

# ELISHA: A Challenging & Miraculous Ministry

# chapter	The Problems	The Solutions (miracles)	Faith Expressed?	Similar Events / People?
1	1 Kings 19:15-21 Elijah needed help in the long fight against Ahab, Jezebel, and idolatry.	The Lord told Elijah that he wasn't alone and that the work would continue with Elisha, Hazeal, and Jehu.	The Lord strengthened Elijah's faith regarding the future of the work, when he was at his lowest point.	Later in 2 Kings 2:14, God encouraged Elisha by confirming his link to Elijah.
2A	2 Kings 2:13-14 Elisha needed to cross the Jordan like Elijah had done (2:6-8).	Elisha rolled up Elijah's cloak and struck the water and then crossed on dry ground.	Elisha's question about the God of Elijah in 2:14 was an expression of faith in the Lord.	The two crossings in chapter two are alike, and both are somewhat like Joshua 3:13.
2B	2 Kings 2:19-22 The drinking water at Jericho had long been unhealthy (Josh. 6:26).	Elisha threw in some salt and declared that the Lord had purified the water. (It wasn't just the salt.)	Speaking to Elisha about the water was displaying faith in the Lord and not just in the man of God.	The rewarding of faith in 2:21 contrasts with the punishing of disbelief in 2:24.
2C	2 Kings 2:23-25 Elisha was mocked by a large group of unbelieving youth.	Elisha cursed the youths, and two female bears came out of the woods and mauled / killed 42.	The youth did not believe in Elijah's ascension (2:11, 23) or in Elisha as Elijah's successor.	The king's leading officer in 7:1-20 was also judged for his disbelief.
3	2 Kings 3:1-27 There was no water for the Jewish armies and their animals.	Elisha had ditches dug which miraculously filled with water and were misinterpreted by the Moabites.	King Jehoshaphat showed faith by seeking a prophet (3:11-12). King Jehoram did not (3:10).	This is the first of many military events in which Elisha helped Israel. (Cf. 6:8-7:20.)
4A	2 Kings 4:1-7 A godly widow was deeply in debt, and her sons were to be taken away.	Elisha told the widow to borrow many vessels to fill with oil from the one vessel of oil that she had.	Elisha's command to gather many vessels was a call to exercise great faith in the Lord.	She showed more faith than the king of Israel did later in 13:14-19.
4B	2 Kings 4:8-17 The godly Shunammite who had supported Elisha was childless.	Elisha blessed her by predicting that she would have a son which she had despite having been barren.	The woman had given up on having children, but she believed in the Lord and the man of God.	The godly Shunammite was somewhat like godly Elizabeth in Luke chapter two.
4C	2 Kings 4:18-37 The Shunammite's only child suddenly died of sunstroke (4:19-20).	The Shunammite determined to go to Elisha, and he prayed and persevered until the son was restored.	Both the Shunammite woman and Elisha showed faith by not quickly giving up. (Cf. Luke 11:9-10.)	This miracle was much like the raising of the widow's son in 1 Kings 17:17-24.
4D	2 Kings 4:38-41 Someone mistakenly added poisonous plants to the pot of stew.	Elisha responded to the cry for help by casting in flour, (4:41) and the poison was miraculously removed.	Crying out to the man of God for help (4:40) was a display of genuine faith in the Lord. (Cf. James 4:2-3.)	The help in 4:40 and 6:5 was much alike. So too were the 2:20 salt and the 4:41 flour.
4E	2 Kings 4:42-44 Someone donated 20 small loaves, but it was not enough for 100 men.	Elisha commanded the bread to be given to the gathering of 100 men, and there was more than enough.	Elisha's servants expressed doubt by questioned the command to distribute the bread to so many people.	This is somewhat like the greater miracle of feeding the 5,000+ in John 6:5-14.
