

MIRACLES OF ELISHA

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BIBLICAL STUDIES

Abstract

We are first introduced to Elisha in the book of I Kings Chapter 19:6.

God instructs Elijah to anoint Elisha as the new prophet to take his place.

Elijah approaches Elisha in I Kings Chapter 19:19 and their meeting is so dramatic that Elijah throws his mantle on Elisha. The Bible records that Elisha left his yoke of oxen in the field and ran after Elijah. It is at that point Elisha is commissioned by God; he says goodbye to his family and slaughters his oxen to show that his decision to accept the mantle of Elijah is final.

We do know that Elisha's ministry spanned approximately 50 years. He assisted Elijah during the reign of King Ahab through King Jehoash. We also know that Elisha confronted the people of Israel regarding their worship of false gods and the rejection of the one true God, Yahweh. Elisha was a passionate prophet and he performed many miracles in the Old Testament.

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CHAPTER I

”INTRODUCTION TO ELISHA AND THE MIRACLES HE PERFORMED”

Elisha comes on the scene in I Kings Chapter 19:6 and is commissioned by God and then Elijah bestows his “mantle” to Elisha; then leaves his family and becomes a disciple or protégé of Elijah.

A mantle is a “cloak without sleeves, worn over other garments often thought of figuratively as a symbol of authority or greatness”. (*New Standard Encyclopedia Dictionary, page 439*)

Dr. Missler believes that since Elisha was plowing a field with his own yoke of oxen, that he or his family were perhaps wealthy. For Elisha to slaughter his yoke of oxen means that he has nothing to return to once he accepted this commission. Elisha can only look forward because he has asked for a double portion of God’s anointing.

The Bible records Elijah performing 14 miracles. The Bible also records the Elisha performing 28 miracles, which can be representative of the “double portion” that Elisha had asked God for.

The miracles that both Elijah and Elisha performed were in response to Israel's wickedness and worshiping of idols and false gods. I have noticed that most, if not all of the miracles that Elisha performed were not for the children of Israel, but Gentiles.

As we touch lightly on each of Elisha’s miracles this will give us a better understanding of the God we serve and of His faithfulness, love and mercy towards sinners.

CHAPTER II

“ELISHA’S MIRACLES - A BRIEF OVERVIEW”

Elisha's first miracle is mentioned in *II Kings 2:14* is called “The parting of the Jordan”. We witness in Scripture that Elisha repeated a similar miracle done by Elijah. Elisha uses Elijah's cloak to part the Jordan River and he was able to cross over on dry land.

Elisha’s second miracle *II Kings 2:21* is called “The healing of the waters”. Elisha is asked by the men of the city to notice their situation as the water is bad and their ground is barren. Elisha asks for a bowl of salt and throws the salt into the water and he decrees no more barrenness or death and the water is then drinkable.

Miracle number three is “The curse of the she bears”, and is found in *II Kings 2:24*. Elisha departs from the city whose waters he just healed and he is approached by a group of young people that mocked him. The word “youths” is translated idolatrous or infidels, possibly men in their late teens or early 20s.

The term used by them “Go up” is speculation that they were suggesting that Elisha go to the same place he Elijah went as they did not want a prophet of the living God to confront their idolatrous practices. Elisha pronounces a curse on them then the “she bears” came from the woods and devoured all 42 of them.

Miracle number four “Filling of the valley with water”, *II Kings 3:17*. This miracle was in response to the Moabite king, Mesha who had engaged Israel along with the Kings of Judah and Edom in battle. God provided water for the cattle and livestock for Israel and their allies against Moab. Elisha had told them to dig ditches in the valley

and that they would not see any wind or rain but that God would supernaturally provided the water. This enabled the kings of Israel, Edom and Judah to have a victory over Moab.

The fifth miracle was during the same battle of Israel, Judah and Edom against Moab. Found in II Kings 3:22 and called “Deception of the Moabites in the valley of blood”. The Moabites get ready for battle in the morning and they see the sunrise and the reflection of the sun against the water in the valley and presume that Israel, Judah and Edom have turned on each other and they believe what they see is their enemy’s blood.

Moab proceeds to approach the camp of Israel believing all inhabitants are dead. However, the Israeli forces rise up and attack the Moabites with the element of surprise thereby slaughtering many and they withdrew.

