



Bible Teaching Resources

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What You Need to Know About ELISHA

***“Heir of the Spirit:
‘What wish shall I grant you before I am taken away’
(2 Kings 2:9)”***

STUDY NUMBER ONE - 2 KINGS 2:12-25

NOTES

v. 12 And Elisha saw it and cried out, “My father, my father, the chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” And he saw him no more. Then he took hold of his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

v. 13 He also took up the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and returned and stood by the bank of the Jordan.

v. 14 And he took the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and struck the waters and said, “Where is the Lord, the God of Elijah?” And when he also had struck the waters, they were divided here and there; and Elisha crossed over.

v. 15 Now when the sons of the prophets who were at Jericho opposite him saw him, they said, “The spirit of Elijah rests on Elisha.” And they came to meet him and bowed themselves to the ground before him.

v. 16 And they said to him, “Behold now, there are with your servants fifty strong men, please let them go and search for your master; perhaps the Spirit of the Lord has taken him up and cast him on some mountain or into some valley.” And he said, “You shall not send.”

v. 17 But when they urged him until he was ashamed, he said, “Send.” They sent therefore fifty men; and they searched three days, but did not find him.

v. 18 And they returned to him while he was staying at Jericho; and he said to them, “Did I not say to you, ‘Do not go’?”

v. 19 Then the men of the city said to Elisha, “Behold now, the situation of this city is pleasant, as my lord sees; but the water is bad, and the land is unfruitful.

v. 20 And he said, “Bring me a new jar, and put salt in it.” So they brought it to him.

v. 21 And he went out to the spring of water, and threw salt in it and said, “Thus says the Lord, ‘I have purified these waters; there shall not be from there death or unfruitfulness any longer.’”

NOTES

v. 22 So the waters have been purified to this day, according to the word of Elisha which he spoke.

v. 23 Then he went up from there to Bethel; and as he was going up by the way, young lads came out from the city and mocked him and said to him, "Go up, you baldhead; go up, you baldhead!"

v. 24 When he looked behind him and saw them, he cursed them in the name of the Lord. Then two female bears came out of the woods and tore up forty-two lads of their number.

v. 25 And he went from there to Mount Carmel, and from there he returned to Samaria.

QUESTIONS:

1. Read 2 Kings 2:12-25 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. Describe Elisha's response to Elijah's departure, according to verse 12.

3. What is Elisha's question in verse 14?

4. How do the sons of the prophets feel about Elisha, according to verse 15?

5. What is the problem in verse 19, and how does Elisha solve that problem in verses 20-22?

6. Describe what happens in verse 23.

7. What happens in response to their accusations, according to verse 24?

8. Where does he go from this point, according to verse 25?

9. Which verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: God faithfully prepared Elisha for ten years before He gave him the full responsibility of the ministry.

LESSON #2: When the Spirit of God takes over in our lives, He provides the boldness to be a good witness for Him.

LESSON #3: What kind of water is coming forth from your spring? When the Lord Jesus comes to live in the life, the Spirit of God produces the living water.

LESSON #4: There are going to be those who mock and ridicule the gospel of Jesus Christ.

LESSON #5: You never have to take into your hands your own defense. The Lord will always vindicate and protect His own.

LESSON #6: God is a God of grace but He is also a God of justice and judgment.

LESSON #7: God's grace does not automatically cling to a place or race.

LESSON #8: The mocking of Elisha is a picture of the mocking of Christ. Enemies both receive divine judgment.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

STUDY NUMBER TWO - 2 KINGS 3:1-27**NOTES**

v. 1 Now Jehoram the son of Ahab became king over Israel at Samaria in the eighteenth year of Jehoshaphat king of Judah, and reigned twelve years.

v. 2 And he did evil in the sight of the Lord, though not like his father and his mother; for he put away the sacred pillar of Baal which his father had made.

v. 3 Nevertheless, he clung to the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, which he made Israel sin; he did not depart from it.

v. 4 Now Mesha king of Moab was a sheep breeder, and used to pay the king of Israel 100,000 lambs and the wool of 100,000 rams.

v. 5 But it came about, when Ahab died, the king of Moab rebelled against the king of Israel.

v. 6 And King Jehoram went out of Samaria at that time and mustered all Israel.

v. 7 Then he went and sent word to Jehoshaphat the king of Judah, saying, "The king of Moab has rebelled against me. Will you go with me to fight against Moab?" And he said, "I will go up; I am as you are, my people as your people, my horses as your horses."

v. 8 And he said, "Which way shall we go up?" And he answered, "The way of the wilderness of Edom."

v. 9 So the king of Israel went with the king of Judah and the king of Edom; and they made a circuit of seven days' journey, and there was no water for the army or for the cattle that followed them.

v. 10 Then the king of Israel said, "Alas! For the Lord has called these three kings to give them into the hand of Moab."

