2 Kings 8

The Timely Sovereignty of God

Jay Hohfeler

	DEEDS/MIRACLES OF ELISHA	SCRIPTURE
CALLING & SUCCESSION		
1	Called by Elijah to become his successor.	1 Kings 19:19–21
2	Requested a double portion of Elijah's spirit.	2 Kings 2:9–10
3	Witnessed Elijah being taken up in a whirlwind.	2 Kings 2:11–12
4	Parted the Jordan River with Elijah's mantle.	2 Kings 2:13–14
5	Recognized by the company of prophets as Elijah's successor.	2 Kings 2:15
HEALING AND PURIFICATION		
6	Healed the polluted waters of Jericho with salt.	2 Kings 2:19–22
7	Healed Naaman of leprosy by having him wash seven times in the Jordan.	2 Kings 5:1–14
8	Pronounced judgment on Gehazi for his deception; Gehazi was struck with leprosy.	2 Kings 5:20–27
PROVISION AND PRACTICAL MIRACLES		
9	Multiplied a widow's oil so she could pay her debts.	2 Kings 4:1–7
10	Raised the Shunammite woman's son from the dead.	2 Kings 4:18–37
11	Purified a poisonous stew with flour.	2 Kings 4:38–41
12	Fed 100 men with twenty barley loaves, with food left over.	2 Kings 4:42–44
13	Made an iron axe head float in the Jordan River.	2 Kings 6:1–7
PROPHETIC INSIGHT AND MILITARY DELIVERANCE		
14	Revealed the secret military plans of the king of Aram (Syria) to Israel's king.	2 Kings 6:8–12
15	Prayed that his servant's eyes would be opened to see the heavenly army of horses and chariots of fire.	2 Kings 6:13–17
16	Struck the Syrian army with blindness and led them to Samaria.	2 Kings 6:18–20
17	Restored the Syrians' sight and instructed Israel's king to feed them rather than kill them.	2 Kings 6:20–23
18	Prophecies concerning Israel and other nations	2 Kings 7:1–2
19	Prophesied the death of the king's officer who doubted God's promise.	2 Kings 7:2, 16–20
20	Promised the Shunammite woman a son.	2 Kings 4:8–17
21	Warned the Shunammite woman of a seven-year famine.	2 Kings 8:1–2

The Shunammite's Land Restored

8 Now Elisha had said to the woman whose son he had restored to life, "Arise, and depart with your household, and sojourn wherever you can, for the LORD has called for a famine, and it will come upon the land for seven years." [2] So the woman arose and did according to the word of the man of God. She went with her household and sojourned in the land of the Philistines seven years. [3] And at the end of the seven years, when the woman returned from the land of the Philistines, she went to appeal to the king for her house and her land. [4] Now the king was talking with Gehazi the servant of the man of God, saying, "Tell me all

the great things that Elisha has done." [5] And while he was telling the king how Elisha had restored the dead to life, behold, the woman whose son he had restored to life appealed to the king for her house and her land. And Gehazi said, "My lord, O king, here is the woman, and here is her son whom Elisha restored to life." [6] And when the king asked the woman, she told him. So the king appointed an official for her, saying, "Restore all that was hers, together with all the produce of the fields from the day that she left the land until now."

Why does God want us to know this story about:

- A woman who emigrated back to her homeland ?
- A conversation between a servant and the king?

What reminders do we get about God's character?

Chapter 8 has two big stories in it:

1. The Shunammite woman
2. Hazael –a Syrian servant…who will later become king of Syria by usurping the throne

King of Syria was a man with the title: Ben hadad
hadad: pagan god of storm & thunder
Ben-hadad: Title for King of Syria; means son of the god of storm & thunder

Hazael Murders Ben-hadad

[7] Now Elisha came to Damascus. Ben-hadad the king of Syria was sick. And when it was told him, "The man of God has come here," [8] the king said to Hazael, "Take a present with you and go to meet the man of God, and inquire of the LORD through him, saying, 'Shall I recover from this sickness?'" [9] So Hazael went to meet him, and took a present with him, all kinds of goods of Damascus, forty camels' loads. When he came and stood before him, he said, "Your son Ben-hadad king of Syria has sent me to you, saying, 'Shall I recover from this sickness?'" [10] And Elisha said to him, "Go, say to him, 'You shall certainly recover,' but the LORD has shown me that he shall certainly die." [11] And he fixed his gaze and stared at him, until he was embarrassed. And the man of God wept. [12] And Hazael said, "Why does my lord weep?" He answered, "Because I know the evil that you will do to the people of Israel. You will set on fire their fortresses, and you will kill their young men with the sword and dash in pieces their little ones and rip open their pregnant women." [13] And Hazael said, "What is your servant, who is but a dog, that he should do this great thing?" Elisha answered, "The LORD has shown me that you are to be king over Syria." [14] Then he departed from Elisha and came to his master, who said to him, "What did Elisha say to you?" And he answered, "He told me that you would certainly recover." [15] But the next day he took the bed cloth and dipped it in water and spread it over his face, till he died. And Hazael became king in his place.

