

Day 176 – 1 Kings 22:41-53; 2 Kings 1; 2 Chron. 19:1-21:3 • After the death of Ahab, his son Ahaziah became king of Israel (the Northern kingdom) for two years. Ahaziah fell through the lattice in his upper chamber and became ill. Then he sent messengers to inquire of Baal-zebub (a heathen god and/or a demon) as to whether he would recover.

The angel of the LORD sent Elijah to intercept the messengers. Elijah told them that the king would surely die. When the king heard what the prophet Elijah had said, he sent for him. Three times the king persisted in sending a captain and fifty men to Elijah. Two times the fire of God came down from heaven and consumed the captain and his fifty men. The third captain begged for mercy before Elijah, and it was granted. Elijah then went down with the third captain to king Ahaziah.

Because the king had sent messengers to inquire of Baal-zebub, as if there was no God in Israel, the king would not come down from his bed and would surely die. Ahaziah died according to the word of the LORD which Elijah had spoken.

King Jehoshaphat, the son of Asa, reigned in Judah for twenty-five years, doing right in the sight of the LORD. In 2 Chronicles 20, the Moabites, Ammonites, and Meunites came to make war against Jehoshaphat. Jehoshaphat was afraid and turned his attention to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah.

Fill in the Blanks (2 Chron. 20:13-18)

The Spirit of the LORD came upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, and he said, "Listen, all _____ and the inhabitants of _____ and King Jehoshaphat: thus says the LORD to you, 'Do not _____ or be dismayed because of this great multitude, for the _____ is not yours but God's. You will _____ need to fight in this battle; station yourselves, stand and see the _____ of the LORD on your behalf, O Judah and Jerusalem.' ..."

Either angelic creatures or inhabitants of the area ambushed the invaders, resulting in their destroying each other. ¹

Day 177 – 2 Kings 2-4 • 2 Kings traces the decline and captivity of both Israel and Judah. Israel endured a succession of evil kings reigning during a 130-year period until the Assyrian captivity. Briefly told is the history of Judah, culminating in the Babylonian captivity. The book also records the miracle-filled ministry of Elisha. ¹

Elijah struck the waters with his mantle and divided the Jordan River. Then he and Elisha crossed over on dry ground.

Elisha asked Elijah for a double portion of his spirit - a plea that he might be the recognized heir of Elijah in the prophetic office. ¹ As they were going along and talking, Elisha saw Elijah taken to heaven in a chariot of fire and horses.

After the translation of Elijah, Elisha took up the mantle of Elijah, struck the waters and parted the Jordan River.

Elisha threw salt into the spring of water near Jericho in order to purify it.

Jehoram the son of Ahab became king over Israel in the 18th year of Jehoshaphat. He did evil in the sight of the Lord, though not like his father and mother. Mesha the king of Moab refused to pay tribute to Israel when Ahab died.

The king of Israel went with the king of Judah and the King of Edom - together they intended to attack the Moabites. After a seven day journey where there was no water, the army was weary and afraid of the Moabites.

The hand of the LORD came upon Elisha, and he told the kings to make the valley full of trenches. Water from the mountains flowed into the ditches to supply water for the soldiers.

As the morning sun shone on the water, the Moabites saw the water opposite them as red as blood, and were deceived into thinking that the kings and their armies had slain one another. The Moabites rushed to the spoil only to be struck by the Israelites.

A Shunammite woman and her husband made a little walled upper chamber for Elisha. Elisha told the Shunammite woman, "At this season next year you shall embrace a son."

Fill in the Blanks

In response to the young men who mocked Elisha, saying "Go up, thou baldhead!" he sent _____ to punish the irreverent youths. (2 Kings 2:23-25)

Hoping for a turn in his fortunes, the king of Moab offered his son as a _____ offering to Chemosh, the god of Moab. The Israelites were so frightened that they retreated. (2 Kings 3:26-27)

A creditor came to take two sons of a widow as slaves. Elisha multiplied the widow's _____ for her to sell to pay her debt. (2 Kings 4:1-7)

When Elisha came into the Shunammite woman's house, the child was dead and laid upon his bed. Elisha shut the door behind them both and prayed to the Lord. The lad sneezed seven times and _____ his eyes. (2 Kings 4:32-35)

