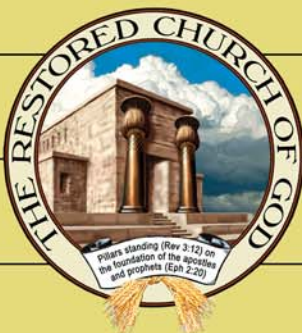


THE RESTORED CHURCH OF GOD

# CHILDREN'S BIBLE LESSONS



Elisha the Prophet



LEVEL 5  
LESSON 9

# Elisha the Prophet

**R**ecall from the last Lesson that the prophets-in-training had gone searching for Elijah. They were not aware that God had taken him up in a chariot and whirlwind. After searching far and wide, the youth gave up and went back to see Elisha in Jericho. By now, the young men had realized that God had chosen Elisha to follow in Elijah's footsteps as His prophet to Israel.

## Dirty Water Becomes Clean

The city of Jericho had a major problem with their water, so the city officials asked Elisha if he could help. "Jericho is a fine city," they told him. "But we have one problem—our water is bad! People are getting sick, and nothing will grow."

Elisha decided to help. Fill in the blanks with what Elisha told the men to do in II Kings 2:20. "And he said, 'Bring me a \_\_\_\_\_, and put \_\_\_\_\_ in it.' So they brought it to him."

Elisha went to the spring and tossed the salt into the polluted water. He knew it would not be the salt that would cleanse the water, but God. "From this moment forward," Elisha said, "this spring will yield health and good crops to your people!"

After performing this miracle, Elisha traveled to Bethel. He was going to visit a college that Elijah founded to train prophets. Along the way,

some young men came across Elisha, and started mocking and insulting him.

Elisha saw the men, and calling on the name of God, pronounced a curse on them. Suddenly, two ferocious bears came out of the woods and mauled 42 of them (II Kings 2:23-24)!

After arriving in Bethel, through northern Israel, Elisha stopped in Samaria, the capital of Israel.

## Moab's Rebellion

After the death of Ahaziah, Ahab's son, Jehoram (also called Joram) became king of Israel. God was not pleased with this new king. Even though Jehoram took down the idol of Baal that his father had made, he continued in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat.

Fill in the blanks with one example of Jeroboam's sins, "Therefore the king asked advice, made \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, and said to the people, 'It is \_\_\_\_\_ for you to \_\_\_\_\_ up to \_\_\_\_\_. Here are your \_\_\_\_\_, O Israel, which \_\_\_\_\_ you up from the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_!'" (I Kings 12:28).

During Ahab's reign, the nearby country of Moab paid a large tribute to Israel. After Ahab died, Mesha the king of Moab rebelled. Jehoram could

not let this rebellion continue, due to the amount of taxes they received from Moab. So he sent his army to force them to pay tribute once again. Before leaving, he asked the righteous king of Judah, Jehoshaphat, for help.

Jehoshaphat extended troops and supplies to Israel because Ahab's daughter was married to Jehoshaphat's son. The nation of Edom also agreed to assist them.

So Israel, Judah and Edom headed toward Moab with all of their armies. Taking a different way, they looped around the south side of the Dead Sea.

But after seven days of traveling through the scorching heat of the desert, they ran out of water. Summarize from II Kings 3:10 what the kings concluded. \_\_\_\_\_

After assuming that God was not with them, Jehoram asked if there were any of God's prophets around.

One of his servants informed Jehoram that Elisha was with the army. They immediately brought him out for questioning.

Elisha knew that Jehoram was an evil man, and did not want to be bothered by him. "What do I have to do with you?" he asked him. "Why don't you seek the prophets of your father and mother? If it weren't for Jehoshaphat, I would not let you near me!

"I have a message from God for all three of you," Elisha continued. He then told the kings what they should do, according to

God. "Fill this entire valley with ditches and God will fill it with water so that your armies and cattle can drink. This is an easy job for the LORD. Not only will He do this, but He will also deliver the Moabites into your hands" (II Kings 3:16-18).

