



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

BIBLE FOUNDATIONS

ELISHA

The Prophet Who Showed the Power and Compassion of God

The Short Answer

Elisha was an Old Testament prophet whom God called to continue the prophetic ministry of Elijah. He ministered primarily in the northern kingdom of Israel during the divided-kingdom period, when Israel was repeatedly turning away from God.

His story contains some of the Bible's most remarkable miracles - multiplying oil, raising a child from the dead, healing Naaman, multiplying food, making an iron axe head float, and revealing God's unseen protection.

But Elisha was more than a miracle-working prophet. God also used him to speak to kings, reveal enemy plans, announce judgment, and participate in major political transitions affecting Israel and surrounding nations.

Yet Elisha's story is not primarily about the power of a remarkable prophet. It is about the power, compassion, faithfulness, justice, and sovereignty of the God the prophet served.

Through Elisha, God provided for widows, cared about ordinary needs, confronted sin, healed an outsider, directed kings, judged persistent rebellion, protected His people, raised the dead, and demonstrated that no earthly ruler or army was beyond His authority.

Elisha was God's servant. God was always the source of the power.

1 Kings 19:19-21 · 2 Kings 2-13

Opening Memory Anchor

Elisha was the servant. God was the source.



PART ONE

BEGINNER GUIDE

1. WHO WAS ELISHA?

Elisha was a prophet of God who ministered primarily in the northern kingdom of Israel during the ninth century BC.

Israel had divided into two kingdoms after Solomon's reign:

Israel - Northern Kingdom

Judah - Southern Kingdom

Elisha's long ministry stretched across several northern kings, including Jehoram, Jehu, Jehoahaz, and Jehoash, allowing his prophetic ministry to span multiple political transitions in Israel.

The books of 1 and 2 Kings do not identify their human author. They tell the history of Israel and Judah from the closing years of David's reign through the destruction and exile of the kingdoms, interpreting that history especially in light of Israel's relationship with God.

Elisha's story therefore belongs inside a much larger story.

He was not simply traveling around performing miracles.

He was God's prophet during a critical period in Israel's history.

HOW WAS ELISHA CALLED?

Read 1 Kings 19:19-21.

God instructed Elijah to identify Elisha as the prophet who would eventually succeed him.

Elijah found Elisha plowing with oxen and threw his cloak over him - an action signaling Elisha's call to prophetic ministry.

Elisha responded decisively.

He left his former occupation, said goodbye to his family, sacrificed his oxen, burned the plowing equipment to cook the meat, gave the food to the people, and followed Elijah.

But Elisha did not immediately become Israel's leading prophet.

He first became Elijah's servant.

Before Elisha's public ministry came a quieter period of following, serving, observing, and learning.

God sometimes prepares His servants long before others recognize what He is doing.

2. WHAT HAPPENED WHEN ELIJAH'S MINISTRY ENDED?

Read 2 Kings 2:1-14.

Elisha knew Elijah was about to be taken away.

Several times Elijah told Elisha to remain behind.

Elisha refused to leave him.

Finally Elijah asked what he could do for Elisha before being taken away.

Elisha requested a "double portion" of Elijah's spirit.

This can sound as though Elisha was asking to become twice as powerful as Elijah.

But the expression likely draws upon Old Testament inheritance language.

Read Deuteronomy 21:17.

The firstborn son normally received a double portion of the inheritance. Elisha's request therefore appears to concern succession and inheritance: he wanted to continue Elijah's prophetic ministry as his recognized successor and needed God to equip him for that calling.

Elijah told him the request would be granted if Elisha saw him taken away.

Then something extraordinary happened.

A chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared, Elijah was taken up in a whirlwind, and Elisha picked up Elijah's fallen cloak.

When Elisha struck the Jordan River with it, the waters divided.

The prophetic ministry had passed to Elisha.

But the power had not originated with Elijah.

And it did not originate with Elisha.

It belonged to God.

3. WHY DID ELISHA PERFORM SO MANY MIRACLES?

Elisha's ministry contains an extraordinary number and variety of miracles.

But biblical miracles are not simply impressive supernatural events.

They reveal something about God.

Elisha's miracles repeatedly demonstrate that God is able to intervene in circumstances human beings cannot control.

GOD PROVIDES

Read 2 Kings 4:1-7.

A widow faced a devastating crisis.

Her husband had died, creditors were demanding payment, and her sons were in danger of being taken to satisfy the debt.

She had almost nothing except a small amount of oil.

Through Elisha, God multiplied that oil until the available containers were full.

