "Go, sell the oil and pay your debt; and you and your sons live on the rest." vs. 7

* This is the fourth miracle of Elisha, if we do not count the two done directly by God in chapter three, the flash-flood and victory.

4:8-37 The miracle of the conception of the Shunemmite and the raising of her son.

4:8-17 *The kindness of the Shunemmite was rewarded by Elisha.*

- 1) The prophet Elisha encountered a woman on one of his visits to Shunem. vs. 8
 - a) This was not by coincidence, for God was directing the steps of the Elisha.
 - b) Shumen :Shuwnem", means double resting place, a city about 5 miles south of Mount Tabor, near the city of Zezreel, about 15 miles south-east from Carmel.
 - c) The woman was notable "gadowl", simple means great, with the idea of being wealthy.
 - d) The woman was also kind and benevolent by persuading him to eat food on a regular basis.

- * The word persuaded “chazaq”, means to be strong and firm, urging him.
- 2) The woman became more benevolent as she discussed with her husband about building a little room that he might rest in his travels. vs. 9-10
 - a) She acknowledged he was a holy man of God. vs. 9
 - * Appearing eight times. vs. 9, 16, 21, 22, 25 (2x’s), 27 (2x’s)
 - b) An upper room with a bed, table and lampstand. vs. 10
- 3) Elisha wanting to show his gratitude one day asked Gehazi to call the woman and see if he could do something for her. be it the king or the commander of the army. vs. 11-13
 - * Being a content person she answered, “I dwell among my own people.”
- 4) Elisha thinking aloud, in the company of Gehazi said, “What then is to be done for her?” So Gehazi told him she was childless and her husband was old. vs. 14
 - a) Being childless was thought to be in disfavor with God, in the Hebrew culture.
 - b) All the wives of the Patriarchs were barren, it was God who gave them children.

- 5) Once again the woman was summoned and Elisha prophesied she would bare a son the next year. vs. 15-17
 - a) The first intent to reward her was Elisha’s. vs. 11-13
 - b) The second was God directing the mind of Elisha, knowing the deepest longing of that woman.
 - c) The woman begged Elisha not to taunt her, “No, my lord. Man of God, do not lie to your maidservant!”
 - d) The prophecy came to pass, she conceived and bore as Elisha had prophesied. vs. 17

4:18-25a *The sudden death of the son.*

- 1) In the process of time, no amount is stated, the child had grown was out in the fields with his father and the reapers. vs. 18
- 2) Suddenly the boy complained to his father of a severe head-ache and he order he be taken to his mother, but by noon the boy was dead. vs. 19-20
- 3) The woman laid her son on the bed of the man of God, shut the door and went out in faith to seek Elisha, rather than being hysterical. vs. 21
- 4) The woman did not even tell her husband about the child’s death, but merely asked

him for a servant and a donkey to go the man of God, Elisha and return. vs. 22

* Her faith was steadfast, she said, “that I may go to the man of God and come back.”

- 5) He questioned her going, since it was neither a New Moon or Sabbath’s o to not bring suspicion, she merely said, “It is well.” vs. 23
- 6) To the servant she gave orders of urgency to get to Carmel and they departed to seek the man of God. vs. 24-25

4:25b-37 *The raising of the Shunemmite’s son by Elisha.*

- 1) The shunemmite’s arrival was notice by Elisha, asking Gahazi to go greet her. vs. 25-26
- 2) The woman poured out her brokenness before Elisha, she clung to his feet, Gahezi attempted to push her away, was stopped by Elisha recognizing her distraught condition of soul and that God had hidden the matter from him. vs. 27
- 3) The woman confronted Elisha with his prophetic promise, to that very day. vs. 28
- 4) Elisha commanded Gahazi to go to the child and lay his staff across his face, not allowing anyone to hinder him. vs. 29

- 5) The woman would not be dissuaded and swore she would not leave Elisha. vs. 30
* She had come for Elisha, the man of God, not Gahazi!
- 6) Gehazi followed the instructions of Elisha but to no avail, the child had not revived, returning he met them and shared the bad news. vs. 31
- 7) Elisha arriving went into the house, seeing the child, lying dead on his bed he alone entered the room, shutting the door behind him to pray to God. vs. 32-33
- 8) Elisha prostrated himself on the child, aliening mouth, eyes and hands and the flesh of the child became warm. vs. 34
* Like Elijah to the son of the widow of Zeraphath. 1Kings 17 17-21
- 9) Elisha paced the room and repeated the procedure, at which time the child sneezed seven times and opened his eyes. vs. 35
* Women received their dead raised to life again. Heb. 11:35a
- 10) Elisha called Gehazi, telling him to call the Shunammite woman and Elisha told her, “Pick up your son”. vs. 36-37
- 11) She fell at his feet, and bowed to the ground; then she picked up her son and went out. vs. 37

4:38-44 The miracle of cleansing the stew and multiplying of bread.

4:38-41 *The cleansing of the stew.*

- 1) The land being under a famine, in Gilgal the sons of the prophets were commanded by Elisha to put on the large pot, and boil stew. vs. 38
- 2) One of the men gather wild gourds and sliced them into the pot. vs. 39
- 3) When they were served one cried out to Elisha that there was death in the pot. vs. 40
- 4) Elisha asked for some flour, poured it in and cleanse the stew. vs. 41
meal - God's word, Matt. 13

4:42-44 *The multiplying of bread.*

- 1) Then a man came from Baal Shalisha, brought Elisha some to give to the people to eat. vs. 42
- 2) The servant of Elisha expressed the insufficiency of the bread for the 100 men, but Elisha commanded to serve them and that there would be some left over. vs. 43
- 3) The fulfillment of the prophetic miracle is recorded. vs. 44
* We have the same kind of miracle in the New Testament by Jesus with

bread and few fish. Matt. 14:20, 15:37, Jn. 16:13