v. 11 But Jehoshaphat said, "Is there not a prophet of the Lord here, that we may inquire of the Lord by him?" And one of the king of Israel's servants answered and said, "Elisha the son of Shaphat is here, who used to pour water on the hands of Elijah."

v. 12 And Jehoshaphat said, "The word of the Lord is with him." So the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat and the king of Edom went down to him.

v. 13 Now Elisha said to the king of Israel, "What do I have to do with you? Go to the prophets of your father and to the prophets of your mother." And the king of Israel said to him, "No, for the Lord has called these three kings together to give them into the hand of Moab."

v. 14 And Elisha said, "As the Lord of hosts lives, before whom I stand, were it not that I regard the presence of Jehoshaphat the king of Judah, I would not look at you nor see you.

v. 15 "But now bring me a minstrel." And it came about, when the minstrel played, that the hand of the Lord came upon him.

NOTES

v. 16 And he said, "Thus says the Lord, 'Make this valley full of trenches.'
 v. 17 For thus says the Lord, 'You shall not see wind nor shall you see rain; yet that valley shall be filled with water, so that you shall drink, both you and your cattle and your beasts.
 v. 18 'And this is but a slight thing in the sight of the Lord; he shall also give the Moabites into your hand.
 v. 19 Then you shall strike every fortified city and every choice city, and fell every good tree and stop all springs of water, and mar every good piece of land with stones.'"
 v. 20 And it happened in the morning about the time of offering the sacrifice, that behold, water came by the way of Edom, and the country was filled with water.
 v. 21 Now all the Moabites heard that the kings had come up to fight against them. And all who were able to put on armor and older were summoned, and stood on the border.
 v. 22 And they rose early in the morning, and the sun shone on the water, and the Moabites saw the water opposite them as red as blood.
 v. 23 Then they said, "This is blood; the kings have surely fought together, and they have slain one another. Now therefore, Moab, to the spoil!"
 v. 24 But when they came to the camp of Israel, the Israelites arose and struck the Moabites, so that they fled before them; and they went forward into the land, slaughtering the Moabites.
 v. 25 Thus they destroyed the cities; and each one threw a stone on every piece of good land and filled it. So they stopped all the springs of water and felled all the good trees, until in Kir-hareseth only they left its stones; however, the slingers went about it and struck it.
 v. 26 When the king of Moab saw that the battle was too fierce for him, he took with him 700 men who drew sword, to break through to the king of Edom; but they could not.
 v. 27 Then he took his oldest son who was to reign in his place, and offered him as a burnt offering on the wall. And there came great wrath against Israel, and they departed from him and returned to their own land.

QUESTIONS:

1. Read 2 Kings 3:1-27 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. What is Jehoshaphat's question in verse 11?

3. How does Jehoshaphat describe Elisha in verse 12?

4. What is Elisha's response to the kings in verses 14-19?

5. What natural phenomenon confuses the Moabites, according to verse 22?

6. What happens as a result of this deception, according to verse 24?

7. Describe the action of the king of Moab in verse 26.

8. What happens in verse 27?

9. Which verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: Everything we do is witnessed by the Lord and it is also recorded or registered by Him.

LESSON #2: Jehoram and Jehoshaphat make the mistake of formulating plans and commitments before they consult the Lord.

LESSON #3: Jehoshaphat put himself in a very serious situation by joining together with this godless king in making a commitment to him without first discussing it with the Lord.

LESSON #4: When a need arises in our lives, it is an indication that we are either out of the will of the Lord or that He is preparing to give us new instructions.

LESSON #5: When a man does not know God, he formulates wrong opinions about what is happening in his life. Jehoram does this when he says, "Alas, for the Lord has called these three kings, to give them into the hand of Moab."

LESSON #6: How gracious the Lord is to give directions and insights into our problems and needs if we will only consult Him.

LESSON #7: Victory will always result when we follow the Lord's way of doing things.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

STUDY NUMBER THREE - 2 KINGS 4:1-44

NOTES

v. 1 Now a certain woman of the wives of the sons of the prophets cried out to Elisha, "Your servant my husband is dead, and you know that your servant feared the Lord; and the creditor has come to take my two children to be his slaves."

v. 2 And Elisha said to her, "What shall I do for you? Tell me, what do you have in the house?" And she said, "Your maidservant has nothing in the house except a jar of oil."

v. 3 Then he said, "Go, borrow vessels at large for yourself from all your neighbors, even empty vessels; do not get a few.

v. 4 And you shall go in and shut the door behind you and your sons, and pour out into all these vessels; and you shall set aside what is full."

v. 5 So she went from him and shut the door behind her and her sons; they were bringing the vessels to her and she poured.

v. 6 And it came about when the vessels were full, that she said to her son, "Bring me another vessel." And he said to her, "There is not one vessel more." And the oil stopped.

v. 7 Then she came and told the man of God. And he said, "Go, sell the oil and pay your debt, and you and your sons can live on the rest."

v. 8 Now there came a day when Elisha passed over to Shunem, where there was a prominent woman, and she persuaded him to eat food. And so it was, as often as he passed by, he turned in there to eat food.

v. 9 And she said to her husband, "Behold now, I perceive that this is a holy man of God passing by us continually."