Miracle number six is called “Miracle of the vessels of oil”. (II Kings 4:4). A woman whose husband had been a prophet and he died; she cried out to Elisha and tells him that a creditor wants to take her two sons as slaves for repayment of a debt. She tells Elisha she has no money and he asks her what she has in the house of sale value. She tells him she has some empty vessels; Elisha then tells her to borrow vessels from everyone in her neighborhood.

The widow woman acts in faith and does what Elisha instructs her to do; which is to take her last bit of oil and begin to start pouring oil into the empty vessels. Her vessel never ran dry. When the last borrowed vessel was full of oil, the pouring ceased. Elisha instructs the widow to sell the oil for the repayment of debt.

This particular miracle I believe addresses the Gospel message in which we as sinners owe a debt that cannot be repaid, which leaves us as slaves to sin. However, God

does a miracle and sends the oil of his Holy Spirit and there is no limit. He pours out fresh oil as repayment of our debt so that we can walk in liberty and wholeness.

Miracle number seven is “The prophecy of the Shunammite woman that would have a son”. (II Kings 4:16) There was a Shunammite woman who made provision for Elisha in her home recognizing that he was a man of God. She would often open her home to him for meals and as a rest stop. One day when Elisha was passing through he had asked the Shunammite if there was anything he could do for her. Since she did not ask for anything, Gehazi told Elisha that she had no children and that her husband was old in years. Her response was “No my lord, man of God do not lie to your maidservant”. Elisha prophesied over her and she conceived, bore a son just as Elisha had foretold.

Miracle number eight is “Resurrection of the Shunammite's son”, (II Kings 4:34) In II Kings Chapter 4:18 we are told that the Shunammite’s son grows and later is in the field as he complains of the headache, and then goes to his mother falls down and dies.

The Shunammite takes her son and has him placed on Elisha's bed. She then asks her husband to saddle a donkey, and to grab the man of God and bring him back or home. We read that Elisha performed similar miracles as Elijah did. Elisha prays, then lays across the child and life is restored to his body.

Miracle number nine is “Healing of the gourds” (II Kings 4:41). Elisha returns to Gilgal and there was a famine in the land. Some servants gathered wild gourds to serve food to the sons of the prophets however they were poisonous. Elisha takes flour and tosses it into the pot and the stew was not harmful.

Miracle number 10 is “Miracle of the bread”, (II Kings 4:43). Elisha arrives in Baal Shalisha and is presented with first fruits of twenty barley loaves and ripened grain in a knapsack. Although, Elisha is with a group of a hundred or more he prays and asks the servants to distribute the food to the group of hungry men. Elisha tells the servants that they will have food left over, everyone eats and is filled.

Miracle number 11 is “The cleansing of Naaman” (II Kings 5:14). Naaman is the commander of the Syrian Army and is struck with leprosy. His wife’s maidservant tells her about the prophet of God, Elisha who may be able to heal Naaman of his leprosy.

Naaman tells the king who in turn writes a letter to the king of Israel inquiring of the man of God and then sends silver and clothing as a peace offering.

Naaman presents himself to Elisha and Elisha instructs Naaman to dip in the Jordan River seven times and his flesh would be clean.

Naaman is filled with pride and refuses to dip in the Jordan, as Elisha did not perform the miracle to Naaman's specifications or he may have felt this was too simple a task for such a “great” man. Naaman is insulted and storms off. His servants ask him why he did not do as the Prophet said.

I think the servants said, what's the big deal if you don't get healed your no worse, but if you do get healed that would be a testimony of God. Naaman has a change of heart and does what Elisha instructs him and gets healed. He proclaims as a Gentile that God is the only God who is able to heal. Naaman offers Elisha money and clothing but Elisha rejects the offer.

Miracle number 12 is “The perception of Gehazi's transgression” (II Kings 5:26).

Gehazi lets his greed get the way and he pursues Naaman and tells him that Elisha changed his mind and wants 10 talents of silver and two changes of garments. Naaman in his appreciation accommodates Gehazi's request and gives him the goods.