Hazael's anointing was for judgment on Israel. Elisha anointed a foreign king to judge Israel in the coming years. Hazael would be God's instrument of **JUDGMENT.**

This is why Elisha came to Syria. To do this.
And, this is why Elisha wept.

This is similar to:

Luke 19

Jesus Weeps over Jerusalem

41 And when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it, 42 saying, "Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. 43 For the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up a barricade around you and surround you and hem you in on every side 44 and tear you down to the ground, you and your children within you. And they will not leave one stone upon another in you, because you did not know the time of your visitation."

Ezekiel 33

11 Say to them, As I live, declares the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

Philippians 3

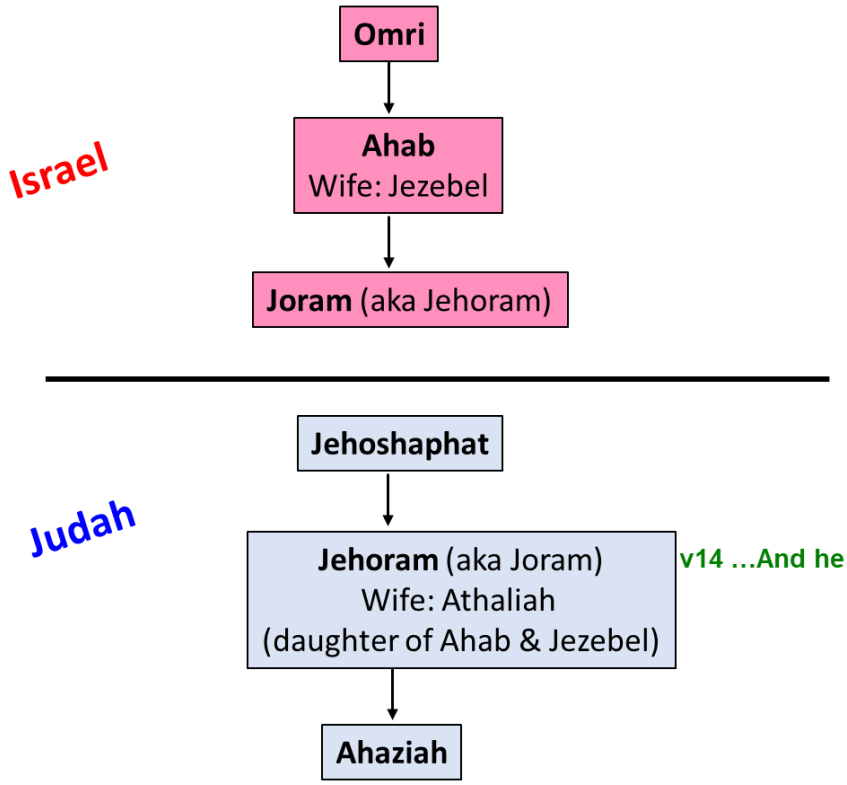
18 For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ.

God Is:		**God Must:**
➢ Just & Righteous	**BUT**	➢ Judge apostate people
➢ Slow to Anger		➢ Necessarily judge in divine sadness
➢ Full of Mercy		➢ Mingle tears with fire & brimstone *

* Dale Ralph Davis

There is no fiendish delight in God's judgment.

We are reminded, again, what God is like:



v14 …And he did what was evil in the sight of the LORD.

Jehoram Reigns in Judah

16 In the fifth year of Joram the son of Ahab, king of Israel, when Jehoshaphat was king of Judah, Jehoram the son of Jehoshaphat, king of Judah, began to reign. 17 He was thirty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned eight years in Jerusalem. 18 And he walked in the way of the kings of Israel, as the house of Ahab had done, for the daughter of Ahab was his wife. And he did what was evil in the sight of the LORD. 19 Yet the LORD was not willing to destroy Judah, for the sake of David his servant, since he promised to give a lamp to him and to his sons forever.

20 In his days Edom revolted from the rule of Judah and set up a king of their own. 21 Then Joram passed over to Zair with all his chariots and rose by night, and he and his chariot commanders struck the Edomites who had surrounded him, but his army fled home. 22 So Edom revolted from the rule of Judah to this day. Then Libnah revolted at the same time. 23 Now the rest of the acts of Joram, and all that he did, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah? 24 So Joram slept with his fathers and was buried with his fathers in the city of David, and Ahaziah his son reigned in his place.