5A	2 Kings 5:1-19 Naaman, the great Syrian commander, was a leper (5:1).	Elisha gave Naaman a simple way to be healed, by humbly bathing 7 times in Israel's muddy River Jordan.	Though angry at first, Naaman accepted God's way, bathed in the Jordan, and was completely healed	Naaman's repentance is comparable to that of the Samaritan woman in John four.
5B	2 Kings 5:20-27 Elisha's greedy servant, Gehazi, sought rewards from Naaman.	Elisha questioned Gehazi, but he lied and did not quickly repent. So Naaman's disease was given to Gehazi.	Elisha's concern for Gehazi probably showed that his servant was a believer even though he sinned.	Probably Gehazi was more like greedy Lot in Genesis 13:10-11 than apostate Judas.
6A	2 Kings 6:1-7 A godly man accidentally lost a borrowed ax head in the Jordan River.	Someone had wisely asked Elisha to join the group (6:3), and miraculously the ax head floated.	Asking the man of God to go with the group and then for special help with the lost ax head showed faith.	This poor man helped in chapter six was somewhat like the poor widow in 4:1-7.
6B	2 Kings 6:8-23 Syrian warriors surrounded Dothan in an attempt to capture Elisha.	Elisha prayed and angelic forces were revealed. Then God blinded the Syrians who were taken captive.	Elisha's young helper was fearful until he was shown the heavenly forces surrounding the man of God.	Elisha also saw angelic forces earlier when Elijah was taken up (2:11-12).
6C & 7	2 Kings 6:24-7:20 The Syrians laid siege to Samaria, and the Israelites were starving.	God miraculously caused the Syrians to hear a great army which was not actually present (7:6-7).	The king (7:12) and his officer (7:2) doubted the prediction and miracle. The officer died as a result (7:20).	Disbelief led to loss in 7:20 as well as earlier in 2:24 and later in 13:18-19.
8A	2 Kings 8:1-6 The Shunammite lost her land by being absent during a famine (8:1-3).	She approached the king and by divine providence Gehazi was just then talking to the king about her.	More than the king, the Shunammite believed that the Lord would help her, for He had done so in the past.	This is much like God's miraculous providence seen in the life of Esther.
8B	2 Kings 8:7-15 The sick king of Syria sent his servant, Hazeal, to consult Elisha.	Elisha predicted that the king of Syria would recover, but that he would also die. (Hazeal killed him.)	No faith, but God allowed Hazeal to be king of Syria in order to fight again Ahab's son (8:28, 1 Kgs. 19:17).	Hazeal was a sinful pagan, but he was not as bad as Ahab (an Israelite) had been.
9	2 Kings 9:1-13 Ahab's son was ruling in Israel, and evil Jezebel was still alive.	Elisha sent a helper to anoint Jehu as king of Israel (9:3). Jehu went on to kill Jezebel, Ahab's sons, etc.	Jehu's words and actions show that he had faith in God's justice (9:22), but he went too far (Hos. 1:4).	Both Hazeal and Jehu were part of God's plan to eliminate the house of Ahab.
10 11 12	2 Kings chapters 10-12 The evil impact of Ahab's family continued in Israel and Judah.	Though Elisha is missing in these three chapters, Elijah's earlier predictions still came true (10:10, 17).	The best example of faith in this dark period may be the protecting of young King J(eh)oshah (11:1-21).	J(eh)oshah's protection was a bit like that of baby Jesus in Matthew chapter two.
13A	2 Kings 13:14-19, 25 Elisha was dying and could not continue to help Israel against Syria.	Elisha commanded the king of Israel to shoot arrows which would represent future victories over Syria.	The king showed his lack of faith by only shooting three arrows rather than many. So Elisha was angry.	O.T. victories (13:25) involved faith. So too does our N.T. victory. (1 John 5:4-5).
13B	2 Kings 13:20-21 A young man killed by the Moabites needed to be buried quickly.	The body was put in Elisha's tomb, but miraculously life was restored when it touched Elisha's bones.	The burial party did not show much faith, but undoubtedly their faith in the Lord grew after the fact.	The man's revival was somewhat like the "unexpected" resurrection of Jesus.