The widow sold the oil, paid her debts, and had enough remaining to support her family.

God cared about a widow facing financial ruin.

Later, God also multiplied food through Elisha so that many people could eat.

Read 2 Kings 4:42-44.

The miracles were dramatic.

But the heart behind them was compassionate.

God saw human need.

4. DOES GOD CARE ABOUT ORDINARY PROBLEMS?

Read 2 Kings 6:1-7.

One of Elisha's most unusual miracles involved something surprisingly ordinary.

A group of prophets was cutting trees near the Jordan when an iron axe head fell into the water.

The man who had been using it cried out because the axe was borrowed.

Compared with war, famine, disease, or death, a lost tool may seem insignificant.

Yet God intervened.

Through Elisha, the iron axe head floated to the surface.

This does not mean God promises to miraculously recover everything His people lose.

It does reveal something important about His character:

Nothing is too small for God's notice.

The God who rules nations also sees individual people and ordinary concerns.



5. DID GOD REALLY RAISE SOMEONE FROM THE DEAD THROUGH ELISHA?

Yes.

Read 2 Kings 4:8-37.

A woman from Shunem showed hospitality to Elisha and provided a room for him when he traveled through the area.

She had no son, and her husband was old.

Elisha told her she would have a son.

She did.

Years later, the boy suddenly became ill and died.

The grieving mother went to find Elisha.

Elisha returned to the house and prayed to the Lord.

God restored the boy's life.

Elisha did not possess independent power over death.

God gave life.

The miracle anticipates one of Scripture's great themes:

The God who gives life has authority even over death.

That theme eventually reaches its greatest expression in Jesus Christ.

6. WHO WAS NAAMAN?

One of Elisha's best-known encounters involved someone who was not an Israelite.

Read 2 Kings 5:1-19.

Naaman was a powerful commander in the army of Aram - one of Israel's enemies.

But Naaman suffered from a serious skin disease.

An Israelite servant girl told Naaman's wife about the prophet in Israel.

Naaman eventually came to Elisha seeking healing.

Elisha told him to wash seven times in the Jordan River.

Naaman was offended.

He expected something more dramatic.

But after his servants persuaded him to obey, Naaman washed in the Jordan.

God healed him.

Naaman responded by declaring that he now knew there was no God in all the world except the God of Israel.

The story contains an important biblical pattern.

God's grace was never intended to communicate that He cared only about one ethnicity or nation.

God chose Israel for His covenant purposes, and through Israel His blessing would ultimately reach the nations.

Naaman - an enemy commander - experienced God's mercy.

7. WHAT HAPPENED TO GEHAZI?

Naaman wanted to give Elisha gifts after being healed.

Elisha refused.

But Elisha's servant Gehazi secretly pursued Naaman and lied in order to obtain silver and clothing.

Read 2 Kings 5:20-27.

Gehazi then lied to Elisha about what he had done.

His greed distorted what God had just demonstrated.

Naaman had received God's mercy freely.

Gehazi tried to profit from it dishonestly.

He was judged severely and afflicted with Naaman's disease.

The account provides a sobering warning.

Spiritual ministry must never become an excuse for greed, deception, or exploitation.

God's gifts are not merchandise.

8. WHAT ABOUT THE BEARS AND THE YOUTHS?

This is one of the most difficult and frequently misunderstood stories in Elisha's life.

Read 2 Kings 2:23-25.

A group mocked Elisha, calling him bald and telling him to "go up."

Elisha pronounced a curse in the name of the Lord, after which two bears came from the woods and mauled forty-two members of the group.

Some retellings make the passage sound as though small children teased a prophet about being bald and God killed them for it.

The text is more complicated.

The Hebrew terminology translated "boys," "youths," or "young men" can describe people beyond early childhood. The fact that forty-two were affected also suggests a sizable hostile group rather than a couple of small children making a joke.

The location matters too.

This happened near Bethel, which had become an important center of the northern kingdom's idolatrous worship.

Elisha had also just succeeded Elijah as God's recognized prophet. Their mocking therefore appears to involve more than an innocent joke about someone's appearance. It represents serious contempt toward God's prophet and, ultimately, rejection of the God whose message he carried.

Still, Scripture does not explain every detail of the incident.

It should not be softened into something the text does not say.

Nor should details be invented to make the passage easier.

The central point is clear:

Rejecting God's authority is serious.

Exactly what happened to every individual afterward is not explained.

Where Scripture leaves details unstated, readers should resist pretending to know more than Scripture reveals.