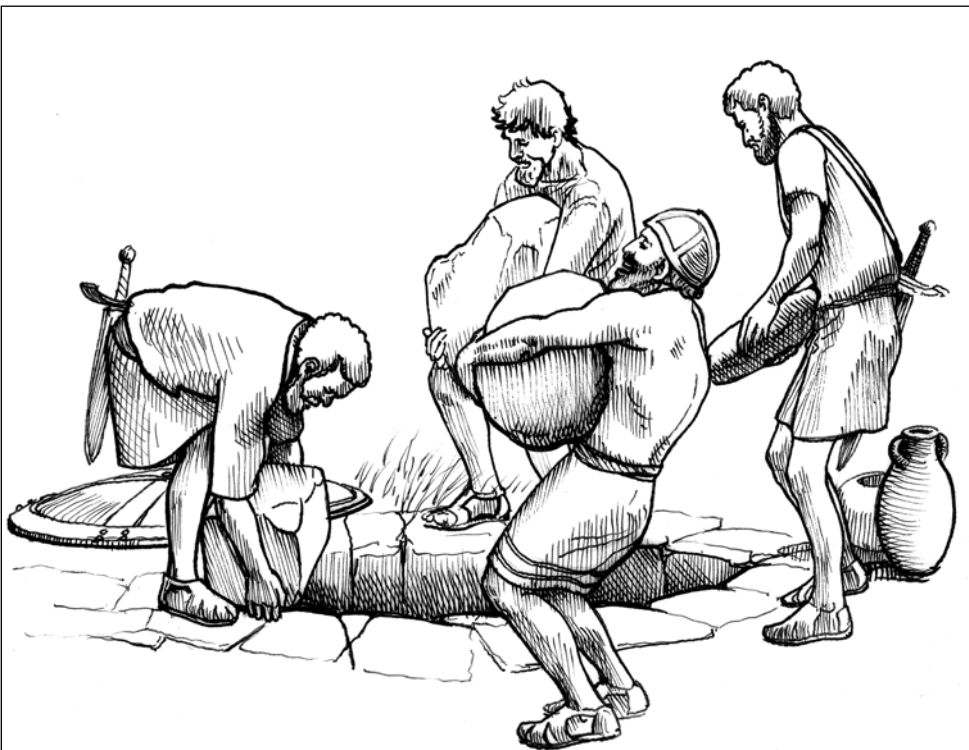
So they commanded their men to dig ditches all across the valley. The next morning, just as God had stated, water came pouring into the valley from Edom and filled up the ditches.

Meanwhile, the Moabites heard about the coming invasion and set up their army right next to Israel's, Judah's and Edom's army. When they saw the sunlight reflecting off the water in the ditches, they mistook it for blood.

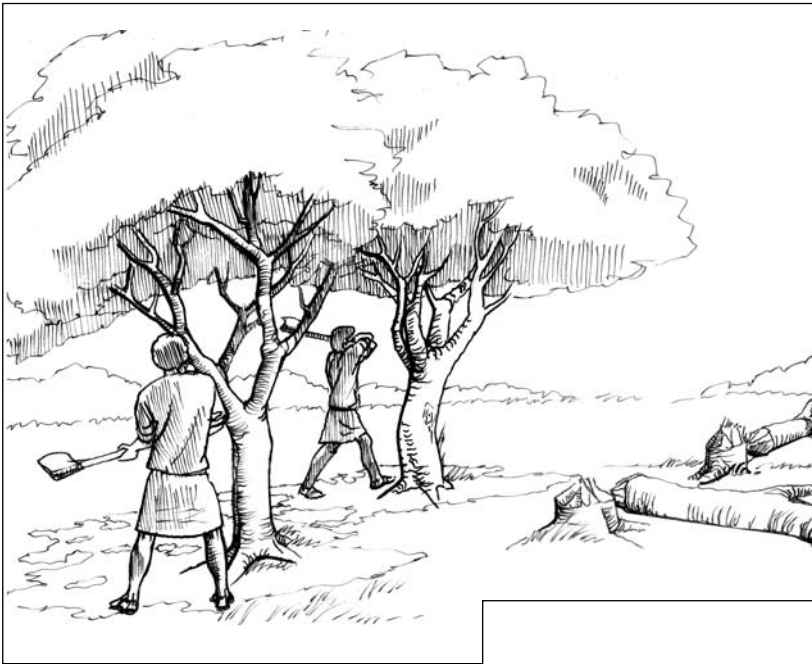
The Moabites assumed that Israel, Judah and Edom had battled one another, so they quickly went to spoil them.