The Miracles of Elisha	
Parts the Jordan River	2 Kings 2:13-14
Makes Jericho spring drinkable	2 Kings 2:19-22
Sends bear to punish irreverent youths	2 Kings 2:23-25
Floods ditches to confuse Moabites	2 Kings 3:1-27
Multiplies widow's oil	2 Kings 4:1-7
Shunammite woman bears a son	2 Kings 4:8-17
Resurrects Shunammite's son	2 Kings 4:18-37
Purifies poisoned stew	2 Kings 4:38-44
Heals Naaman's leprosy	2 Kings 5:1-14
Gehazi struck with leprosy	2 Kings 5:15-27
Floats lost axhead	2 Kings 6:1-7
Gives special sight to the king's messenger	2 Kings 6:16-17
Blinds the Aramean army	2 Kings 6:8-23
His bones resurrect a dead man	2 Kings 13:20-21

Day 178 – 2 Kings 5-7 • Here are recorded some more of the miracles of Elisha.

Naaman was the highly respected captain of the army of the king of Aram, but he was a leper.

A Hebrew girl who waited on Naaman's wife told her that the prophet who is in Samaria (Elisha) could cure him of his leprosy.

Naaman went to Elisha's house and was told to wash in the Jordan seven times to be cured of his leprosy.

So he went down and dipped himself seven times in the Jordan, and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child and he was clean.

On another occasion, the king of Syria's (Aram) raids were being thwarted by Elisha's advice to the king of Israel. The king of Syria tried to capture Elisha, circling Dothan with horses and chariots. Elisha said, "Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them."

Elisha prayed and the LORD gave special sight to the king's messenger, permitting him to see a host of angels waiting to do God's bidding. (2 Kings 6:17)

The Aramean soldiers were struck with blindness and led back to Samaria where their sight was restored. The purpose was to cause their king to acknowledge the mighty power of God. (2 Kings 6:18-23)

Fill in the Blanks

Elisha struck Gehazi, his servant, with _____ for accepting a talent of silver plus some clothes as payment for Naaman's healing. (2 Kings 5:21-27)

Elisha threw a stick into the water to make a borrowed _____ float. (2 Kings 6:6)

Ben-Hadad king of Syria (Aram) gathered up his army and besieged Samaria. There was a great famine in Samaria. One lady _____ her son. (2 Kings 6:24-30)

Day 179 – 2 Kings 8-9; 2 Chron. 21:4-22:9 • Damascus was the capital city in the kingdom of Aram during the time of the divided kingdom (Israel and Judah). Aram was located Northeast of Israel.

Why did Elisha weep in Damascus, during the final days of the reign of Ben-hadad king of Aram (2 Kings 8:7-15)?

In the Southern kingdom of Judah, Joram (Jehoram) became king after Jehoshaphat died. Jehoram killed all his brothers with the sword, and some of the rulers of Israel also. Elijah sent a letter to him, foretelling his doom. The LORD smote Jehoram with an incurable sickness, and he died, having reigned for eight years. The youngest son, Jehoahaz (Ahaziah), became king after Jehoram died, and reigned for one year before he was put to death by the king of Israel, Jehu.

Meanwhile in the Northern kingdom, Elisha anointed Jehu king of Israel. Jehu would reign for twenty-eight years. Jehu was the son of Jehoshaphat, but not the same Jehoshaphat who was king of Judah.

At this time there were different kings having the same name in both the Northern (Israel) and Southern (Judah) kingdoms.

Jehoram (Joram) became king of Israel four years prior to the time that Joram (Jehoram) became king of Judah.

Jehoram king of Israel and Ahaziah king of Judah went out to meet Jehu. Jehu shot Jehoram with his bow. Next, Jehu pursued and shot Ahaziah.

Finally, Jehu went to the city of Jezreel where he encountered Jezebel.

With bitter sarcasm Jezebel called Jehu Zimri (*italics*), who, about 45 years before, wiped out the house of Baasha and who himself was killed a week later.¹ Jehu instructed the officials to throw Jezebel down, and he trampled her under foot (with the horses).

Day 180 – 2 Kings 10-11; 2 Chron. 22:10-23:21 •

To secure his dynasty Jehu challenged the nobles and foster fathers of Ahab's 70 sons to put one on the throne. They wisely refused and accepted Jehu's terms of surrender, which involved sending him the heads of Ahab's sons.¹

So Jehu killed all who remained in the house of Ahab.

What group of people did Jehu destroy in 2 Kings 10:18-36?