Miracle number 13 is “Cursing Gehazi with leprosy” (II Kings 5:27). Gehazi returns to Elisha and is asked by Elisha where he has been. Gehazi lies to Elisha and tells him, “Your servant did not go anywhere”. Elisha tells Gehazi that he knows what he did and that the leprosy that Naaman was healed from was now transferred to him and his descendants forever.

Miracle number 14 is “Floating of the ax head”, (II Kings 6:6). Elisha is instructing the sons of the prophets. The sons of the prophets outgrow their current dwelling and proceed to build a new dwelling. They cut down trees for the structure and borrow tools for the task. During the course of building, one of the ax heads flies off into the Jordan River. Elisha, knowing that this is a borrowed ax, takes a stick throws it into the Jordan and the ax and floats to the surface.

Miracle number 15 is the, “Prophecy of the Syrian battle plans”, (II Kings 6:9). The king of Syria makes battle plans against Israel. The king of Israel sends for the man of God, who is Elisha. Elisha then makes known to the king of Israel the Syrian’s battle plan and warns the king to not pass by that place.

The Syrian king wants to find out if there is a traitor among his men, as Israel was forewarned about the location and the plans of their attack. They plead with the Syrian king and tell him there is no traitor, only Elisha who knows what is spoken in the king's bedchamber.

Miracle number 16 is “The vision of the chariots”, (II Kings 6:17). During this same battle, Elisha tells Israel's army to not fear, as the power of God is with them. Elisha prays that the eyes of the Israelite army would be opened to see the mountains full of horses and chariots that were on their side.

Miracle number 17 is “Smiting the Syrian army with blindness”, (II Kings 6:18) When the Syrians came to fight the battle, Elisha prayed that they would be struck with blindness according to his word.

Miracle number 18 is “Restoring the site of the Syrian army”, (II Kings 6:20) Elisha asked the Lord to open the eyes of the Syrian army, then they saw they were in Samaria. The king of Israel inquired of Elisha and asked if he should kill the Syrians and the Elisha replied, “No, do not kill them”.

Elisha had prepared a meal for the Syrians to eat and drink and this band of Raiders never bothered Israel again for fear of their God.

Miracle number 19 is “Elisha prophesies the end of the great famine”, (II Kings 7:1) Elisha says to hear the word of the Lord that the famine would be over. An officer of the king doubts Elisha's Word and asks, “How can this be?”

Miracle number 20 is “The scoffer”, (II Kings 7:2). Elisha then tells him you will see the end of the famine, but you shall not eat of it. This is the judgment passed on to the officer or doubting God.

Miracle number 21 is “Syrians deceived with the sounds of chariots”, (II Kings 7:6). The Syrians approach the city gates of Samaria however, upon the outskirts of the town, the Syrians start to hear the sound of horses and chariots, who they perceive to be

the Egyptians and the Hittites. They flee for their lives thinking that Israel has hired an army to defeat them.

Miracle number 22 is “Prophecy of the seven-year famine”, (II Kings 8:1).

Elisha approaches the Shunammite woman whose son had been restored and he tells her to go in her house and gather whatever she can for the Lord is calling for a famine that will come upon land for seven years. The Bible tells us that it came to pass the end of the seven years the woman returned from the land of the Philistines and she appealed to the king for her house and her land. Gehazi bore witness of who she was in her property was restored

Miracle number 23 is “The prophecy of Ben-Hadad’s untimely death”, (II Kings 8:10). Elisha visited BenHadad king of Syria who is ill. Elisha is asked by BenHadad’s servant if he shall live. Elisha responds by saying that BenHadad king of Syria will recover from his disease, but will surely die another way.

Miracle number 24 is “Elisha prophesies Hazael’s cruelty to Israel”, (II Kings 8:12). Elisha prophesied that when BenHadad would die that Hazael would reign in his place. Elisha wept when he was shown in a vision by God the cruelty Hazael would inflict upon the people.

Miracle number 25 is “Jehu smites the house of Ahab”, (II Kings 9:7).

Jehu is anointed king of Israel and is instructed by Elisha to strike down the house of Ahab in vengeance for the blood of God’s servants that had suffered or been murdered by the hand of Jezebel and Ahab.

Miracle number 26 is “Joash smites the Syrians at Aphek”, (II Kings 13:17)

Elisha becomes ill and he recognizes that this is the end of his life. Joash, King of Israel mourns at the bedside of Elisha.