When they got there, they realized that the armies were still alive. The shocked Moabites turned around and ran home.

The Israelites pursued them through Moabite cities and villages. During the chase, they destroyed buildings and fields, plugged wells of







water, and chopped down the Moabites' best trees.

The king of Moab and his diminishing army fled to their capital city, Kir-haraseth. In a final act of desperation, he sacrificed the heir to the throne, his oldest son, to his pagan god! Israel, Judah and Edom were so disgusted by this that they stopped their pursuit and went home.

Even though God had helped Israel and Judah to defeat Moab, He was still going to fulfill His Word to end Ahab's line, as prophesied by Elijah (I Kings 21:21, 29).

### **The Widow's Oil**

Some time later, a widow of one of the prophets-in-training came to see Elisha.

"My husband has just died," the woman told Elisha. "You know he was a God-fearing man. He left behind debt, and now a creditor is

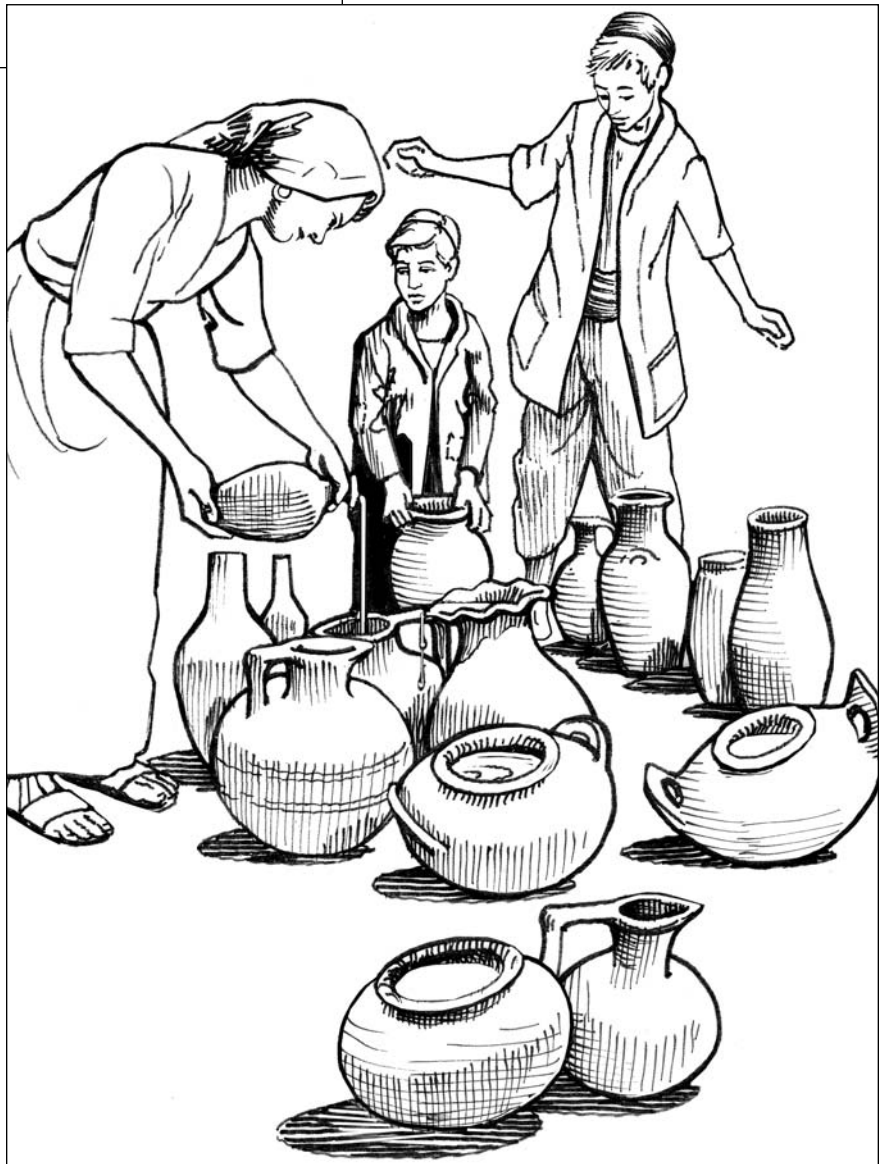
threatening to take away my two sons as payment."

