

**THE FINAL
INTERVIEW!**

2 KINGS 13:14-19

**(MARCHING THROUGH
2 KINGS)**

OBSERVATIONS

- **At this time in Israel's history, their country had decreased in size due largely to their disobedience; see Isaiah 9:16**
- **King Hazael of Syria had conquered a portion of Israel east of the Jordan river, and was growing in size, 2 Kings 10:33**
- **For approximately 45 years, from King Jehu to King Joash in Judah, the history recorded concerning the great prophet Elisha is blank (no miracles seen, nor major events noted in scripture)**
- **Children of God have to be prepared to show their faith in the obscurities of everyday life. We are servants, "not celebrities" (Feeding our families, paying for daily necessities, avoiding significant immoral catastrophes)**

Matthew 6:6 (Jesus watches His children in secret as they labor in secret)

OBSERVATIONS



- **2 Kings 13:14** begins at the sick bed of the great Elisha, the prophet
- The atmosphere in his home, as young King Jehoash of Israel comes to visit, is quite different from years much earlier when Naaman, captain of the Syrian army, visited it in **2 Kings 5** and got a verbal prescription from Elisha for his leprosy
- Here, life and death are contending for Elisha
- He won't leave this world in a chariot of fire and with onlookers, like Elijah, his mentor, had done
- Here, Elisha is physically weak, but God's strength in him is spiritually strong (an old battle-tested warrior) **2 Corinthians 4:16** Older Christians continue a renewal process

ELISHA, THOUGH SLOWLY DYING IN THIS STORY, REALIZES A SPIRITUAL DEFICIENCY IN YOUNG KING JEHOASH AND WAS NOT CONTENT

Are You Contributing to Your Parents' Spiritual Contentment?

- Many aged parents will go to their death bed, grieving the most, over the “spiritual recklessness” of that grown child that they had a chance to mold spiritually, but didn't take the opportunity/or ignored the need to do so (David grieved over his mistakes in his son's sinfulness that caused his death; 2 Kings 18:33)
- Many a grown child has grieved the most when they have realized that they caused their parents the most spiritual heartache, but can no longer demonstrate Christ to them because their parents are gone (many grown children, at a funeral, cry out of their own guilt)

THE OLD MAN ELISHA HAS ONE MORE LESSON FOR JEHOASH BEFORE HE DIES!

- King Jehoash had an evil record, 2 Kings 13:11, but still had respect for Elisha, (not a good way to live)

To respect righteousness but not incorporate it!

- Jehoash is not a “God kind of guy!” There should have been a close relationship between the king of God’s people and the prophet of God’s people
- He likes Elisha well enough, and came to pay his respects to a dying man, and even cried over him, but he didn’t live like him
*“O my father, my father, the chariots of Israel and their horses!”
2 Kings 13:14!”*
- Elisha had cried those same words when Elijah, his mentor, left the earth to go to glory; 2 Kings 2:12

THE SAME COMPLEMENTARY WORDS, BUT FROM TWO DIFFERENT MINDSETS

“O my father, my father, the chariots of Israel and their horses!” 2 Kings 13:14

- King Jehoshaphat used the same phrase that Elisha himself had uttered when his mentor, Elijah, went up to heaven in chariot of fire; but it didn't mean the same. 2 Kings 2:12
- Christians, beware of the hypocritical use of “Religious Phraseology” when there is no lifestyle to back it up (*“I'm too blessed to be stressed,” “God always has my back,” Religious Rap with a beat but no lifestyle change in the rapper, Religious Tattoos but no inner ambition for righteousness*). *God is not impressed!*

“...love not in word or in tongue, but in deed and truth.”

1 John 3:18

OBSERVATIONS

- Elisha was moved by the young King grieving for him and initiated a test to see whether Jehoash had learned to believe (he knew that mourning and a changing of the heart can be two different things)
- Elisha asked the King to get his bow and arrows ready; and then as the King gets ready to shoot, Elisha lays his hands on him as he shot an arrow through a window on the east side toward Syria, thereby consecrating that King Jehoash was doing God's work. Remember, their enemy, Syria, was growing; now Jehoash would defeat Syria
- This signifies the solemn appointment to God's work through those already appointed themselves

OBSERVATIONS

- The solemn responsibility of appointing men and women to Godly positions in the church is very serious business
- It is the conveying and bestowing of approval of God to the work or position assigned
- It is the sending of men and women (like arrows to Syria) into the world to do kingdom work, and is critical for the church's mission in the world
- The church needs more Godly arrows
- It's the scriptural way to build a congregation of the Lord's people; Titus 1:5

OBSERVATIONS

- Unfortunately, too many of us depend on the presence of an Elisha for our religion
- As soon as the visible religious influence in our lives is gone, and we have to seek God for ourselves, especially in times of difficulty; does this “Artificial Christianity” dissolve?
- If we are to withstand the stresses and storms of life, and glorify God; we will have to have a firm foundation of Jesus Christ in our individual lives; Matthew 7:24-27

THEN ELISHA ASKS JEHOASH TO DO SOMETHING ALONE

“Take the arrows;” so he took them. And he said to the King of Israel, “Strike the ground;” so he struck three times and stopped. 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.”

- Young Jehoshaphat was a King trying to rule God’s people without a spiritual understanding. He had no idea that what he was doing had spiritual significance (like the gods he worshipped). Psalms 115:3-8, mouths but can’t speak, eyes but can’t see, ears but can’t hear, “Blocking Blessings”

OBSERVATIONS

- The number of times he hit the ground with the arrows, equaled the number of times God would guarantee victory
- Therefore, his lack of spiritual understanding limited his victories, just like our lack of spiritual insight will limit our victories in life
- The commandments of God can reveal to us the character of God IF OUR SPIRITUAL EYES ARE OPEN!

EPHESIANS 1:17-20 NIV

“I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation (insight), so that you may know Him better. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which He has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in His holy people.”

This is how we understand the ways of the Lord and come to appreciate why we serve Him, and how He increases our faith. 2Peter 1:5-10

THE PLAN OF SALVATION!

Hear the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Believe the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Repent of Sins

Acts 17:30

Confess Christ

Acts 8:37

Be Baptized

Acts 8:38