Elisha prophesies to Joash and has him take a bow and arrow and instructs Joash to attack the Syrians at Aphek. Elisha gives specific instructions on how to defeat the Syrians.

Miracle number 27 is “That Joash smites the Syrians three times and they are not consumed”, (II Kings 13:19). Elisha had given instructions to Joash on how to smite the Syrians. Elisha died and was buried but we read in II Kings 13:25 that Joash attempted to recapture the cities of Israel three times.

Miracle number 28 is “The resurrection of the man that touched the bones of the Elisha;”, (II Kings 13:21). We read that after Elisha was buried that a band of raiders from Moab invaded the land. Some men were burying a man and they decided to spy on the Raiders from Moab. They put the man in the tomb with Elisha. As the man's body touched the bones of Elisha he was revived stood to his feet.

In conclusion, there are many miracles that Elisha performed and God's name was glorified by some. We read that even in death Elisha had power beyond what most of us have seen in our lifetime. However, we have been promised the Holy Spirit as a deposit on the power of God.

It is my prayer that the church would see a revival of miracles that were prevalent during Elisha's life.

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Miracles in the Ministry of Elisha:

- 1) Parting of the Jordan (2Ki 2:14)
- 2) Healing of the waters (2Ki 2:21)
- 3) Curse of the she bears (2Ki 2:24)
- 4) Filling of the valley with water (2Ki 3:17)
- 5) Deception of the Moabites with the valley of blood (2Ki 3:22)
- 6) Miracle of the vessels of oil (2Ki 4:4)
- 7) Prophecy that the Shunammite woman would have a son (2Ki 4:16)
- 8) Resurrection of the Shunammite's son (2Ki 4:34)
- 9) Healing of the gourds (2Ki 4:41)
- 10) Miracle of the bread (2Ki 4:43)
- 11) Healing of Naaman (2Ki 5:14)
- 12) Perception of Gehazi's transgression (2Ki 5:26)
- 13) Cursing Gehazi with leprosy (2Ki 5:27)
- 14) Floating of the axe head (2Ki 6:6)
- 15) Prophecy of the Syrian battle plans (2Ki 6:9)
- 16) Vision of the chariots (2Ki 6:17)
- 17) Smiting the Syrian army with blindness (2Ki 6:18)
- 18) Restoring the sight of the Syrian army (2Ki 6:20)
- 19) Prophecy of the end of the great famine (2Ki 7:1)
- 20) Prophecy that the scoffing nobleman would see, but not partake of, the abundance (2Ki 7:2)
- 21) Deception of the Syrians with the sound of chariots (2Ki 7:6)
- 22) Prophecy of the seven-year famine (2Ki 8:1)
- 23) Prophecy of Benhadad's untimely death (2Ki 8:10)
- 24) Prophecy of Hazael's cruelty to Israel (2Ki 8:12)
- 25) Prophecy that Jehu would smite the house of Ahab (2Ki 9:7)
- 26) Prophecy that Joash would smite the Syrians at Aphek (2Ki 13:17)
- 27) Prophecy that Joash would smite Syria thrice but not consume it (2Ki 13:19)
- 28) Resurrection of the man touched by his bones (2Ki 13:21)

1 Kings 19:6 Then he looked, and there by his head was a cake baked on coals, and a jar of water. So he ate and drank, and lay down again. NKJV

2 Kings 2:14 Then he took the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and struck the water, and said, "Where is the LORD God of Elijah?" And when he also had struck the water, it was divided this way and that; and Elisha crossed over. NKJV

2 Kings 2: 21 Then he went out to the source of the water, and cast in the salt there, and said, "Thus says the LORD: 'I have healed this water; from it there shall be no more death or barrenness.'" NKJV

2 Kings 2:24 So he turned around and looked at them, and pronounced a curse on them in the name of the LORD. And two female bears came out of the woods and mauled forty-two of the youths. NKJV

2 Kings 3:17 For thus says the LORD: 'You shall not see wind, nor shall you see rain; yet that valley shall be filled with water, so that you, your cattle, and your animals may drink.' NKJV

2 Kings 3:22 Then they rose up early in the morning, and the sun was shining on the water; and the Moabites saw the water on the other side as red as blood. NKJV