"What do you have in your house?" Elisha answered.

"Nothing but this last jar of oil," the widow replied.

"Go to your neighbors and borrow as many empty jugs as you can," Elisha told her. "Take them into your house, fill them all with oil from your jar, and set them aside."

The woman did everything that Elisha had said. With the help of her sons, she filled every last jug with oil. She



could not believe her eyes! The single jar of oil with which she started had filled all of the borrowed containers. She found Elisha and told him the good news.

Fill in the blanks from II Kings 4:7 with what Elisha told her to do next. “Then she came and told the man of God. And he said, ‘Go, \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ your \_\_\_\_\_; and you and your \_\_\_\_\_ on the \_\_\_\_\_.’”

### **A Shunammite Woman is Blessed**

In a town called Shunem, just north of Samaria, there was a woman who feared God. Every time Elisha came to Shunem, she would invite him over to eat. Elisha was grateful for this and always enjoyed having a meal with her and her husband.

After visiting a few times, she asked her husband if they could prepare a permanent place for him to stay whenever he was in town. “I know he is a man of God. Let’s make a room for him, with a bed, table, chair and lamp, so that whenever he is here he will have a place to stay,” she said.

Her husband agreed, and they finished preparing the room. Now Elisha was even *more* grateful for their hospitality! The room was a huge blessing. Whenever Elisha visited, he had a place to stay.

One day he was resting in the room and thinking about all that the woman had done. He told his servant, Gehazi, to call the woman. “Ask her if there is anything that we can do to reward her generosity,” Elisha told him.

So Gehazi asked her, and she replied, “Thank you, but I am very content with everything I have.”

Elisha was impressed with the woman’s answer and now knew that her generosity was sincere.

But he still wanted to do something for her, so he asked Gehazi, “Can you think of anything?”

He did have one idea. “She doesn’t have any sons, and her husband is getting old. Maybe she would like a child?” Gehazi said.

So Elisha called the woman and told her the news. In the following lines, write how Elisha blessed her and what her response was in II Kings 4:16. \_\_\_\_\_

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In about a year, just as Elisha had said, the woman gave birth to a baby boy. She was very grateful to God for giving the child to her and her husband.

### **The Woman’s Son Resurrected**

After some time passed, Elisha continued God’s Work as a prophet to Israel. He was now living around Mt. Carmel.

The Shunammite woman’s son was now a young boy. One particularly hot day, as he was going to meet his father in the field, he cried out and fainted from the heat. His father told one of the servants to take him to his mother. The father went back to work in the fields while the mother held the son. The boy died at noon that very same day.

The woman immediately knew what to do. After laying the boy down on Elisha’s bed, she quickly went to her husband. “Send me a servant with a donkey,” she cried. “I must go to the man of God!”

He did not know what his wife had in mind but he trusted her, so he sent the servant with the donkey. The woman headed for Mount Carmel.

From far away, Elisha saw the woman approaching. “Look! The Shunammite woman is coming. Go and make sure everything is all right,” he told Gehazi.

Gehazi ran to the woman, and asked, “Is everything okay, how is your family?” She told him everything was fine because she did not want him to know right away what had happened.

When she got to Elisha, she fell down at his feet. Gehazi was not sure what the woman was doing so he tried to get her away from Elisha.

“Leave her,” Elisha said. “Something is wrong, and it is something that God has not told me.”

“I never asked you to give me a son,” she told him as she began to cry. “Didn’t I tell you that I was content?”

Then it dawned on Elisha that something had happened to her son. He quickly ordered Gehazi to go to the woman’s house and place his staff on the

young man’s face. Gehazi raced off to Shunem to do what Elisha had said.