9. WHAT WERE THE "HORSES AND CHARIOTS OF FIRE"?

Read 2 Kings 6:8-23.

The king of Aram repeatedly attempted to attack Israel, but God revealed the enemy's plans to Elisha.

Eventually the Aramean army surrounded the city where Elisha was staying.

Elisha's servant panicked.

Elisha told him not to be afraid because those with them were greater than those against them.

Elisha then prayed that God would open his servant's eyes.

The servant suddenly saw the hills filled with horses and chariots of fire surrounding Elisha.

The army he could see was not the only reality present.

God's power was greater than the enemy surrounding them.

This passage should not be used to claim that Christians can identify invisible angels surrounding them whenever they face danger.



The text describes a particular event in Elisha's ministry.
But it illustrates a broader biblical truth:
Visible circumstances do not limit God's power.

MEMORY ANCHOR

What can be seen is not all that God is doing.

10. WHAT DOES ELISHA'S LIFE TEACH ABOUT GOD?

God provides.

He cared for the widow and multiplied food.

God gives life.

He restored the Shunammite woman's son.

God shows mercy.

He healed Naaman, even though Naaman came from an enemy nation.

God confronts sin.

Gehazi's greed and deception mattered.

God rules nations.

Kings and armies could not escape His knowledge or authority.

God sees ordinary needs.

Even a borrowed axe head mattered enough to appear in the biblical account.

God alone deserves the glory.

Elisha was remarkable because the God he served is remarkable.

PART TWO

WANT TO GO DEEPER?

INTERMEDIATE

11. WAS ELISHA MORE POWERFUL THAN ELIJAH?

Christians sometimes point out that Scripture records roughly twice as many miraculous events associated with Elisha as with Elijah.

That observation can be interesting, especially in light of Elisha's request for a "double portion."

But Scripture never explicitly says:

"Elisha received twice Elijah's miracle-working power."

The inheritance background of Deuteronomy 21:17 provides a more natural framework for understanding the request.

The firstborn son's double portion identified him as the principal heir.

Elisha was asking to continue Elijah's prophetic ministry as his recognized successor.

Therefore, it is safer to understand the "double portion" primarily in terms of prophetic inheritance and calling, rather than as a mathematical promise of twice as much supernatural power.

The emphasis remains on God's provision for the ministry He assigned.

12. HOW DOES ELISHA FIT INTO ISRAEL'S POLITICAL AND SPIRITUAL HISTORY?

Elisha ministered during a turbulent period in the northern kingdom of Israel.

The nation had been divided since the generation following Solomon. Northern Israel repeatedly struggled with idolatry, corrupt leadership, warfare, and rejection of God's covenant.

Elisha's ministry intersected with several kings and international conflicts.

That is important because Elisha was not merely God's prophet to private individuals.

He also spoke God's Word into national events.

THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST MOAB

Read 2 Kings 3.

Israel's king joined the kings of Judah and Edom in a military campaign against Moab.

Their armies eventually ran out of water.

Elisha was consulted.

God miraculously provided water and announced that Moab would be delivered into their hands.

The account contains difficult elements, including the shocking ending involving the king of Moab and his son.

But the larger narrative demonstrates something that appears repeatedly throughout Elisha's ministry:

Kings needed God. God did not need kings.

Military strength could not guarantee victory.

Political authority did not place anyone beyond God's authority.

13. WHAT DO HAZAEL AND JEHU HAVE TO DO WITH ELISHA?

Elisha's influence reached far beyond individual miracles.

Two men connected with his prophetic ministry - Hazael and Jehu - would dramatically reshape Israel's political world.

Their stories also show that God's judgment can unfold through complicated and sometimes deeply troubling human events.

HAZAEEL

Read 2 Kings 8:7-15.

When Elisha traveled to Damascus, Hazael came to ask whether King Ben-hadad of Aram would recover from illness.

Elisha began to weep.

God had revealed the terrible violence Hazael would eventually inflict upon Israel.

Hazael was shocked when Elisha described what he would do.

Yet Hazael later became king and carried out devastating attacks.

This raises difficult questions about God's sovereignty and human responsibility.

Scripture presents God as knowing what Hazael would do.

But God's knowledge of Hazael's future actions does not mean Scripture excuses Hazael's evil.

Throughout the Bible, human beings remain morally responsible for sinful choices even while God's sovereign purposes continue.

Exactly how divine sovereignty and human responsibility operate together involves mystery.

Scripture affirms both.