2 Kings 4:4 And when you have come in, you shall shut the door behind you and your sons; then pour it into all those vessels, and set aside the full ones." NKJV

2 Kings 4:16 Then he said, "About this time next year you shall embrace a son." NKJV

2 Kings 4:34 And he went up and lay on the child, and put his mouth on his mouth, his eyes on his eyes, and his hands on his hands; and he stretched himself out on the child, and the flesh of the child became warm. NKJV

2 Kings 4:18 And the child grew. Now it happened one day that he went out to his father, to the reapers. 19 And he said to his father, "My head, my head! NKJV

2 Kings 4:41 So he said, "Then bring some flour." And he put it into the pot, and said, "Serve it to the people, that they may eat." And there was nothing harmful in the pot. NKJV

2 Kings 4:43 But his servant said, "What? Shall I set this before one hundred men?" He said again, "Give it to the people, that they may eat; for thus says the LORD: 'They shall eat and have some left over.' NKJV

2 Kings 5:14 So he went down and dipped seven times in the Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God; and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean. NKJV

2 Kings 5:26 Then he said to him, "Did not my heart go with you when the man turned back from his chariot to meet you? Is it time to receive money and to receive clothing, olive groves and vineyards, sheep and oxen, male and female servants? NKJV

2 Kings 5:27 Therefore the leprosy of Naaman shall cling to you and your descendants forever." And he went out from his presence leprous, as white as snow. NKJV

2 Kings 6:6 So the man of God said, "Where did it fall?" And he showed him the place. So he cut off a stick, and threw it in there; and he made the iron float. NKJV

2 Kings 6:9 And the man of God sent to the king of Israel, saying, "Beware that you do not pass this place, for the Syrians are coming down there NKJV

2 Kings 6:17 And Elisha prayed, and said, "LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see." Then the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha. NKJV

2 Kings 6:18 So when the Syrians came down to him, Elisha prayed to the LORD, and said, "Strike this people, I pray, with blindness." And He struck them with blindness according to the word of Elisha. NKJV

2 Kings 6:20 So it was, when they had come to Samaria, that Elisha said, "LORD, open the eyes of these men, that they may see." And the LORD opened their eyes, and they saw; and there they were, inside Samaria! NKJV

2 Kings 7:1 Then Elisha said, "Hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the LORD: "Tomorrow about this time a seah of fine flour shall be sold for a shekel, and two seahs of barley for a shekel, at the gate of Samaria." NKJV

2 Kings 7:2 So an officer on whose hand the king leaned answered the man of God and said, "Look, if the LORD would make windows in heaven, could this thing be?" And he said, "In fact, you shall see it with your eyes, but you shall not eat of it." NKJV

2 Kings 7:6 For the LORD had caused the army of the Syrians to hear the noise of chariots and the noise of horses — the noise of a great army; so they said to one another, "Look, the king of Israel has hired against us the kings of the Hittites and the kings of the Egyptians to attack us!" NKJV

2 Kings 8:1 Then Elisha spoke to the woman whose son he had restored to life, saying, "Arise and go, you and your household, and stay wherever you can; for the LORD has called for a famine, and furthermore, it will come upon the land for seven years." NKJV

2 Kings 8:10 And Elisha said to him, "Go, say to him, 'You shall certainly recover.' However the LORD has shown me that he will really die." NKJV

2 Kings 8:12 And Hazael said, "Why is my lord weeping?" He answered, "Because I know the evil that you will do to the children of Israel: Their strongholds you will set on fire, and their young men you will kill with the sword; and you will dash their children, and rip open their women with child." NKJV

2 Kings 9:7 You shall strike down the house of Ahab your master, that I may avenge the blood of My servants the prophets, and the blood of all the servants of the LORD, at the hand of Jezebel. NKJV

2 Kings 13:17 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." NKJV

2 Kings 13:19 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." NKJV

2 Kings 13:21 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. NKJV

2 Kings 13:25 And Jehoash the son of Jehoahaz recaptured from the hand of Ben-Hadad, the son of Hazael, the cities which he had taken out of the hand of Jehoahaz his father by war. Three times Joash defeated him and recaptured the cities of Israel.

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