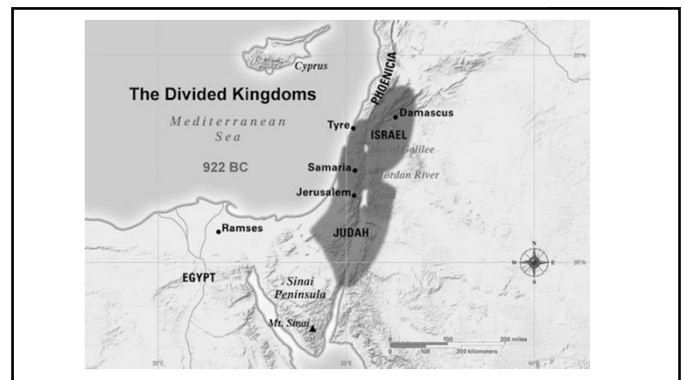




³ Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with *their* mocking, following after their own lusts, ⁴ and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming?..."

⁷ But by His word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men. ⁸ But do not let this one *fact* escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day. ⁹ The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

(2 Peter 3:3-9)



¹⁵ The LORD said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus, and when you have arrived, you shall anoint Hazael king over Aram; ¹⁶ and Jehu the son of Nimshi you shall anoint king over Israel; and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah you shall anoint as prophet in your place. ¹⁷ It shall come about, the one who escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall put to death, and the one who escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall put to death. ¹⁸ Yet I will leave 7,000 in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal and every mouth that has not kissed him."

(1 Kings 19:15-18)

Elisha the Judge (?)

- Heals the waters of Jericho
- Provides water for Israel's army in Moab
- Provides life for the faithful remnant (four examples)
- Heals Naaman, the Aramean captain, of leprosy
- Captures and provides for the Aramean army
- Promises rescue of Samaria from famine

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 will even come on the land for seven years." 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. ³ At the end of seven years, 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. 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."

⁵ As he was relating to the king how he had restored to life the one who was dead, 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." 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."

(2 Kings 8:1-6)

Elisha the Judge (?)

1. Provision of Life

- in the midst of judgment, Elisha is Yahweh's agent of life to those who rely on His word
- even the king dispenses justice under the influence of Elisha's reputation

⁷ Then Elisha came to Damascus. Now Ben-hadad king of Aram was sick, and it was told him, saying, "The man of God has come here." ⁸ 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?'" 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 Aram has sent me to you, saying, 'Will I recover from this sickness?'" ¹⁰ Then Elisha said to him, "Go, say to him, 'You will surely recover,' but the LORD has shown me that he will certainly die." ¹¹ He fixed his gaze steadily *on him* until he was ashamed, and the man of God wept.

¹² 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." 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 Aram."

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." ¹⁵ On the following day, 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.

Elisha the Judge (?)

2. Preparations for Judgment

- Hazael is "appointed" as God's instrument of judgment in fulfillment of His word to Elijah
- though God's judgment is necessary and just, it causes Elisha grief

Elisha the Judge (?)

2. Preparations for Judgment

- 2 Kings 8:16-29
 - brief focus on Judah (Kings Jehoram and Ahaziah)
 - intermingle with house of Ahab; walk in the ways of the kings of Israel

Elisha the Judge (?)

2. Preparations for Judgment

- Judah has become infected with sins of Israel – almost indistinguishable
- as part of the “house of Ahab,” Judah will experience this coming judgment

Elisha the Judge (?)

➤ Application:

- God's word of judgment is certain; any seeming “delay” is for saving purposes
- God's word of promise to David is certain – it will come to pass

Elisha the Judge (?)

➤ Jesus, the Savior-Judge

- He comes to seek and save the lost and to execute God's final judgment