

## **Lesson 16: 2 Kings 6:8 -8:15 Ministries of Elisha**

In our last lesson we read about how the Spirit was manifested in Elisha through miracles. We also read the account of Naaman's healing. Naaman, a Syrian army commander, was healed of leprosy by Elisha and found faith in the God of Israel because of this miracle. From this story we learned that many people believed that the God of Israel could only be worshipped *in Israel*.

### **1. Read 2 Kings 6:8-23 and footnotes. Share any interesting footnotes.**

**a. What is it that Elisha is doing in verses 8-12 that arouses anger in the king of Aram?**

**b. What "gift" does the Aramean officer say Elisha has in 6:12?**

**c. What does Elisha do to calm his servant in 6:16-17?**

**d. Read 2 Kings 2:11-12 below, *and* 2 Kings 6:17 in your bible. What is the significance of the vision that Elisha's servant sees in 6:17?**

**2 Kings 2:11-12** As they walked on still conversing, a fiery chariot and fiery horses came between the two of them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind,<sup>12</sup> and Elisha saw it happen. He cried out, "My father! my father! **Israel's chariot and steeds!**" Then he saw him no longer.

**e. How does Elisha get the Aramean army to follow him and where did he lead them? (6:18-20)**

**f. Why did Israel's army *not* kill the Arameans?**

**2. Read 2 Kings 6:24-31. Because Aram is at war with Israel, they have blocked trade routes and entry to and from the city of Samaria. The of food supply is at critical lows. It seems the city of Samaria is surrounded by the Aramean army.**

**Just how bad has the famine in Israel become in the following verses?**

**2 Kings 6:25**

**2 Kings 6:28-29**

**3. How did King Jehoram, of Israel react to hearing about the consequences of the famine in vs. 28-30 and 33?**

**4. Read 2 Kings 7: 1- 11. Israel is suffering greatly from the famine.**

**The Aramean army is camped not far from the city gates of Samaria.**

**a. What does Elisha prophesy? (7:1-2)**

b. How does the famine affect the lepers at the city gate and what actions do they decide to take? (7:3-4)

c. What do the lepers find when they get to the camp of the Arameans?

d. Why had the Arameans abandoned their camp? (7:6-7)

e. To whom do the lepers report what they found in the enemy's camp? (7:11)

5. Read 2 Kings 7:12-16.

a. What is the King of Israel's initial reaction to the news of the enemy camp?

b. What do the king's spies discover about the enemy? (7:15-16)

6. Read 2 Kings 7:16- 20.

a. How did the prophesy of Elisha come true?

7. Read 2 Kings 8:1-6 and footnotes. Share any helpful footnotes.

(See 2 Kings 4:18-37 to read the healing referred to in these verses.)

a. What is the king's attitude toward the prophet Elisha in these verses?

b. What kindnesses does the king offer the Shunammite woman?

8. Read 2 Kings 8:7-15 and footnotes.

**Read also 1 Kings 19:15-16 here:** The Lord said to Elijah: "Go back! Take the desert road to Damascus. When you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king of Aram. <sup>16</sup>You shall also anoint Jehu, son of Nimshi, as king of Israel, and Elisha, son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah, as prophet to succeed you." (Elijah was taken up to Heaven *before* the kings could be anointed.)

a. What does the fact that the king of Israel's enemy is now consulting Elisha say about Elisha's reputation as a true prophet and "man of God"?

b. What reason does Ben-hadad, king of Aram, wish to ask Elisha?

c. Elisha seems to have a vision that distresses him to the point of tears. What is it that the prophet sees?

d. How does *Hazael* respond to Elisha's prophesy?