

In our last lesson, we talked about how Elijah was taken up to heaven in a whirlwind. Elisha took the place of Elijah as the prophet of God. Elisha worked many miracles to show the people that he was really a prophet sent by God.

There was a man named Naaman who was the commander of the Syrian army. Naaman had leprosy. (2 Kings 5:1) Leprosy was a disease that made white scaly sores all over the skin on a person's body. There was no cure for leprosy.

There was a young Israelite girl who worked as a servant for Naaman's wife. The young girl heard about Naaman's terrible disease. She told Naaman's wife about the prophet Elisha. The young girl knew that Elisha could help Naaman. Naaman went to the king of Syria and told him what the girl had said. The king wanted to help Naaman. He sent Naaman to the king of Israel for help. The king of Israel was upset because he knew he could not cure Naaman. He did not want the king of Syria to get angry because he could not cure Naaman. (2 Kings 5:7)

When Elisha heard what happened, he sent a message to the king. He told him to send Naaman to him. (2 Kings 5:8) Naaman went to Elisha's house and stood at his door. Elisha sent a messenger to meet Naaman. The messenger told Naaman to go dip in the Jordan River seven times. (2 Kings 5:10)

Naaman was very angry. He thought Elisha should have been the one to meet him and pray for him. He thought Elisha should have healed him at once. The Jordan River was muddy. Naaman thought Elisha should have sent him to a better river.

Then Naaman's servants asked him if he would have done what Elisha told him if Elisha had told him to do some great thing. They asked him why he would not do the simple thing that Elisha told him to do.

Naaman did what Elisha told him to do. He went to the Jordan River. After Naaman dipped one time, he still had leprosy. Naaman dipped two times, three times, and four times. He still had leprosy. Naaman dipped five and six times. He still had leprosy.

After Naaman dipped the seventh time, his skin was as clean as a little child. (2 Kings 5:14) Naaman was cured of his leprosy. Naaman knew by this miracle that Elisha served the true God.

Naaman wanted to give Elisha many gifts because he was so thankful to him. Elisha would not accept any gifts from Naaman. (2 Kings 5:16)

Elisha's servant, Gehazi, thought Elisha should have taken the gifts. Gehazi followed Naaman. Gehazi told Naaman that Elisha had sent him. Gehazi made up a lie to tell Naaman. He told him that two young prophets had gone to Elisha for help and needed the gifts that Naaman had offered Elisha. (2 Kings 5:22) Naaman gave Gehazi the gifts.

Gehazi went home and hid the gifts at his house. Gehazi went in and stood before Elisha. Elisha asked Gehazi where he had gone. Gehazi told another lie. He told Elisha he had not gone anywhere. Elisha knew what Gehazi had done. He knew that Gehazi had the gifts. Elisha told Gehazi he would be punished and have leprosy for the rest of his life. (2 Kings 5:27)

Elisha continued to work miracles. Elisha was a faithful servant of God. But, most of the kings of Israel and kings of Judah were not obeying God. Some of the wicked kings were Joram and Ahaziah in Judah, and Jehoram in Israel.

Jehu was anointed king of Israel in the Northern Kingdom. (2 Kings 9:3) Jehu was not like the wicked kings. Jehu had a plan to get rid of the idol worship. Jehu killed King Jehoram. When King Ahaziah saw what Jehu had done, he got in his chariot and ran away. King Jehu went after him and ordered him to be killed. After that, Jezebel was killed. The family of Ahab was destroyed because of the terrible sins of Ahab and Jezebel.

Then King Jehu sent for all the people who worshipped Baal. He told them to go to the temple of Baal for a special meeting. (2 Kings 10:20-21) Jehu looked through the temple to make sure there were no servants of the Lord there. Then Jehu destroyed all the people in the temple. Then he tore down the temple of Baal in Israel.

King Ahaziah was the king of Judah. After his death, his mother, Athaliah, wanted to be queen of the Southern Kingdom of Judah. Athaliah destroyed all of her grandsons just because she wanted to be queen. Athaliah took over the throne and was queen of Judah. Queen Athaliah was not a good queen. She worshipped the idol, Baal. One of her grandsons was not killed. Joash was a baby. His aunt hid him for six years.

There was a good priest named Jehoida. Jehoida took Joash and cared for him. Jehoida called together the people who were loyal to the one who had the right to be king of Judah, which was Joash. They had a great ceremony in the temple and Joash was made king. Joash was only seven years old when he became king of Judah. Athaliah was put to death for what she had done. Then Jehoida and the people of Judah tore down the temple of Baal that was in Judah. Joash was better than most of the kings of Judah.

Queen Athaliah had damaged Solomon's temple and did not repair it. King Joash repaired Solomon's temple. Once again, the people of Judah were worshipping the true God. (2 Kings 12:12)

King Joash was a good king. He did what was right in the sight of the Lord as long as he had Jehoida to guide him. But, Jehoida grew old and he died.

King Joash began to listen to people who worshipped idols. They convinced him to worship idols. The Lord sent Zechariah, Jehoiada's son, to warn them against worshipping idols. King Joash had Zechariah stoned to death. Until that time, King Joash had been a very good king.

Elisha was a great prophet. He became very sick and was about to die. There was a king in the north who was also named Joash. King Joash of Israel went to see Elisha before he died. Elisha prophesied that Israel would win the battle with the Syrians. Even though Israel had done wrong, the Lord still took care of them. The Bible says, "But the Lord was gracious to them, and regarded them, because of His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and would not yet destroy them or cast them from His presence." (2 Kings 13:23)