

Character Study: Elisha

Part 2 – A Prophet of Miracles

II Kings 2:14 - 6:23

What's happening?

- God's hand on Elisha was immediately realized after Elijah ascended to heaven. Elisha, needing to cross to the other side of the Jordan River, struck the water with Elijah's cloak and the waters divided. Seeing him pass through on dry land, other prophets recognized that Elijah's spirit was upon Elisha. (2:14-15)
- Elisha's ministry centered around many miracles that God performed through him. Some of these miracles included:
 - Sweetening the waters of Jericho (2:19-22)
 - Filling vessels with oil for a widow (4:1-7)
 - Raising a boy from the dead (4:18-21, 32-37)
 - Removing poison from a pot of stew (4:38-41)
 - Feeding 100 men with only a little food (4:42-44)
 - Healing a man of leprosy (5:1-19)
 - Making an axe head float on water (6:1-7)
 - Praying and having his servant's eyes opened (6:13-17)
 - Blinding the Syrian army (6:18-23)

What's God doing?

> During a very dark time in Israel's history, when Baal worship was common, God was using all of these miracles as a way to show the Israelites that Elisha was truly His prophet and therefore needed to be taken seriously.

What's to learn?

→ These miracles were intended to get the attention of the Israelites. What does it take for God to get your attention? Today, when God speaks to you through His Word, do you truly hear what He is saying to you? Do you take Him seriously and listen to Him?

→ By looking at the list of miracles, we see that many of them reveal God's compassion toward His people and His desire to meet their needs. We can trust that God will meet our needs, and He often does so in ways that leave no doubt that the provisions came from Him.

→ Realizing that God's power is limitless, even over laws of nature, we can confidently place our cares and burdens on Him (1 Pet. 5:7)!