Readers do not need to solve every philosophical question to understand the central biblical point:



Human evil never places history outside God's knowledge or ultimate authority.

JEHU

Read 2 Kings 9:1-10.

Elisha did not personally anoint Jehu. He commissioned a member of the company of prophets to go and anoint Jehu as king over Israel.

Jehu then overthrew the dynasty of Ahab and destroyed Baal worship in Israel.

These events fulfilled previously announced judgment against Ahab's house.

But Jehu's story requires careful reading.

God used Jehu in judgment, yet Scripture does not present Jehu himself as a model of complete faithfulness.

Read 2 Kings 10:28-31.

Jehu destroyed Baal worship but continued in other forms of Israel's idolatry and did not wholeheartedly obey God's law.

Later Scripture also reflects seriously on the bloodshed associated with Jehu's dynasty (see Hosea 1:4).

Therefore, God's use of Jehu in judgment should not be turned into a blanket endorsement of every action Jehu took.

This distinction matters throughout Scripture:

God's sovereign use of a person does not mean God approves everything that person does.

14. WHY DOES THIS POLITICAL CONTEXT MATTER?

Without this background, Elisha can look primarily like a prophet who moved from one miracle to another.

Kings sought him.

Armies pursued him.

Enemy commanders encountered him.

Dynasties changed around him.

Nations went to war.

Judgment came.

Yet Elisha also stopped to help a widow facing debt and a man who had lost a borrowed axe head.

That contrast reveals something extraordinary about God.

The God who governs nations also sees individuals.

He was sovereign over Hazael, Jehu, Israel, Aram, and Moab.

He also saw the widow, the grieving mother, the foreign commander, the hungry prophets, and the embarrassed man standing beside a river without his borrowed tool.

God's greatness does not make Him indifferent to ordinary people.

MEMORY ANCHOR

The God who rules kingdoms also sees the person in need.

15. DOES ELISHA POINT TO JESUS?

The New Testament does not explicitly identify Elisha as a direct type of Christ.

That distinction matters.

It would therefore go beyond Scripture to claim that every event in Elisha's life was intentionally designed as a prophecy about Jesus.

However, Elisha's ministry contains several strong biblical patterns that later appear with greater fullness in Jesus' ministry.

Elisha was involved when:

- a widow received miraculous provision - 2 Kings 4:1-7
- food was multiplied - 2 Kings 4:42-44
- a dead child was restored to life - 2 Kings 4:32-37
- a man with a serious skin disease was cleansed - 2 Kings 5:1-14
- an outsider received God's mercy - 2 Kings 5
- God's authority over seemingly impossible circumstances was revealed.

Jesus later:

- multiplied food - Matthew 14:13-21
- cleansed people with leprosy - Luke 5:12-16
- raised the dead - Luke 7:11-17; John 11
- welcomed outsiders into God's mercy,
- demonstrated authority over creation, disease, spiritual powers, and death.

There is also an especially important connection in Luke 4.

When Jesus taught in Nazareth, He specifically mentioned Naaman the Syrian and reminded His listeners that although many people in Israel had leprosy during Elisha's time, Naaman was the one who was cleansed.

Read Luke 4:24-30.

Jesus used Naaman's story to confront the assumption that God's mercy could be treated as Israel's exclusive possession.

The people became furious.

The same theme running through Elisha's encounter with Naaman appears in Jesus' ministry:

God's saving purposes extend beyond human boundaries.

Yet Jesus is far greater than Elisha.

Elisha served God's redemptive story.

Jesus is at the center of it.

16. IS THERE AN ELIJAH-ELISHA / JOHN THE BAPTIST-JESUS PATTERN?

Some Christian interpreters have noticed an interesting comparison:

Elijah → Elisha

and

John the Baptist → Jesus

There are genuine biblical connections involving Elijah and John the Baptist.

Jesus explicitly identifies John with the promised Elijah-like forerunner when properly understood (Matthew 11:14; 17:10-13), and Luke describes John's ministry as coming in the "spirit and power of Elijah" (Luke 1:17).

Because Elisha succeeds Elijah and then performs remarkable works - including multiplying food, cleansing disease, and raising the dead - some interpreters see an additional pattern in which Elisha's ministry anticipates aspects of Jesus' ministry after John.

But the two comparisons do not carry the same level of biblical certainty.

The Elijah-John connection rests on explicit New Testament interpretation.

The Elisha-Jesus comparison rests primarily on observed similarities between their ministries.

The New Testament never tells readers that Jesus should be understood as the Elisha-like successor to John in the same way that it explicitly connects John with Elijah.