NOTES

v. 10 Please, let us make a little walled upper chamber and let us set a bed for him there, and a table and a chair and a lampstand; and it shall be, when he comes to us, that he can turn in there."

v. 11 One day he came there and turned in to the upper chamber and rested.

v. 12 Then he said to Gehazi his servant, "Call this Shunammite." And when he had called her, she stood before him.

v. 13 And he said to him, "Say now to her, 'Behold, you have been careful for us with all this care; what can I do for you? Would you be spoken for to the king or to the captain of the army? And she answered, "I live among my own people."

v. 14 So he said, "What then is to be done for her?" And Gehazi answered, "Truly she has no son and her husband is old."

v. 15 And he said, "Call her." When he had called her, she stood in the doorway.

v. 16 Then he said, "At this season next year you shall embrace a son." And she said, "No, my lord, O man of God, do not lie to your maidservant."

v. 17 And the woman conceived and bore a son at that season the next year, as Elisha had said to her.

v. 18 When the child was grown, the day came that he went out to his father to the reapers.

v. 19 And he said to his father, "My head, my head." And he said to his servant, "Carry him to his mother."

v. 20 When he had taken him and brought him to his mother, he sat on her lap until noon, and then died.

v. 21 And she went up and laid him on the bed of the man of God, and shut the door behind him, and went out.

v. 22 Then she called to her husband and said, "Please send me one of the servants and one of the donkeys, that I may run to the man of God and return.

v. 23 And he said, "Why will you go to him today? It is neither new moon nor Sabbath." And she said, "It will be well."

v. 24 Then she saddled a donkey and said to her servant, "Drive and go forward; do not slow down the pace for me unless I tell you."

v. 25 So she went and came to the man of God to Mount Carmel. And it came about when the man of God saw her at a distance, that he said to Gehazi his servant, "Behold, yonder is the Shunammite.

v. 26 Please run now to meet her and say to her, 'Is it well with you? Is it well with your husband? Is it well with the child?'" And she answered, "It is well."

v. 27 When she came to the man of God to the hill, she caught hold of his feet. And Gehazi came near to push her away; but the man of God said, "Let her alone, for her soul is troubled within her; and the Lord has hid it from me and has not told me."

v. 28 Then she said, "Did I ask for a son from my lord? Did I not say, 'Do not deceive me'?"

v. 29 Then he said to Gehazi, "Gird up your loins and take my staff in your hand, and go your way; if you meet any man, do not salute him, and if anyone salutes you, do not answer him; and lay my staff on the lad's face."

v. 30 And the mother of the lad said, "As the Lord lives and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." And he arose and followed her.

NOTES

v. 31 Then Gehazi passed on before them and laid the staff on the lad's face, but there was neither sound nor response. So he returned to meet him and told him, "The lad has not awakened."

v. 32 When Elisha came into the house, behold the lad was dead and laid on his bed.

v. 33 So he entered and shut the door behind them both, and prayed to the Lord.

v. 34 And he went up and lay on the child, and put his mouth on his mouth and his eyes on his eyes and his hands on his hands, and he stretched himself on him; and the flesh of the child became warm.

v. 35 Then he returned and walked in the house once back and forth, and went up and stretched himself on him; and the lad sneezed seven times and the lad opened his eyes.

v. 36 And he called Gehazi and said, "Call this Shunammite." So he called her. And when she came in to him, he said, "Take up your son."

v. 37 Then she went in and fell at his feet and bowed herself to the ground, and she took up her son and went out.

v. 38 When Elisha returned to Gilgal, there was a famine in the land. As the sons of the prophets were sitting before him, he said to his servant, "Put on the large pot and boil stew for the sons of the prophets."

v. 39 Then one went out into the field to gather herbs, and found a wild vine and gathered from it his lap full of wild gourds, and came and sliced them into the pot of stew, for they did not know what they were.

v. 40 So they poured it out for the men to eat. And it came about as they were eating of the stew, that they cried out and said, "O man of God, there is death in the pot." And they were unable to eat.

v. 41 But he said, "Now bring meal." And he threw it into the pot, and he said, "Pour it out for the people that they may eat." Then there was no harm in the pot.

v. 42 Now a man came from Baal-shalishah, and brought the man of God bread of the first fruits, twenty loaves of barley and fresh ears of grain in his sack. And he said, "Give them to the people that they may eat."

v. 43 And his attendant said, "What, shall I set this before a hundred men?" But he said, "Give them to the people that they may eat, for thus says the Lord, 'They shall eat and have some left over.'"

v. 44 So he set it before them, and they ate and had some left over, according to the word of the Lord.

