

Character Study: Elisha
Part 3 – Influence beyond Life
II Kings 13:14-21

What's happening?

- Elisha became sick and neared death. Joash, the king of Israel at that time, visited him. Elisha had Joash shoot an arrow out of a window, and told him that the arrow symbolized the victory he would have over the Syrians, who were giving the Israelites trouble. (13:14-17)
- Elisha next told Joash to take arrows and strike the ground. Joash stuck the ground with three arrows and then stopped. Elisha was upset, telling Joash he should have struck the ground five or six times. Elisha said it symbolized that Joash would have three victories over the Syrians in battle, though five or six victories could have destroyed the Syrians completely. (13:18-19)
- Shortly later, Elisha died and was buried in a tomb. His ministry had lasted approximately 56 years. (13:20)
- Later, another man died and was put in Elisha's tomb. When the man was laid down, his body touched the bones of Elisha and he immediately came back to life. (13:21)

What's God doing?

> God had Elisha prophesy all the way up until his death. Although, even after his death, God was not done with Elisha. He used Elisha's bones to bring a man back to life.

What's to learn?

→ Elisha had asked for a double portion of Elijah's spirit to be upon him. By the time of his death, it was clear that he had twice the power Elijah had. He had performed twice as many miracles as did Elijah. Are we as anxious to serve God and be used by Him? God is always ready to work through people who want to be used by Him!

→ Elisha had a long career serving God, but his usefulness to God did not end there. God even worked through Elisha after his death. When we die, God may not choose to use our bones to raise someone from the dead, but it does not mean that He will not desire to use us at all. Your life has the potential to make a lasting impact on others. If your life is one that magnifies Christ and influences others, then you will have a legacy that will have an impact well after you are gone!