

Old Testament Lesson 29

ELISHA: "HE TOOK UP . . . THE MANTLE OF ELIJAH"

Prepared by Duane S. Crowther, August 2002

The Early Kings of Israel and Judah [975-914 B.C.]

(See *Bible Dictionary* pp. 635-645)

{*BD* = *Bible Dictionary*. *PPOT* = *Prophets and Prophecies of the Old Testament*
(Crowther)}

Israel (6 early kings)

- 1. Jeroboam (I)** 975-954 B.C. Reigned 22 yrs.
1 Ki. 11:26-14:20; 15:1-6, 34. 2 Ch. 10:1-13:20.
BD: 712. *PPOT:* 43-49, 71, 177, 187-188,
190-191, 194-195, 232, 234
- 2. Nadab** 954-953 B.C. Reigned 2 yrs.
1 Ki. 14:20-15:31.
BD: 736. *PPOT:* 48-49, 71, 177
- 3. Baasha** 953-930 B.C. Reigned 24 yrs.
1 Ki. 15:16-16:19. 2 Ch. 16:1-6.
BD: 618. *PPOT:* 49-50, 71, 177, 188, 194-195.
- 4. Elah** 930-929 B.C. Reigned 2 yrs.
1 Ki. 16:6-14.
BD: no. *PPOT:* 50, 66, 71, 177, 181, 195.
- 5. Zimri** 929 B.C. Reigned 7 days.
1 Ki. 16:9-20; 2 Ki. 9:31.
BD: no. *PPOT:* 50, 71, 177, 195.
- 6. Omri** 929-918 B.C. Reigned 12 yrs.
1 Ki. 16:16-30. 2 Ki. 8:26. 2 Ch. 22:2. Mic. 6:16.
BD: 740. *PPOT:* 50-51, 71, 177, 295

Judah (3 early kings)

- 1. Rehoboam** 975-957 B.C. Reigned 17 yrs.
1 Ki. 11:43-12:27; 14:21-41; 15:6.
2 Ch. 9:31-12:16; 13:7.
BD: 760. *PPOT:* 43-47, 71, 181, 188-190, 232.
- 2. Abijah [Abijam]** 957-955 B.C. Reigned 3 yrs.
1 Ki. 14:31-15:8.
BD: no. *PPOT:* 45-48, 71, 181, 232
- 3. Asa** 955-914 B.C. Reigned 41 yrs.
1 Ki. 15:8-16:29; 22:41-46. 2 Ch. 14:1-16:13,
17:2; 20:32; 21:12; Jer. 41:9.
BD: 614. *PPOT:* 48-51, 71, 181, 192-194.

Kings During the Ministries of Elijah and Elisha [918 - 811 B.C.]

Israel (6 kings during the ministries of Elijah & Elisha)

Judah (also 6 kings during their ministry)

- 7. Ahab** 918-898 B.C. Reigned 22 yrs.
1 Ki. 16:28-17:1; 18:1-19:2; 20:1-22:40.
2 Ch. 18:1-34. BD: 605. *PPOT:* 51-55, 71,
177-178, 182-185, 196-208, 218-219, 230, 248, 295.
- 8. Ahaziah** 898-897 B.C. Reigned 2 yrs.
1 Ki. 22:40, 49; 2 Ki. 1:2-17. 2 Ch. 20:35-37.
BD: 605. *PPOT:* 51-55, 71, **177-178**, 182-185,
196-208, 218-219, 230, 248, 295.
- 9. Jehoram (Joram)** 897-884 B.C. Reigned 12 yrs.
2 Ki. 1:17; 3:1-27; 5:7; 6:8-10, 21-23; 8:16, 25,
28-29; 9:14-26, 29. 2 Ch. 22:5-8.
BD: 710. *PPOT:* 54-57, 71, **178**, 198-199.
- 10. Jehu** 884-856 B.C. Reigned 28 yrs.
- 4. Jehoshaphat** 914-893 B.C. Reigned 25 yrs.
2 Ch. 17:1-21:1; 1 Ki. 15:24; 2 Ki. 1:17;
3:14; 8:16, 12:18. BD: 710. *PPOT:* 51-54,
71, 178, **181-182**, **186**, 195, 205-211, 231
- 5. Jehoram (Joram)** 893-885 B.C. Reigned 8 yrs.
1 Ki. 22:50. 2 Ki. 8:16-24; 12:18. 1 Ch. 3:11.
2 Ch. 21:1-22:11. BD: 710. *PPOT:* 54-56,
71, **182**, 200, 425.
- 6. Ahaziah** 885-884 B.C. Reigned 1 yr.
2 Ki. 8:25-29; 9:16-29; 10:13; 12:18. 1 Ch.
3:11. 2 Ch. 22:1-11; Called Azariah 2 Ch.
22:6 and Jehoahaz 2 Ch. 21:17. BD: 605.
PPOT: 55-57, 71, 178, **182**, 183, 198, 200-

1 Ki. 19:16-17. 2 Ki. 9:1-10:36. 2 Ch. 22:6-9; 25:17. BD: no. PPOT: 52, 56-58, 62, 72, 178-179, 182, 198, 217-218, 248, 259, 272.