QUESTIONS:

1. Read 2 Kings 4:1-44 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. What happens in verse 1?

3. Describe the miracle in verses 3-7.

4. What provision does the Lord make for the prophet in verses 8-11?

5. What promise does the prophet make to the Shunammite woman in verse 16?

6. Describe the tragedy in verses 19-21.

7. What does Elisha do for the woman in verses 32-36?

8. What happens in verses 38-44?

9. Which verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: The Lord often multiplies what we have to make provision for us in the hour of our need. This is seen in the jar of oil in the first part of the chapter, and in the twenty barley loaves and the ears of grain in the last part of the chapter.

LESSON #2: The Lord's provision is always exceeding abundantly above all that we can ask or think because every vessel was filled.

LESSON #3: The Shunammite woman is seen as being great because of her spirituality, her sensitivity, and her submission.

LESSON #4: The Shunammite woman is also another version of the principle recorded in Psalm 37: "Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart."

LESSON #5: Many times the Lord puts His hand upon the provision that He has made previously to test us to see whether or not that gift has become more important than our relationship with Him.

LESSON #6: The Lord often tests our faith through the trials that we pass.

LESSON #7: The Shunammite woman never loses her confidence in God through the entire trial. And as a result, is rewarded for her faith and trust in God's ability to work all things together in this situation.

LESSON #8: It is necessary for Elisha to have personal contact with the dead child, even as Elijah did in 1 Kings 17. The great principle here, according to J. Vernon McGee, is: "That when we are dead in trespasses and sins, personal contact with Jesus Christ brings life. In Him we have life: He is life."

LESSON #9: Elisha first ministers to the spiritual needs of the prophets at Gilgal, and then to their physical needs.

LESSON #10: The Lord's provision of the barley loaves and the ears of grain was totally adequate for the situation, although it did not seem so from a human point of view.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

STUDY NUMBER FOUR - 2 KINGS 5:1-27**NOTES**

v. 1 Now Naaman, captain of the army of the king of Syria, was a great man with his master, and highly respected, because by him the Lord had given victory to Syria. The man was also a valiant warrior, but he was a leper.

v. 2 Now the Syrians had gone out in bands, and had taken captive a little girl from the land of Israel; and she waited on Naaman's wife.

v. 3 And she said to her mistress, "I wish that my master were with the prophet who is in Samaria! Then he would cure him of his leprosy."

v. 4 And Naaman went in and told his master, saying, "Thus and thus spoke the girl who is from the land of Israel."

v. 5 Then the king of Syria said, "Go now, and I will send a letter to the king of Israel." And he departed and took with him ten talents of silver and six thousand shekels of gold and ten changes of clothes.

v. 6 And he brought the letter to the king of Israel, saying, "And now as this letter comes to you, behold, I have sent Naaman my servant to you, that you may cure him of his leprosy."

v. 7 And it came about when the king of Israel read the letter, that he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to kill and to make alive, that this man is sending word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? But consider now, and see how he is seeking a quarrel against me."

v. 8 And it happened when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, that he sent word to the king, saying, "Why have you torn your clothes? Now let him come to me, and he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel."

v. 9 So Naaman came with his horses and his chariots, and stood at the doorway of the house of Elisha.

v. 10 And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored to you and you shall be clean."

v. 11 But Naaman was furious and went away and said, "Behold, I thought, 'He will surely come out to me, and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, and wave his hand over the place, and cure the leper.'"

v. 12 Are not Abanah and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?" So he turned and went away in a rage.

v. 13 Then his servants came near and spoke to him and said, "My father, had the prophet told you to do some great thing, would you not have done it? How much more then, when he says to you, 'Wash, and be clean'?"

v. 14 So he went down and dipped himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.

v. 15 When he returned to the man of God with all his company, and came and stood before him, he said, "Behold now, I know that there is no God in all the earth, but in Israel; so please take a present from your servant now."

v. 16 But he said, "As the Lord lives, before whom I stand, I will take nothing." And he urged him to take it, but he refused.

v. 17 And Naaman said, "If not, please let your servant at least be given two mules' load of earth; for your servant will no more offer burnt offering nor will he sacrifice to other gods, but to the Lord."

