

In our last lesson, we talked about King Ahab. King Ahab was a wicked king. He and his wife, Jezebel, worshipped idols. God was not pleased with them. The prophet Elijah was sent to King Ahab to warn him that he would be punished for his sins.

Ben-Hadad was the king of Syria at the same time Ahab was king of Israel. Syria was north of Israel. King Ben-Hadad sent his army to attack Israel at Samaria. King Ben-Hadad sent a message to King Ahab that he was going to take all of King Ahab's possessions for his own. (1 Kings 20:2-3)

King Ahab knew his army was too small and weak to fight Ben-Hadad's army. King Ben-Hadad sent more messengers to King Ahab. They told him that they were going to search the houses and take everything they found.

The Lord sent a prophet to King Ahab. The prophet told King Ahab the Lord would help him to fight the battle with the Syrians. (1 Kings 20:13) At noon the next day, King Ahab's small army went out to fight the Syrians. They were winning the battle. When the Syrians saw they were losing, they ran away. King Ben-Hadad got on his horse and rode away and followed the other men in his army. (1 Kings 20:20)

King Ben-Hadad told his people that the children of Israel won because their God was with them in the hills. Ben-Hadad thought he could win if they were on flat land. In the spring, the Israelites were on flat ground. King Ben-Hadad went to fight Israel again. (1 Kings 20:26) The Lord helped the children of Israel win again.

There was a man named Naboth who owned a vineyard close to King Ahab's palace. King Ahab wanted to own Naboth's land so he could make a garden. King Ahab wanted to buy the piece of land from Naboth. Naboth said no. That was not what the Lord wanted Naboth to do. (1 Kings 21:3) Ahab offered to trade it for another piece of land. Naboth would not do it.

King Ahab was very angry because he wanted the land. He went to his room and would not eat. When Jezebel went to him, she asked him why he was so angry. King Ahab told Jezebel that Naboth would not let him have the vineyard. Jezebel told Ahab that she would get the vineyard from Naboth. (1 Kings 21:7)

Jezebel did a very bad thing. Jezebel planned a fast. She pretended that the fast was going to honor Naboth. Jezebel sent letters to invite people to the fast, but she signed King Ahab's name on them. (1 Kings 21:9)

Then Jezebel arranged for some men to be at the fast and tell lies about Naboth. The people took Naboth out to the edge of the city and stoned him to death. (1 Kings 21:13) Then Jezebel went to King Ahab and told him that he could have the vineyard because Naboth was dead.

King Ahab went out and took over the vineyard. God was very unhappy about what Jezebel had done. The Lord told Elijah to go find King Ahab in the vineyard. Elijah told King Ahab that he and Jezebel would be punished for the sin. (1 Kings 21:19)

Ahab was still king of Israel. Jehoshaphat was king of Judah. King Jehoshaphat was a good king. Jehoshaphat reigned as king of Judah for 25 years. King Ahab and King Jehoshaphat went into battle together against the king of Syria. The prophet, Micaiah, told them that Ahab would die in the battle. Ahab died that day. Ahab's son, Ahaziah, became king after Ahab's death. Ahaziah lived for only two years after he became king. Then his son, Jehoram became the new king of Israel. Ahaziah and Jehoram were bad kings.

Elijah had been a very good servant of the Lord. Elijah knew that his work for the Lord was almost over. Elijah traveled with Elisha to Bethel, Jericho and then to the Jordan River. Elijah tried several times to leave Elisha. Elisha would not let him because he knew Elijah was getting old and his work would soon be finished.

When Elijah and Elisha got to the Jordan River, Elijah took off his mantle and struck the water with it. The water divided, and Elijah and Elisha walked across on dry land. (2 Kings 2:8)

While Elijah and Elisha were talking, a chariot of fire appeared. It was pulled by horses of fire. The chariot separated Elijah and Elisha. Elijah was caught in a whirlwind and he was taken away to heaven. (2 Kings 2:11)

Elisha watched Elijah ascend into heaven. Elisha picked up the mantle that Elijah had left there. When Elisha struck the water with it, the waters of the Jordan River opened again. Then Elisha knew that God was with him the same as He was with Elijah.

Elisha was now the prophet of God. Elisha worked many miracles. One day, the widow of a prophet went to Elisha. Her husband was dead and she had two sons. She had to borrow money because they were so poor, but she could not pay back what she borrowed. Elisha asked the woman what she had in her house. All she had was a little oil. Elisha told her to borrow as many pots as she could and pour her oil into them.

She did what Elisha told her. She poured oil into the pots until they were all full. Then she asked her son to bring another pot. He told her there were no more pots to fill. (2 Kings 4:6) Elisha told her to sell the oil, pay off her debt, and live on the money that was left. The miracle helped to show that Elisha was truly a prophet from God.

As Elisha traveled, he often stopped at the house of a man and woman in the village of Shunem. (2 Kings 4:8) They had built a room on their house just for Elisha. Because they were so kind, God gave them a son. But later, the son died. The woman went to find Elisha at Mount Carmel and told him about her son. Elisha went to the woman's house and brought the boy back to life. The miracle proved even more that Elisha was a prophet of God.

Elisha traveled to Gilgal where God helped him work two more miracles. There was a drought in the land and there was not much food. Elisha told his servant to make a pot of stew for the men. One of the men brought a wild gourd and put it into the pot of stew. As the men started to eat, they realized that the stew had been poisoned by the gourd. Elisha told them, "bring some flour". Elisha put the flour in the pot. That made the stew good so the people could eat. (2 Kings 4:41) This was a miracle from God.

Then there was another miracle. A man brought a gift of 20 loaves of bread to Elisha. There were 100 men there with Elisha. Elisha told his servant to serve the 20 loaves to the 100 men. The servant told Elisha it would not be enough to feed all of the men. Elisha told the servant that the Lord said it would be enough to feed all 100 men and still have bread left over. (2 Kings 4:43) And that is what happened. All the men ate and there was bread left over.

Each of the miracles proved even more to the people of Israel that Elisha was truly a prophet sent by God. No one could work such miracles unless God was with them. It also meant that God was with Israel. Even though some of the kings were wicked, the Israelites were still God's chosen people.