11. Jehoahaz 856-842 B.C. Reigned 14 yrs.
2 Ki. 10:35; 13:1-9, 25; 14:1, 8, 17.
BD: no. **PPOT:** 52, 72, **179.**

12. Joash (Jehoash) 842-826 B.C. Reigned.
16 yrs. *2 Ki. 13:10-13, 25; 14:8-16.*
2 Ch. 25:17-25. BD: no. PPOT: 60-61, 72, 179, 182-183, 217, 623.

105 years and seven kings later, in 721 B.C., the northern kingdom, Israel, was conquered and deported by Assyria, and ceased to exist.

201, **303.**

7. Athaliah 884-878 B.C. Reigned as queen 6 yrs.
2 Ki. 8:18, 26-27; 11:1-3, 13-20. 2 Ch. 18:1; 21:6; 22:2, 10-12; 23:12-21; 24:7. 1 Ch. 8:26.
Ez. 8:7. **BD:** 617. **PPOT:** 57-58, 72, **182, 183.**

8. Joash (Jehoash) 878-841 B.C. Reigned 37 yrs.
2 Ki. 11:1-12:21; 14:1. 2 Ch. 24:1-27.
BD: 713. **PPOT:** 57-60, 72, **183, 219.**

9. Amaziah 841-811 B.C. Reigned 30 yrs.
2 Ki. 12:21; 13:12; 14:1-23; 15:1, 3. 1 Ch. 3:12.
2 Ch. 24:27-26.4. BD: 607. PPOT: 60-61, 72, 179, 183, 219-220, 231, 299, 425.

224 years and eleven kings later, in 587 B.C., the southern kingdom, Judah, was conquered and deported by Babylonia, but maintained its identity.

The Interwoven Ministries of Elijah and Elisha

Background: King **Ahab**, of Israel, was the most wicked king of Israel. Inspired by his wicked wife, **Jezebel**, Ahab brought Zidon's Baal-worship to Israel, and killed almost all the prophets of the LORD [*1 Ki. 16:28-34, 18:4*]. To combat their wickedness, **Elijah** commanded that there be no rain [*1 Ki. 17:1-3*], and there was drought and famine for 3 years [*1 Ki. 18:1-1-2*]. Finally, Elijah slayed 850 priests of Baal on Mt. Carmel, restored the rain, then ran 40 miles ahead of King Ahab's chariot to Jezreel [*1 Ki. 19*]. Jezebel threatened to kill Elijah overnight, so Elijah fled from Jezreel to Mt. Horeb [*1 Ki. 19*].

1. *1 Kings 19:15-17:* The LORD, at Mt. Horeb, commanded Elijah to

A. Go to the wilderness of Damascus.

B. Anoint **Hazael** (a servant of Ben-hadad, the king of Assyria) to be the next king over Syria, [fulfilled through Elisha: *2 Ki. 8:7-15*].

C. Anoint **Jehu** (one of the captains in the army of Israel) to be the next king over Israel, [fulfilled through Elisha: *2 Ki. 9:1-10*].

D. Anoint **Elisha** (then farming) to take his place as the prophet of the LORD.

[accomplished: *1 Ki. 19:19-21*]. It appears Elijah and Elisha were together six or seven years before Elijah was translated. [See "Elisha," *Bible Dictionary*, p. 664.]

2. Intervening events:

A. *1 Ki. 20: Ben-hadad*, king of Syria, made war against Israel and besieged Samaria. Their forces were twice defeated by Israel (with the help of the LORD [*1 Ki. 20:13-14, 22, 28-30*]). Because King **Ahab** let Ben-hadad go free, God sent a prophet to Ahab saying that Ahab's life would be taken [*1 Ki. 20:42*].

B. *1 Ki. 21:* King Ahab desired the vineyard of **Naboth** (Ahab's neighbor in Jezreel). When Naboth wouldn't sell, Ahab had false witnesses testify that Naboth was a blasphemer, which caused him to be stoned. Elijah confronted Ahab, and prophesied the death of both him, Jezebel, and their descendants. [*1 Ki. 21:17-24*]. Fulfilled at Ahab's death, after he was wounded in a battle against Syria [*1 Ki. 22:37-38*], and later by the wrath of Jehu, who killed **Joram (Jehoram)**, Ahab's son and the king of Israel after Ahaziah

and **Jezebel** [2 Ki. 9:14-37], and 70 other sons of Ahab [2 Ki. 10:1-7].