But the Shunammite woman begged Elisha, saying, “I won’t go unless you come with me.” So Elisha agreed and went back with the woman.

When they got closer to her home, they saw Gehazi racing to them. “I touched his face with your staff, but he did not rise,” Gehazi reported.

By this time, Elisha and the Shunammite woman were almost to her house. When they got there, Elisha went up to the room and closed the





door. He prayed to God and then, to give the boy his own body heat, Elisha stretched out over his body. Elisha then breathed in the boy's mouth, and the child was resurrected. God had answered Elisha's prayer (II Kings 4:32-37).

Elisha quickly called the woman and told her to get her son. The Shunammite woman was very happy and praised and thanked God for the miracle He had done.

### **The Poisonous Stew**

After this miracle, Elisha made his way to Gilgal to meet a group of young prophets. They all became hungry, so Elisha told his servant to make a vegetable stew for everyone. During this time, there was a great famine in the land, and food was hard to come by.



One of the men gathering food came across a vine that still had a good amount of fruit on it. He did not know that the fruit was actually poisonous, so he put it in the stew. When everything was ready, they all sat down to eat, expecting a fulfilling meal. The men soon realized that the stew was poisoned because of the fruit.

“Quick, someone get me some flour!” Elisha called out. He tossed the flour into the pot and had the men’s bowls filled with the new stew. This time it tasted fine. God had blessed the food and taken out all of the poison (II Kings 4:40-41).

### **Test Your Memory:**

- 1) What did Elisha put into the spring water to cleanse it? \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) What happened to the boys who mocked Elisha?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3) The armies of \_\_\_\_\_, Judah and Edom dug \_\_\_\_\_ that God filled up with \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) The \_\_\_\_\_ shining on the water looked like \_\_\_\_\_ to the Moabites.
- 5) What did Elisha put in the stew to make it good to eat? \_\_\_\_\_

### **Elisha Feeds 100 Men**

Often, when God takes care of His peoples’ needs, it is in unexpected ways. One time, Elisha was with a large group of people, and a man came to him with 20 loaves of bread and some corn. They were the firstfruits from his harvest.

“Give the food to the people,” Elisha told him.

This surprised the man because there was not enough to feed the 100 hungry men there.

Elisha repeated himself, and said, “God says they will eat. You can leave whatever is leftover.” The servant did as Elisha said.

God miraculously made the small amount of food feed the entire group of people with plenty leftover!

### **A Leper is Healed**

One of the ways God used Elisha was in dealing with important leaders of the surrounding nations.

For example, in Syria, there lived an influential army leader named Naaman. The king of Syria recognized that he was an excellent soldier and a wise leader. But Naaman had one problem—he suffered from leprosy.

One day, an Israelite girl serving in Naaman’s house told his wife about Elisha. Naaman asked the Syrian king if he could go to Israel to see this man. Before leaving, the king wrote a letter to the king of Israel, saying, “I sent Naaman to you so that he may be cured of his leprosy.”

When Naaman arrived in Israel, he gave the letter to Jehoram, king of Israel. Jehoram, after reading the letter, wrongly assumed that the king of Syria was trying to start a war.

Elisha found out about Naaman and sent a message to King Jehoram. “Don’t worry,” he said to the king. “Send Naaman to me, and he will find out that there is a prophet in Israel!”