NOTES

v. 18 In this matter may the Lord pardon your servant: when my master goes into the house of Rimmon to worship there, and he leans on my hand and I bow myself in the house of Rimmon, when I bow myself in the house of Rimmon the Lord pardon your servant in this matter.”

v. 19 And he said to him, “Go in peace.” So he departed from him some distance.

v. 20 But Gehazi, the servant of Elisha the man of God, thought, “Behold, my master has spared this Naaman the Syrian, by not receiving from his hands what he brought. As the Lord lives, I will run after him and take something from him.”

v. 21 So Gehazi pursued Naaman. When Naaman saw one running after him, he came down from the chariot to meet him and said, “Is all well?”

v. 22 And he said, “All is well. My master has sent me, saying, ‘Behold, just now two young men of the sons of the prophets have come to me from the hill country of Ephraim. Please give them a talent of silver and two changes of clothes.’”

v. 23 And Naaman said, “Be pleased to take two talents.” And he urged him, and bound two talents of silver in two bags with two changes of clothes, and gave them to two of his servants; and they carried them before him.

v. 24 When he came to the hill, he took them from their hand and deposited them in the house, and he sent the men away, and they departed.

v. 25 But he went in and stood before his master. And Elisha said to him, “Where have you been, Gehazi?” And he said, “Your servant went nowhere.”

v. 26 Then he said to him, “Did not my heart go with you, when the man turned from his chariot to meet you? Is it a time to receive money and to receive clothes and oliveyards and vineyards and sheep and oxen and male and female servants?

v. 27 Therefore, the leprosy of Naaman shall cleave to you and to your descendants forever.” So he went out from his presence a leper as white as snow.

QUESTIONS:

1. Read 2 Kings 5:1-27 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. What is the problem with Naaman, according to verse 1?

3. What is the response of the king of Israel to the letter from the king of Syria in verse 7?

4. What are Elisha's instructions to Naaman in verse 10, and how does Naaman respond in verse 11?

5. What is the servant's advice in verse 13?

6. What happens when he follows the instructions, according to verse 14?

7. What is Naaman's response to all of this in verse 15?

8. Describe the action of Gehazi in the remainder of the chapter.

9. Which verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: It is possible to be a great man, highly respected and a valiant warrior, and still to be a leper. All have sinned and come short of the glory of God.

LESSON #2: Sometimes those things which by themselves seem to be a tragedy, even as the taking captive of a little girl from Israel, eventually are used in a providential plan of God for the accomplishment of a good result in the life of a man like Naaman.

LESSON #3: Naaman is assuming that he can purchase the cure from the prophet.

LESSON #4: Naaman's pride is brought to the surface through the cure that is prescribed.

LESSON #5: Naaman has preconceived notions as to how God was going to work this miracle in his life.

LESSON #6: When Naaman was obedient, the God-promised results took place.

LESSON #7: His departure from idolatry is an indication of his new-found joy in the relationship to God.

LESSON #8: Progress in our spiritual relationship will take place as we are submissive and obedient to God. He will deal with us in the personal areas of our lives.

LESSON #9: Gehazi's sin is the sin of greed, wanting temporary and material gain.

LESSON #10: One lie leads to another. First to Naaman, and then to Elisha.

LESSON #11: All things are naked and open unto the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.

LESSON #12: Victory comes when the Lord gives it.

LESSON #13: We can get so concerned about convictions and conduct that we forget the deepening of a relationship is primary.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

STUDY NUMBER FIVE - 2 KINGS 6:1-23

NOTES

v. 1 Now the sons of the prophets said to Elisha, "Behold now, the place before you where we are living is too limited for us.

v. 2 Please let us go to the Jordan, and each of us take from there a beam, and let us make a place there for ourselves where we may live." So he said, "Go."

v. 3 Then one said, "Please be willing to go with your servants." And he answered, "I shall go."

v. 4 So he went with them; and when they came to the Jordan, they cut down trees.

NOTES

v. 5 But as one was felling a beam, the axe head fell into the water; and he cried out and said, "Alas, my master! For it was borrowed."

v. 6 Then the man of God said, "Where did it fall?" And when he showed him the place, he cut off a stick, and threw it in there, and made the iron float.

v. 7 And he said, "Take it up for yourself." So he put out his hand and took it.

v. 8 Now the king of Syria was warring against Israel; and he counseled with his servants saying, "In such and such a place shall be my camp."

v. 9 And the man of God sent word to the king of Israel saying, "Beware that you do not pass this place, for the Syrians are coming down there."

v. 10 And the king of Israel sent to the place about which the man of God had told him; thus he warned him, so that he guarded himself there, more than once or twice.

v. 11 Now the heart of the king of Syria was enraged over this thing; and he called his servants and said to them, "Will you tell me which of us is for the king of Israel?"

v. 12 And one of his servants said, "No, my lord, O king; but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the words that you speak in your bedroom."

v. 13 So he said, "Go and see where he is, that I may send and take him." And it was told him, saying, "Behold, he is in Dothan."

v. 14 And he sent horses and chariots and a great army there, and they came by night and surrounded the city.

v. 15 Now when the attendant of the man of God had risen early and gone out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was circling the city. And his servant said to him, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?"

v. 16 So he answered, "Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them."

v. 17 Then Elisha prayed and said, "O Lord, I pray, open his eyes that he may see." And the Lord opened the servant's eyes, and he saw; and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

v. 18 And when they came down to him, Elisha prayed to the Lord and said, "Strike this people with blindness, I pray." So He struck them with blindness according to the word of Elisha.