C. 1 Ki. 22:40: After the death of Ahab, his son **Ahaziah** became king of Israel. He reigned 2 years, then was injured in a fall. Elijah prophesied that he would not recover, but would die, which came to pass [2 Ki. 1:1-17]. Elijah twice called down fire on Ahaziah's soldiers in the process. [1 Ki. 1:9-15]

D. 2 Ki. 1:17: **Joram** (also known as **Jehoram**) became king of Israel after Ahaziah died. He reigned 12 years, then was slain by Jehu. (See item B, above.)

Key Events in the Ministry of Elisha

“While Elijah was a child of the desert, Elisha lived in cities.”

“He was of a gentle and affectionate disposition, and without that fiery zeal by which his master had been distinguished.”

Elijah and Elisha “seem to have been together some six or seven years.”

“After Elijah's translation, Elisha was the leading prophet of the northern kingdom, and the trusted advisor the kings of Israel.”

“His ministry lasted more than 50 years, during the reigns of **Jehoram, Jehu, Jehoahaz, and Joash.**”

“His miracles form the chief part of his recorded work. These were for the most part acts of kindness and mercy . . .”

Bible Dictionary, p. 664

1. 1 Ki. 19:15-17: Called by Elijah, who was instructed to call him to be a prophet by the LORD.
2. 2 Ki. 2:1-12: Receiving the mantle of Elijah (the “mantle of authority” representing the keys of priesthoc authority).
3. 2 Ki. 2:11: Seeing Elijah translated (carried to heaven in a chariot of fire).
4. 2 Ki. 2:13-14: Duplicating Elijah's miracle by again dividing the waters of the Jordan River. (Recall the waters of the River Jordan being divided when Joshua and the people of Israel entered the promised land, *Joshua 3:9-17.*)
5. 2 Ki. 3:5-27: Miraculously providing drinking water for the combined armies of Israel, Judah and Edom as they advanced against Moab, and bringing them victory against the Moabites.
6. 2 Ki. 4:1-7: Multiplying and preserving oil for the wife of one of the sons of the prophets, so she could sell it and pay her debt to her creditors.
7. 2 Ki. 4:8-17: Prophesying to a Shunammite woman who had befriended him and his servant, Gehazi, who was beyond the age of childbearing, that she would give birth to a son.

8. *2 Ki. 4:18-37*: Restoring that son, now grown, to life when he suddenly died. (The boy had been dead for many hours, as the mother traveled to Mt. Carmel to seek the prophet's assistance and Elisha traveled back to their home.)
9. *2 Ki. 4:38-41*: Removing poison from a pot of pottage for the hungry sons of the prophets in Gilgal.
10. *2 Ki. 5:1-19*: Healing Naaman, captain of the hosts of Syria, from leprosy by having him wash in the Jordan River seven times.
11. *2 Ki. 5:20-27*: Cursing his servant, Gehazi, with leprosy, for secretly taking a reward from Naaman.
12. *2 Ki. 6:1-7*: Caused an iron axe head to float to the surface when it came off an axe of one of the sons of the prophets as they were cutting wood by the River Jordan.
13. *2 Ki. 6:8-10*: Saving troops of Israel from defeat several times by telling the king of Israel, by revelation, what the movements of the Syrians would be.
14. *2 Ki. 6:11-17*: Opening the eyes of his servant to see that "the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha," when a Syrian military force surrounded Dothan trying to capture Elisha. (Recall Joshua's being visited by the "captain of the host of the LORD," *Joshua 5:13-15*.)
15. *2 Ki. 6:18-23*: Had the LORD blind all the Syrian soldiers, then led them from Dothan into Samaria. He convinced the king of Israel to spare them. They went home, told what had happened, and the Syrians stopped attacking Israel for a time.
16. *2 Ki. 7:1-20*: During a bitter famine in Samaria caused by a Syrian seige of the city, Elisha prophesied that on the morrow there would be incredible plenty of food in the city, available cheaply. The LORD had caused the Syrian army to hear the sound of a great advancing army, so the army fled and left all their supplies behind, which the people were able to appropriate and eat.
17. *2 Ki. 8:1-6*: Elisha prophesied a seven-year famine, and sent the Shunammite woman to live among the Philistines so she could survive.
18. *2 Ki. 8:7-15*: Elisha went to Damascus, Syria. The ailing Ben-hadab sent his servant Hazael to ask Elisha if the king would die. The prophet said the king would die. He then wept to Hazael because he could foresee that Hazael would be the king of Syria and that he would ravage the land and people of Israel.
19. *2 Ki. 13:14-19*: Elisha, on his deathbed, prophesied to Joash, king of Israel, that he would smite Syria three times but not utterly defeat them.

20. 2 *Ki.* 13:20: The death of Elisha.

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