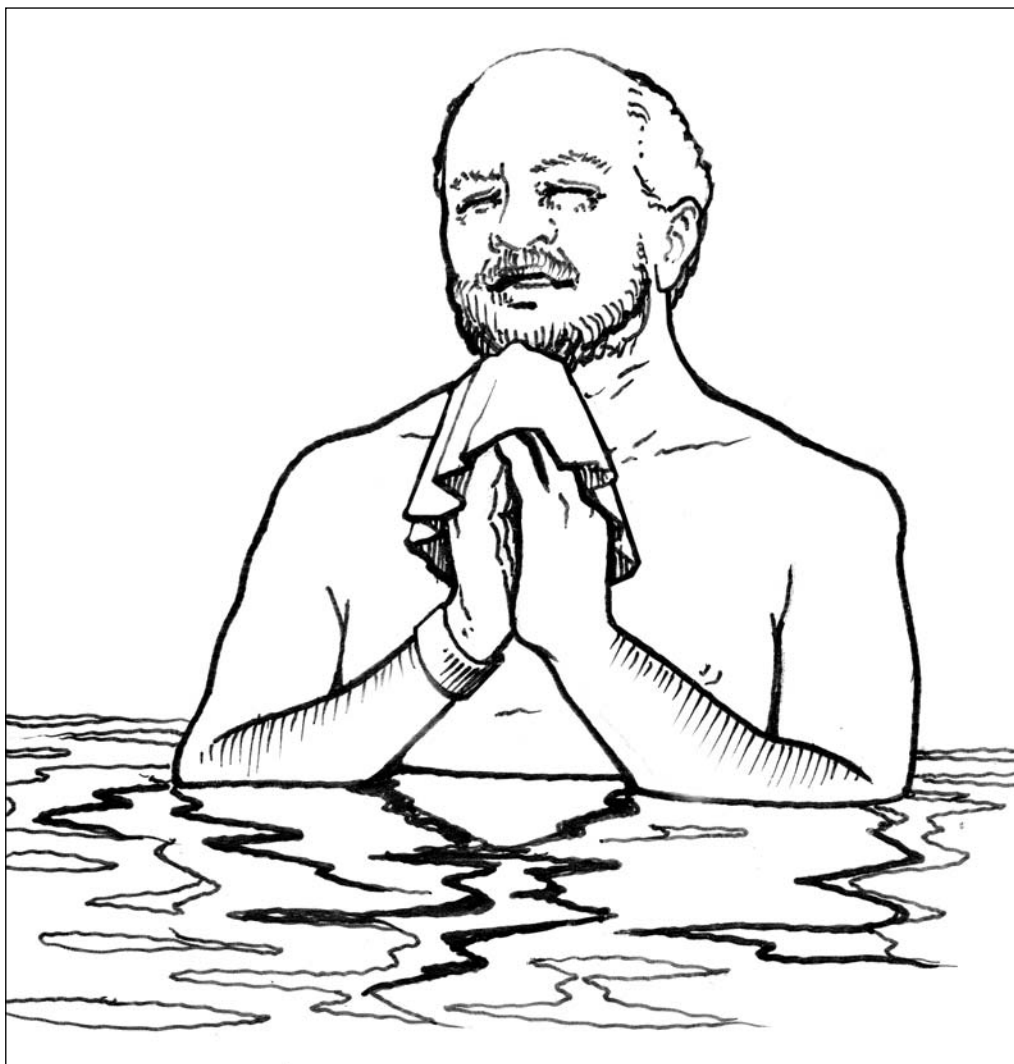
Naaman, along with his servants, went to see Elisha. But Elisha did not personally go out to meet him. Instead, he sent a messenger, who said to Naaman, “Wash seven times in the Jordan River, and you will be cured.”

Naaman was offended. He expected Elisha to meet him face to face. He wondered, “What is so special about the Jordan River? What is wrong with the rivers of Damascus, Abana and Pharpar?”

Naaman became very angry, and walked away from Elisha’s messenger. Eventually, once he had calmed down, one of his servants convinced him to try Elisha’s advice.

When they got to the Jordan River, he dunked himself in seven times. When he rose from the river, he was completely healed! Astonished, Naaman went to personally thank Elisha.





and clothing and returned home.

When he got back, Elisha asked him, “Where were you?” Gehazi answered, “I didn’t go anywhere.”

Gehazi was unaware that God had let Elisha know what he had done. “Because of what you have done, Naaman’s leprosy will now be on you and your children forever,” Elisha said.

Gehazi was shocked as he watched his skin become white in front of his very eyes! He ran from Elisha in pain and sorrow.

### **The Ax Head Rises**

After some time, the

“Now I know that there is only one God, the God of Israel,” he told Elisha. The Syrian then offered to give him money as reward for the healing, but Elisha refused.

Naaman promised, from then on, to worship only the true God, and headed back to Syria.

### **Gehazi Becomes Leprous**

Elisha’s servant, Gehazi, heard Naaman’s offer and became greedy. He ran after the Syrian commander.