v. 19 Then Elisha said to them, "This is not the way, nor is this the city; follow me and I will bring you to the man whom you seek." And he brought them to Samaria.

v. 20 And it came about when they had come into Samaria, that Elisha said, "O Lord, open the eyes of these men, that they may see." So the Lord opened their eyes, and they saw; and behold, they were in the midst of Samaria.

v. 21 Then the king of Israel when he saw them, said to Elisha, "My father, shall I kill them? Shall I kill them?"

v. 22 And he answered, "You shall not kill them. Would you kill those you have taken captive with your sword and with your bow? Set bread and water before them, that they may eat and drink and go to their master."

v. 23 So he prepared a great feast for them; and when they had eaten and drunk he sent them away, and they went to their master. And the marauding bands of Syria did not come again into the land of Israel.

QUESTIONS:

1. Read 2 Kings 6:1-23 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. What is the problem in verse 1?

3. What is the recommendation of verse 2?

4. Describe the accident in verse 5 and the solution in verse 6.

5. How does Elisha help the king of Israel in protecting him from his enemies?

6. What is Elisha's prayer in verse 17?

7. Describe Elisha's part in the battle with the Syrians.

8. What is the king's reaction in verse 21?

9. Which verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: How gracious the Lord is to provide and to prosper our ministry when we are willing to trust Him. We see this in the need for expansion of Elisha's facilities for the seminary at Gilgal.

LESSON #2: There are going to be unforeseen accidents that happen in our lives as Christians. And it is at times like this we need to respond and trust Him instead of reacting. And know that things work together for good. (See Romans 8:28 & James 1:5)

LESSON #3: Is the axe head sunk in the mud and mire of the muddy Jordan a picture of your life? Would you not allow God Himself to cast into your presence the cross of Christ? And for you by faith to receive the gift of life, so that you might be restored to usefulness and the accomplishment of His purpose in your life. Continued resistance only delays blessing.

LESSON #4: The Syrians who were enemies of the people of God remind us that Satan is a roaring lion, roving about, seeking whom he may devour.

LESSON #5: "The angel of the Lord encampeth around them that fear him and delivereth them." (Psalm 34:7)

LESSON #6: How quick the Lord is ready to answer our prayers when we are walking in fellowship with Him and accomplishing His will.

LESSON #7: We need not fear when we see things from the divine perspective, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them. (See Isaiah 26:3 & Isaiah 59:17)

LESSON #8: Ministering to the needs of our enemies oftentimes neutralizes their opposition.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

STUDY NUMBER SIX - 2 KINGS 7:1-20**NOTES**

v. 1 Then Elisha said, "Listen to the word of the Lord; thus says the Lord, 'Tomorrow about this time a measure of fine flour shall be sold for a shekel, and two measures of barley for a shekel, in the gate of Samaria.'"

v. 2 And the royal officer on whose hand the king was leaning answered the man of God and said, "Behold, if the Lord should make windows in heaven, could this thing be?" Then he said, "Behold you shall see it with your own eyes, but you shall not eat of it."

v. 3 Now there were four leprous men at the entrance of the gate; and they said to one another, "Why do we sit here until we die?"

v. 4 If we say, 'We will enter the city,' then the famine is in the city and we shall die there; and if we sit here, we die also. Now therefore come, and let us go over to the camp of the Syrians. If they spare us, we shall live; and if they kill us, we shall but die."

v. 5 And they arose at twilight to go to the camp of the Syrians; when they came to the outskirts of the camp of the Syrians, behold, there was no one there.

v. 6 For the Lord had caused the army of the Syrians to hear a sound of chariots and a sound of horses, even the sound of a great army, so that they said to one another, "Behold, the king of Israel has hired against us the kings of the Hittites and the kings of the Egyptians, to come upon us."

v. 7 Therefore they arose and fled in the twilight, and left their tents and their horses and their donkeys, even the camp just as it was, and fled for their life.

v. 8 When these lepers came to the outskirts of the camp, they entered one tent and ate and drank, and carried from there silver and gold and clothes, and went and hid them; and they returned and entered another tent and carried from there also, and went and hid them.

v. 9 Then they said to one another, "We are not doing right. This day is a day of good news, but we are keeping silent; if we wait until morning light, punishment will overtake us. Now therefore come, let us go and tell the king's household."

v. 10 So they came and called to the gatekeepers of the city, and they told them, saying, "We came to the camp of the Syrians, and behold, there was no one there, nor the voice of man, only the horses tied and the donkeys tied, and the tents just as they were."

v. 11 And the gatekeepers called, and told it within the king's household.

v. 12 Then the king arose in the night and said to his servants, "I will now tell you what the Syrians have done to us. They know that we are hungry; therefore they have gone from the camp to hide themselves in the field, saying, 'When they come out of the city, we shall capture them alive and get into the city.'"

v. 13 And one of his servants answered and said, "Please, let some men take five of the horses which remain, which are left in the city. Behold, they will be in any case like all the multitude of Israel who are left in it; behold, they will be in any case like all the multitude of Israel who have already perished, so let us send and see."