Nor does Scripture explicitly present Jesus' ministry as a chronological handoff from an Elisha pattern.

For that reason, the Elijah-John connection can be stated confidently as a biblical connection.

The proposed Elisha-Jesus relationship should remain a possible theological analogy, not established biblical teaching.



Readers may notice meaningful similarities without claiming more certainty than Scripture provides.

That is an important principle for studying the Old Testament:

Notice biblical patterns - but let Scripture determine how confidently they should be stated.

17. WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ELISHA'S MIRACLES AND JESUS' MIRACLES?

Elisha was a prophet.

His miracles demonstrated God's power working through God's servant.

Jesus is not merely another prophet in a sequence of prophets.

The New Testament presents Him as the Son of God, Messiah, Lord, and Savior.

Elisha depended upon God.

Jesus' ministry revealed His unique divine authority.

Elisha prayed and God restored a child to mortal life.

Jesus not only raised the dead but Himself died and rose bodily from the grave, never to die again.

Through Christ comes the promise of resurrection and eternal life for those who belong to Him.

Elisha's ministry demonstrates God's power over death.

The Gospel reveals the ultimate victory:

Jesus conquered death.

18. WHAT CAN CHRISTIANS LEARN FROM ELISHA WITHOUT EXPECTING TO REPEAT HIS MIRACLES?

Elisha's life should not be read as a formula promising that faithful Christians will perform the same miracles.

Scripture describes Elisha's unique prophetic ministry.

The application is deeper than trying to reproduce his experiences.

BE AVAILABLE TO GOD.

Elisha left his former life when God called him.

SERVE BEFORE SEEKING RECOGNITION.

Elisha served Elijah before becoming a nationally recognized prophet.

TRUST GOD'S PROVISION.

The widow's oil demonstrates God's ability to provide in circumstances that appear impossible.

CARE ABOUT PEOPLE OTHERS MAY OVERLOOK.

Widows, foreigners, servants, families, and ordinary people repeatedly appear in Elisha's ministry.

REFUSE TO PROFIT DISHONESTLY FROM SPIRITUAL THINGS.

Gehazi provides a powerful warning against greed and exploitation.

REMEMBER THAT GOD IS GREATER THAN WHAT CAN BE SEEN.

The army surrounding Elisha looked overwhelming.

It was not overwhelming to God.

DO NOT CONFUSE GOD'S SERVANTS WITH GOD.

Even remarkable spiritual leaders remain servants.

GIVE GOD THE GLORY.

The miracles were never evidence that Elisha had become powerful independently.

Everything depended upon God.

19. HOW DID ELISHA'S LIFE END?

Read 2 Kings 13:14-21.

Eventually Elisha became sick with the illness from which he would die.

That detail is worth noticing.

The prophet through whom God had performed extraordinary healings eventually became ill and died.

Miraculous ministry did not make Elisha immortal.

His hope, like that of every servant of God, ultimately rested in God rather than in earthly longevity.

Even near death, Elisha remained involved in Israel's national story, speaking prophetically to King Jehoash concerning Israel's conflict with Aram.

After Elisha died, Scripture records one final remarkable event.

A dead man was hurriedly thrown into Elisha's tomb. When the man's body touched Elisha's bones, he revived and stood up.

The Bible does not explain the mechanism or instruct God's people to seek similar experiences.

The event provides one final dramatic reminder:

The power displayed throughout Elisha's ministry belonged to God from beginning to end.

Elisha died.

God remained.



PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

Elisha's story begins behind a plow and ends in a tomb.
Between those moments, God worked through him in extraordinary ways.
Oil multiplied.

Food multiplied.

A child lived again.

Naaman was cleansed.

An axe head floated.

Enemy plans were exposed.

Invisible armies were revealed.

Kings were confronted.

Dynasties fell.

Nations went to war.

The poor were helped.

The proud were humbled.

Judgment and mercy appeared side by side.
And through all of it, the central character was always God.
Elisha's ministry stretched from the smallest personal need to the affairs of nations.
The same God who knew what Hazael would do saw a widow worried about her sons.
The God who directed the rise and fall of kings cared about a borrowed axe head.
The God who judged Israel's rebellion extended mercy to Naaman, a foreign military commander.
Elisha's story therefore guards against two opposite mistakes.
The first is underestimating what God can do.
The second is giving God's servants the glory that belongs to God.
Elisha was faithful.
Elisha was useful.
Elisha was remarkable.
But Elisha was still a servant.
The God who called him, equipped him, worked through him, ruled the nations around him, and continued His purposes after Elisha died was infinitely greater.
And the biblical story continued moving toward Jesus Christ - the One in whom God's saving purposes would be revealed most fully.