When he caught up with him, he lied, and said, “Elisha sent me to tell you that, right after you left, two students arrived, and we need silver and clothing for them.”

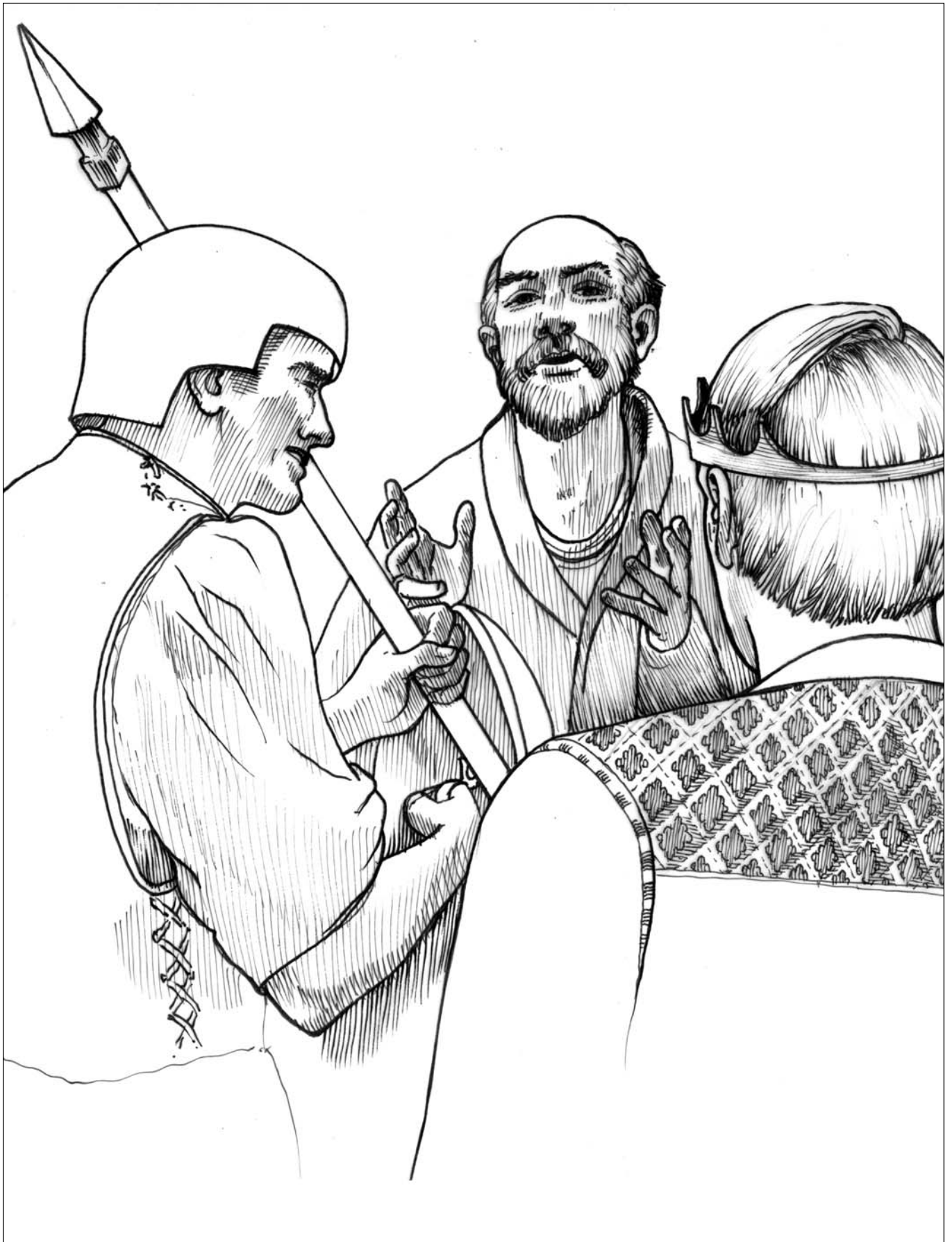
Naaman gladly sent the money and clothing back with Gehazi. Gehazi secretly hid the money

prophets-in-training came to Elisha with a question. “The house we are living in right now is too small. Will you give us permission to go to the Jordan River and to cut timber there?” they asked.