In the Southern kingdom, when Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah (the now deceased king) saw that her son was dead, she rose and destroyed all the royal offspring of the house of Judah. But, the king's daughter Jehoshabeath hid baby Joash for six years, while Athaliah reigned over the land of Judah.

When Joash was seven years old, Jehoiada the priest strengthened himself and formed an army to protect the boy king. Joash was made king, and his grandmother Athaliah was put to death.

Day 181 – Joel •

The prophet Joel, whose name means "Yahweh is God", apparently wrote during the days of young King Jehoash (835-796), who was under the regency of priests when he ascended the throne of Judah.¹

The Day of the Lord, the major theme of this prophecy, involves God's special intervention in the affairs of human history.

Some of Joel's prophecies involve the time of the Great Tribulation, the second coming of Christ, and the Millennium.

What cosmic disturbances will occur at the end of the world (after the Tribulation), per Joel 2:30-31 (see also Isaiah 34:4, Matthew 24:29, Rev. 6:12-13)?

Name _____

Day 182 – 2 Kings 12-13; 2 Chron. 24 •

Two different kings, both having the name Jehoash (Joash), reigned in Judah and Israel around the same time.

The Jehoash of 2 Kings 12 became king of Judah (Southern kingdom) when he was seven years old and reigned forty years.

The Jehoash of 2 Kings 13 became king of Israel (Northern kingdom) and reigned sixteen years.

The death of Elisha is recorded in 2 Kings 13. The last miracle of Elisha actually occurred after his death, when the body of another dead man touched the bones of Elisha and was brought back to life.

King Jehoash of the Southern kingdom of Judah was considered to be a good king all the days of Jehoiada the priest.

Describe one significant good and one notorious bad deed that Southern King Jehoash did.

Significant Good Deed (2 Chron. 24:8-13)

Notorious Bad Deed (2 Chron. 24:17-22)

Day 183 – 2 Kings 14; 2 Chron. 25; Jonah •

When he was twenty-five years old, Amaziah became king of Judah after his father was killed. Initially, Amaziah did right in the sight of the LORD. But later, he bowed down to the gods of the sons of Seir (Edom) and forsook the LORD.

Amaziah challenged Jehoash (king of Israel) to battle and Judah was defeated by Israel. Jehoash took all the gold and silver and utensils which were found in the house of God and returned to Samaria.

When he was sixteen years old, Jeroboam (sometimes referred to as Jeroboam II) became king of Israel and reigned forty-one years. He did evil in the sight of the LORD.

Some regard the book of Jonah as an allegory. But, Jonah was not only a real person but an accredited prophet from Gath-hepher near Nazareth.

Further, Jesus Christ treated Jonah's experience in the belly of a fish as factual (Matt. 12:39-41). The book reads as a straight-forward historical account. Jonah is connected with the reign of Jeroboam II of Israel (793-753 B.C.) in 2 Kings 14.

Fill in the table

Miracles recorded in the book of Jonah	
	Jonah 1:15
	Jonah 1:17
	Jonah 2:10
	Jonah 4:6
	Jonah 4:7
	Jonah 4:8
The salvation of many Ninevites.	Jonah

Day 184 - Hosea 1-7 •

Hosea and Amos prophesied to the Northern Kingdom (Israel; sometimes called Ephraim, after the largest tribe) while Isaiah and Micah were ministering to the Southern Kingdom (Judah). Material prosperity and spiritual bankruptcy characterized the time under Jeroboam II, when Hosea began his ministry. ¹

The theme of the book is God's steadfast love for Israel in spite of her continued unfaithfulness.

Hosea married Gomer only to discover that she was unfaithful. Hosea's wife either became a harlot after their marriage or he married a known prostitute. In either case the marriage was providentially ordained in order to illustrate vividly the infidelity of the people of Israel. ¹

Hosea chapter 4 contains the indictment of the LORD against Israel. Briefly describe how the nation of Israel was unfaithful.

Day 185 - Hosea 8-14 •

Hosea chapters 8-10 contain the prophecy of judgment. Hosea chapters 11-14 contain the message of restoration.

The evil of Hosea's day is compared in Hosea 9:9 to the days of Gibeah (Judges 19-21) when the tribe of Benjamin was almost annihilated.

What exhortation is given in the last verse of Hosea?

References

¹ *Ryrie Study Bible*, Moody Press, 1995.