

- Recap of last week: Ahazaia wants to know if he will recover from an injury so he sends for Elijah who ends up having the first and second group of 51 men killed with fire from heaven so Ahazaia sends another 51 and Elijah goes with them and tells Ahazaia he will not recover. (2 Kings 1:1-16) He has no son and so is succeeded by his half-brother Joram (2 King 3: 1-3) Elijah is taken into heaven and is succeeded by Elisha. (2 Kings 2:1-17) Elisha invokes God and does a couple of miracles right away, then prophesies that armies of Israel will get water during a drought and be victorious. (2 King 3: 4-26) In the South the beloved king Jehoshaphat is succeeded by his son Jehoram who rules eighty years and is such a bad King that when he dies a painful death no one is even sad to see him go. (2 Chronicles 21)
- A widow of a prophet has two sons and tells Elisha that since her husband died the creditors want to come and take her sons into slavery to settle the debt. Elisha tells her to gather lots of empty jars from her neighbors and use the oil she has to fill them. They are more than filled and she is able to sell the oil and save her sons. (2 Kings 4:1-7)
- This reminds us of the time God kept the widow's oil from running out when Elijah was staying with her during a time of drought. (1 Kings 17)
- The never-ending jar of oil happening to two widows who had no hope is highly symbolic for us of the free gift of eternal life. God proves that he was capable of that even way back then. Remember that sometimes God uses the things we in the world think of as weak. (1 Corinthians 1:27)
- There was a woman and her husband who used to feed Elisha when he came through their town called Shunem. Finally, they make a bed for him to stay with them, too. Elisha asks if they want anything in return and she says no but Elisha's servant suggests they should have a son and even though they are too old to have children, they have a son anyway. (2 Kings 4:8-17)
- This reminds us of the time that God tells Abraham that Sarah will have a child and she does not believe him because she is so old. (Genesis 17)
- The child dies from some kind of head malady (maybe a tumor or aneurism or something). Elisha instructs the distraught widow to take his staff and place it on the child's head. When Elisha gets there he prays and raises the child. (2 Kings 4:18-37)
- Elisha performs another miracle at Gilgal by telling everyone to eat food from a pot even though they think it is poisoned. (2 Kings 4:38-44)
- There a very high ranking military official in Syria named Namaan. He contracted a disease called leprosy. He went to see Elisha and Elisha told him to wash himself seven times in the Jordan River. (2 Kings 5:1-10)
- Namaan is not happy with this because he expected to be cured on the spot and thinks there are much better rivers in Syria. But his servants convince him to do it, and it works. (2 Kings 5:11-14)
- Namaan is so happy he goes back to Elisha and tries to reward him, but Elisha won't take it. Elisha's servant Gehazi goes after Namaan and tells him he needs gifts to give to some other visitors. When Gehazi gets back, Elisha tells him that Namaan will get leprosy instead as a punishment. (2 Kings 5:20-27)
- Elisha performs a miracle by making an ax head float in the Jordan River. (2 Kings 6:1-7)
- Ben-Hadad King of Syria goes to war against Israel. Elisha keeps telling the Israelites where the Syrian camp is so that they can avoid it. The Syrians know this and try to capture Elijah. God sends chariots of fire to protect him and strikes those that are sent after him with blindness.

Elijah tells him he will lead them where they want to go. He leads them to Samaria where the Israelite army is and tells them not to kill them but to feed them and send them away. (2 Kings 6:8-22)

- The Syrians lay siege to the Israelites at the city of Samaria and things get so bad there is incredible inflation and the poor are even eating their own children. The King goes to kill Elisha but Elisha tells him that tomorrow food will be really cheap again but the King won't eat any of it. The Syrians hear the sound of large army approaching that night so they run off and leave all their things behind. The Israelites find out about this, loot the Syrian camp and sure enough food is cheap again but the King doesn't get to eat any of it because he is trampled in the mad rush. (2 Kings 6:23 – 2 Kings 7)
- Elisha tells the Shunamite woman whose son he had raised from the dead to flee for seven years because there will be a famine. At the end of the seven years, she comes back and gets her land back. (2 Kings 8:1-6)
- Ben-Hadad King of Syria takes ill and sends for Elisha to see if he will recover. He also sends a guy named Hazael to give gifts to Elisha. Elisha tells Hazael to lie to Ben-Hadad and tell him he will recover when in fact Elisha knows he will die. Elisha starts weeping and tells Hazael it is because he knows that Hazael will become King and persecute Israel. Hazael goes back and kills Ben-Hadad. (2 Kings 8:7-14)

Questions

1. What do the creditors want to do with the widow's sons?
2. What miracle does Elisha perform for the widow?
3. How does the widow ultimately save her sons?
4. What miracle does never ending oil remind us of?
5. What does Elisha tell the Shunamite woman?
6. What does the Shunamite woman having a child remind us of?
7. What happens to the Shunamite woman's son?
8. What does Elisha do to the Shunamite woman's son?
9. What miracle does Elisha perform at Gilgal?
10. Who was Namaan?
11. What disease does Namaan have?
12. What does Elisha tell Namaan to do?
13. Is Namaan happy with what Elisha tells him to do?
14. Who convinces Namaan to do what Elisha tells him to do?
15. Who is Gehazi?
16. What is Gehazi's punishment for taking gifts from Namaan?
17. What does Elisha make float?
18. Why do the Syrians try to capture Elisha?
19. How does God protect Elisha from the Syrians when they try to capture him?
20. What city do the Syrians lay siege to?

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21. How bad do things get during the siege?
22. How does the siege resolve itself?
23. Why does Elisha go see Ben-Hadad and what happens when he does?