NOTES

v. 14 They took therefore two chariots with horses, and the king sent after the army of the Syrians, saying, "Go and see."

v. 15 And they went after them to the Jordan, and behold, all the way was full of clothes and equipment, which the Syrians had thrown away in their haste. Then the messengers returned and told the king.

v. 16 So the people went out and plundered the camp of the Syrians. Then a measure of fine flour was sold for a shekel and two measures of barley for a shekel, according to the word of the Lord.

v. 17 Now the king appointed the royal officer on whose hand he leaned to have charge of the gate; but the people trampled on him at the gate, and he died just as the man of God had said, who spoke when the king came down to him.

v. 18 And it came about just as the man of God had spoken to the king, saying, "Two measures of barley for a shekel and a measure of fine flour for a shekel, shall be sold tomorrow about this time at the gate of Samaria."

v. 19 Then the royal officer answered the man of God and said, "Now behold, if the Lord should make windows in heaven, could such a thing be?" And he said, "Behold, you shall see it with your own eyes, but you shall not eat of it."

v. 20 And so it happened to him, for the people trampled on him at the gate, and he died.

QUESTIONS:

1. Read 2 Kings 7:1-20 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. What is Elisha's prophecy in verse 1?

3. What is the royal officer's response to this message from the man of God, according to verse 2?

4. Describe the reasoning of the four lepers in verses 3-5.

5. What caused the Syrians to leave their encampment?

6. What do the lepers decide to do in verse 9?

7. Describe the response of the king and the people to the message of the four lepers.

8. What happened to the royal officer in verse 17?

9. Which verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: I think we are impressed with the fact that what the Lord has promised He will faithfully perform. (See Ephesians 3:20).

LESSON #2: Many times the Lord stirs up circumstances around us to get us to respond to Him. He uses an economic crisis (famine) to get the attention of the children of Israel.

LESSON #3: Just as the Lord allowed a famine in the land of the Prodigal Son to bring him to his senses, so it is the design of the Father here, to bring Jehoram and the people of Israel back to Himself.

LESSON #4: It is a serious thing to scoff at the message of the Lord, for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

LESSON #5: What are you doing to help spread the message of good news?

LESSON #6: Jehoram's negative attitude is an indication of his lack of relationship with God.

LESSON #7: When you consider all the alternatives you come up with one answer. We are all going to die! It is just a question of when. Wouldn't it be best to prepare to meet God now?

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

STUDY NUMBER SEVEN - 2 KINGS 8:1-15

NOTES

v. 1 Now Elisha spoke to the woman whose son he had restored to life, saying, "Arise and go with your household, and sojourn wherever you can sojourn; for the Lord has called for a famine, and it shall even come on the land for seven years."

v. 2 So the woman arose and did according to the word of the man of God, and she went with her household and sojourned in the land of the Philistines seven years.

v. 3 And it came about at the end of seven years, that the woman returned from the land of the Philistines; and she went out to appeal to the king for her house and for her field.

v. 4 Now the king was talking with Gehazi, the servant of the man of God, saying, "Please relate to me all the great things that Elisha has done."

v. 5 And it came about, as he was relating to the king how he had restored to life the one who was dead, that behold, the woman whose son he had restored to life, appealed to the king for her house and for her field. And Gehazi said, "My lord, O king, this is the woman and this is her son, whom Elisha restored to life."

v. 6 When the king asked the woman, she related it to him. So the king appointed for her a certain officer, saying, "Restore all that was hers and all the produce of the field from the day that she left the land even until now."

v. 7 Then Elisha came to Damascus. Now Ben-hadad king of Syria was sick, and it was told him, saying, "The man of God has come here."

v. 8 And the king said to Hazael, "Take a gift in your hand and go to meet the man of God, and inquire of the Lord by him, saying, 'Will I recover from this sickness?'"

NOTES

v. 9 So Hazael went to meet him and took a gift in his hand, even every kind of good thing of Damascus, forty camels' loads; and he came and stood before him and said, "Your son Ben-hadad king of Syria has sent me to you, saying, 'Will I recover from this sickness?'"

v. 10 Then Elisha said to him, "Go say to him, 'You shall surely recover,' but the Lord has shown me that he will certainly die."

v. 11 And he fixed his gaze steadily on him until he was ashamed, and the man of God wept.

v. 12 And Hazael said, "Why does my lord weep?" Then he answered, "Because I know the evil that you will do to the sons of Israel: their strongholds you will set on fire, and their young men you will kill with the sword, and their little ones you will dash in pieces, and their women with child you will rip up."

v. 13 Then Hazael said, "But what is your servant, who is but a dog, that he should do this great thing?" And Elisha answered, "The Lord has shown me that you will be king over Syria."

v. 14 So he departed from Elisha and returned to his master, who said to him, "What did Elisha say to you?" And he answered, "He told me that you would surely recover."

v. 15 And it came about on the morrow, that he took the cover and dipped it in water and spread it on his face, so that he died. And Hazael became king in his place.