Elisha granted their request. So the men went to the Jordan and started cutting down trees for beams for their new house. While one of the men was chopping a tree, the ax blade came off the handle and fell into the river. The young man had borrowed the ax so he was very distressed about what had happened.

Elisha saw this, and asked him, “Show me where it fell.” The young man pointed to an area by the river’s edge.

Elisha cut down a branch from a tree and threw it into the water. The ax head floated to the surface of the water! The man was very happy and quickly grabbed the ax head from the river (II Kings 6:1-7).



## Syria Attacks Samaria

While Elisha was faithfully carrying out God's Work in Israel, King Jehoram and the Israelites were faithfully *disobeying* God. This made God very upset, and because of their sins, He allowed bad things to happen to them.

One time, the king of Syria attacked Samaria, the capital of Israel. The attack lasted so long that food became scarce. People ate anything they could get their hands on, with some even turning to cannibalism (II Kings 6:26-30)!

Jehoram knew that the Israelites could not last much longer. He wrongly blamed Elisha for the siege and commanded that he be found and killed.

The king went with soldiers to Elisha's house. When they arrived, Jehoram said, "Our problems are from God. Why should I wait for Him to help me?"

Elisha answered, "This is what God says, 'Around this same time tomorrow, you will have so much food you will not know what to do with it all.'"

After hearing this, Jehoram decided not to have Elisha killed. Suddenly, one of the king's men spoke up, saying, "How will God do this? Will it rain food from heaven?"

Because of this man's doubt and mocking, Elisha said, "You will see all the food that God will provide, but you will not eat any of it."

So that night, God made the Syrians hear the sound of chariots and a great army. Assuming that an army had come to help Israel, they ran off in fear.

In the morning, some lepers outside the walls of Samaria went to King Jehoram with news. "The entire Syrian army is gone. Their whole camp has been abandoned!" they exclaimed. Jehoram

thought that the Syrians might be bluffing to ambush his army once they left the city. So he sent men to make sure they were gone.

The scouts came back and informed Jehoram that the army had indeed fled and even left a trail of clothes and equipment. "They also left behind tons of food in the camp," they said.

The people heard and waited for the king to open the gate so they could eat. In order to prevent chaos, Jehoram set up a guard to watch the gate. The guard was the same man who had mocked Elisha the day before!

Hundreds of hungry Israelites flooded through the gate when it was finally opened. They pushed people out of the way and ended up trampling the guard. He was killed, fulfilling Elisha's prophecy that he would see the food, but not eat it (II Kings 6:30-7:20).

Despite Elisha's warnings to Israel, they did not change from their sins and turn to God. God allowed their condition to get worse because they continued to sin against Him.

Since they would not listen to God's warnings given through His prophets, Israel was eventually taken into slavery by the Assyrians. We will learn about that slavery in the next Lesson.

### Test Your Memory:

- 1) God fed 100 men with 20 loaves of bread and a few ears of \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2) Whom did Elisha resurrect? \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) How was Naaman healed of his leprosy?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 4) Why was Elisha's servant, Gehazi, made leprous? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 5) Elisha tossed a branch into the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ head floated up.



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**BIBLE MEMORY: II Kings 6:5-6**

## DETAILS AND FACTS

What city had a bad well? \_\_\_\_\_ Who was the son of Ahab? \_\_\_\_\_

Who was the son of Nebat? \_\_\_\_\_

The king of what country sacrificed his oldest son to a false God? \_\_\_\_\_

What was that king's name? \_\_\_\_\_

How did the widow pay her husband's debts? \_\_\_\_\_

What five things did the Shunammite woman provide for Elisha? \_\_\_\_\_

Naaman lived in what country? \_\_\_\_\_

How did God humble Naaman before healing him? \_\_\_\_\_

What were the prophets-in-training doing when the ax head fell into the Jordan River? \_\_\_\_\_

Who lost his job and became the father of a leprous family? \_\_\_\_\_

God's servants are sometimes blamed for punishments that He allows to happen. Who blamed Elisha for the seige and famine in Samaria? \_\_\_\_\_