REVIEW

1. When and where did Elisha minister?

Primarily in the northern kingdom of Israel during the ninth century BC, in the divided-kingdom period.

2. Which northern kings overlapped with Elisha's long ministry?

His ministry stretched across several reigns, including Jehoram, Jehu, Jehoahaz, and Jehoash.

3. Who called Elisha into prophetic ministry?

God, with Elijah serving as the prophet through whom Elisha's calling was recognized.

4. What did Elisha's request for a "double portion" likely mean?

It most naturally reflects inheritance language and Elisha's desire to succeed Elijah in prophetic ministry.

5. Where did Elisha's miraculous power come from?

God.

6. What does Naaman's story reveal?

God's mercy reaches beyond Israel, and God's grace cannot be controlled by human pride or boundaries.

7. What does Gehazi's story warn against?

Greed, deception, and using spiritual ministry for personal gain.

8. What do Hazael and Jehu demonstrate?

God remains sovereign over political events and human rulers, while people remain responsible for their actions.

9. Did Elisha personally anoint Jehu?

No. Elisha commissioned a member of the company of prophets to anoint him.

10. Does God's use of a person mean He approves everything that person does?

No. Jehu's story provides an important example of this distinction.

11. Is Elisha explicitly called a type of Christ in the New Testament?

No. His ministry contains patterns that resemble and anticipate themes seen more fully in Jesus, but these should not be overstated.

12. Why is the Elijah-John connection stronger than the proposed Elisha-Jesus comparison?

Because the New Testament explicitly connects John with Elijah, while the Elisha-Jesus comparison is based primarily on observed similarities and should remain a theological analogy.

13. What is the central lesson of Elisha's story?

The greatness of Elisha's ministry points beyond the prophet to the greatness of the God he served.



KEY SCRIPTURES TO READ

Elisha's Call - 1 Kings 19:19-21
Elijah Taken Up / Elisha's Double Portion - 2 Kings 2:1-14
The Bears and the Mockers - 2 Kings 2:23-25
The Moabite Campaign - 2 Kings 3
The Widow's Oil - 2 Kings 4:1-7
The Shunammite Woman and Her Son - 2 Kings 4:8-37
Multiplying Food - 2 Kings 4:42-44
Naaman's Healing - 2 Kings 5:1-19
Gehazi's Greed - 2 Kings 5:20-27
The Floating Axe Head - 2 Kings 6:1-7
Horses and Chariots of Fire - 2 Kings 6:8-23
Elisha and Hazael - 2 Kings 8:7-15
Jehu Anointed King - 2 Kings 9:1-10
Jehu's Mixed Legacy - 2 Kings 10:28-31
Elisha's Final Prophecy and Death - 2 Kings 13:14-21
Jesus Refers to Naaman - Luke 4:24-30
John and the Elijah Connection - Luke 1:17; Matthew 11:14; 17:10-13

FINAL MEMORY ANCHOR

Elisha's story is not ultimately about the power of a remarkable prophet.

It is about the power, compassion, faithfulness, justice, and sovereignty of the God the prophet served.

Whether the need involved one widow or an entire kingdom, the story continually directs attention beyond the prophet to the God who sees, provides, judges, rules, and saves.

Elisha was the servant.

God was the source.



A PRAYER TO CLOSE

Father, thank You for revealing Your character throughout Scripture.

Thank You for showing through Elisha's life that You see people others overlook, provide according to Your wisdom, rule over circumstances that appear impossible, confront sin, judge evil, extend mercy beyond human boundaries, and remain sovereign over rulers and nations.

Thank You that Your greatness never makes You indifferent to individual people. The God who rules kingdoms also sees the widow, the grieving parent, the outsider, and the person facing an ordinary need.

Guard against placing confidence in people instead of You. Give discernment to recognize that every good gift and every act of true spiritual power comes from You.

When circumstances appear overwhelming, help Your people remember that what can be seen is not all that You are doing.

Give humility when Scripture leaves questions unresolved. Help readers believe what You have made clear without pretending to know what You have not revealed.

Most of all, thank You for Jesus - the One greater than every prophet, who came to save sinners, conquered death through His resurrection, and offers eternal life to everyone who trusts in Him.

Keep every study of Scripture rooted in Your Word and pointing toward You.

In Jesus' name, amen.