QUESTIONS:

1. Read 2 Kings 8:1-15 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. What does Elisha the prophet predict in verse 1?

3. What is the king's request in verse 4?

4. What does the king do in verse 6?

5. What problem does Elisha run into in Damascus, according to verse 7?

6. What is Elisha's response to the question about the king's sickness, according to verse 10?

7. Why does Elisha weep, according to verse 12?

8. What does Hazael do in verses 14 & 15?

9. Which verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: How gracious of the Lord to provide through Elisha blessing upon the household of the Shunammite woman during the time of famine.

LESSON #2: We see God's providential dealings with the king and Gehazi to meet the Shunammite woman's needs upon return to the land after the famine. (See Philippians 4:19).

LESSON #3: How exceeding abundantly does the Lord provide for His own. For the king also said that the produce of the field from the day that she had left the land even until now shall be hers.

LESSON #4: How fickle is the heart of man when Ben-hadad in one moment is seeking to kill Elisha, and on another occasion is seeking a favor from him.

LESSON #5: All of the events of our lives are certainly known to the Lord. (See Hebrews 4:13).

LESSON #6: Elisha manifests his love and compassion for the wayward nation of Israel through his tears.

LESSON #7: How literally does the Lord fulfill the prophecy in the death of Ben-hadad, and the assuming of the throne by Hazael who became king of Syria.

LESSON #8: The Shunamite woman's escaping judgment is a picture of the rapture of the church.

LESSON #9: Stress increases as we resist what God is doing in our lives.

LESSON #10: Supreme selfishness of the human heart in Hazael to stoop to murder for desired objectives.

Lesson #11: Contrast Hazael and Shunammite woman on God's timing and provision.

LESSON #12: There are tears in the eyes of the Lord now. There will be tears in our eyes later.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

STUDY NUMBER EIGHT - 2 KINGS 13:14-21

NOTES

v. 14 When Elisha became sick with the illness of which he was to die, Joash the king of Israel came down to him and wept over him and said, "My father, my father, the chariots of Israel and its horsemen!"

v. 15 And Elisha said to him, "Take a bow and arrows." So he took a bow and arrows.

v. 16 Then he said to the king of Israel, "Put your hand on the bow." And he put his hand on it, then Elisha laid his hands on the king's hands.

v. 17 And he said, "Open the window toward the east," and he opened it. Then Elisha said, "Shoot!" And he shot. And he said, "The Lord's arrow of victory, even the arrow of victory over Syria; for you shall defeat the Syrians at Aphek until you have destroyed them."

v. 18 Then he said, "Take the arrows," and he took them. And he said to the king of Israel, "Strike the ground," and he struck it three times and stopped.

NOTES

v. 19 So the man of God was angry with him and said, "You should have struck five or six times, then you would have struck Syria until you would have destroyed it. But now you shall strike Syria only three times."

v. 20 And Elisha died, and they buried him. Now the bands of the Moabites would invade the land in the spring of the year.

v. 21 And as they were burying a man, behold, they saw a marauding band; and they cast the man into the grave of Elisha. And when the man touched the bones of Elisha he revived and stood up on his feet.

QUESTIONS:

1. Read 2 Kings 13:14-21 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. How does the king respond to Elisha's sickness, according to verse 14?

3. What does Elisha ask the king to do, according to verses 15-17?

4. What does Elisha predict as a result of the shooting of the arrows?

5. What does he ask the king to do in verse 18?

6. What is Elisha's response, according to verse 19?

7. What does he predict for the king in verse 19?

8. Describe the action of verses 20 & 21.

9. Which verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: Our times are in His hands. So let us number our days and apply our hearts to wisdom.

LESSON #2: God is still using His prophet to convey a message to the king of Israel while he is on his deathbed.

LESSON #3: "According to your faith be it unto you"
(Matthew 9:29).

LESSON #4: Elisha is upset with the king for his lack of confidence and persistence in God's ability to give him the victory. (See Matthew 9:29).

LESSON #5: The time and place of our departure to be with the Lord is in His hands.

LESSON #6: The seal of approval upon Elisha's ministry is seen in the resurrection of the Moabite man. Even as the seal of approval upon the ministry of Jesus Christ is seen in His own resurrection from the dead.

LESSON #7: He uses your suffering as an opportunity for service rather than self-pity.

LESSON #8: Pursue His place until He tells you to stop.
(See 1 Corinthians 15:58).

LESSON #9: The last half of life is the most important. Finish strong! (See Philippians 3:12-14).

ADDITIONAL NOTES:
