

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 7) 16 Jan 2Kings 21-23 Building a Culture for Life
- 8) 23 Jan 2Kings 1-5 Sick of Greed?
- 9) 30 Jan 2Kings 6-8 Right Not to Remain Silent**
- 10) 06 Feb 2Kings 9-10 Danger! Unbridled Passion
- 11) 13 Feb 2Kings 11-17 U-Turn Here – and Now!
- 12) 20 Feb 2Kings 18-20 Got to Have Hope
- 13) 27 Feb 2Kings 23-25 Keep Hope Alive

INTRODUCTION

- A miracle is defined as something that breaks the known physical laws of our world, such as walking on water
- There are over 300 recorded miracles in the Bible
- Jesus performed over 30 miracles himself
- Most miracles occur around 7 specific events:
 1. Creation week (~6000 years ago)
 2. Moses/Exodus (~3400 years ago)
 3. Judges (~3100 years ago)
 4. Elijah/Elisha (~2800 years ago)
 5. Daniel (~2500 years ago)
 6. Jesus and His Apostles and Disciples (~2000 years ago)
 7. Revelations (e.g., the two witnesses) (any day now)
- The miracles of Elijah and Elisha had the same purpose as those performed by Christ – to confirm they were sent by God and to entice the Jews to come back to God

Passage	Comments
6:24-33	<p>Let's Blame God for our Problems!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • War and famine eventually came to Israel • vv26-31. The famine was so severe the King receives news of mothers eating their kids • The remedy? The King sends a man to slay Elisha • v33. The heathen rage: 'This trouble is from God, so why should we trust in God?'
7:1-20	<p>Lepers to the Rescue</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv3-4. Four lepers reasoned about their fate and opted to take door #3 – the risk with the highest possible return • How do we make decisions? Do we factor in short term gain? Long term gain? Comfort? Or do we try to do what's right over and above our interest? • vv6-7. The Lord caused the Arameans to flee – Nothing is too hard for the Lord Jer 32:17
8:1-6	<p>Providential Care of a Special Lady</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elisha advised only one family to escape the 7-yr famine that was coming – his care provider • God's providential care of this "notable" lady (cf 2Kings 4:8-37) is seen in Elisha being sent to her household, in the birth of her son, in the healing of her son, in the warning to leave the famine area, and in the restoration of her family's property following their return after the famine • 36 verses are used to tell her story (Chap 4:8-37) – Why does God give her so much interest? • All she did was set up a room for Elisha to rest from his travels around the country • Consider this: "those who receive a prophet ... receive a prophet's reward" Mat 10:41
8:7-29	<p>Judah Goes from Bad to Worse thx to Jezebel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv13-15. Hazael, through a 'self-fulfilling' prophecy from Elisha, assassinates Aram's King Ben-hadad and goes after Israel (8:12) • Judah's King Jehoram has Jezebel for a mother-in-law, and "he did evil in the sight of the Lord" • Judah's King Ahaziah was also related to Jezebel, and he too did evil in the sight of the Lord • Lesson to learn: Choose your in-laws carefully

Passage	Comments
2Kings 6:1-8	<p>Elisha causes iron to float</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv4-7. The "sons of the prophets" were felling trees and one lost a borrowed ax head in water → Elisha throws a stick in the water and the ax head floats to the surface ← • What is the significance of this simple passage? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Why didn't God work a bigger miracle such as cut the trees down with just Elisha's finger? ♦ Does God take interest in small things? • Principle: God seems to help when someone does not have the resources to help themselves • Since the worker lost a borrowed tool he was obligated to pay it back (Ex 22:14) ...and since he was distressed over it, he probably did not have the means to restore the lost property • He was just like the rest of us when God puts us in a needy situation – Emotions run strong and we wonder if anybody sees our need and can help us! • We need to be like this young man and turn to a fellow believer at times – "Alas! Can you help?" • Add'l wisdom, diligent prayers or physical help from another Christian can fix a lot of things
6:8-23	<p>Elisha Sees the Unseen</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv15-18. Elisha's servant is alarmed when he saw a hostile army surrounding the whole town • Elisha prays for his servant to see the invisible army of angels standing guard over them – WOW • We are more blessed than that servant since we "believe though we have not seen" John 20:29 • Elisha's miracle of blindness and showing of kindness to the soldiers brought peace to the land • Some people can be won over by kindness. Even God's goodness leads some to repent..... Rom 2:4 • But the wicked and the foolish are blind to acts of kindness..... Isaiah 26:10; Prov 27:22; Mat 7:6

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS:

- When in need don't be afraid to seek help from godly saints
- If you want to receive a prophet's reward then render aid and comfort to God's saints

SUPPORTING PASSAGES:

Ex 22:14 And if a man borrows anything from his neighbor, and it becomes injured or dies, the owner of it not being with it, he shall surely make it good.

NEXT WEEK: 2Kings 9-10. Jezebel is finally killed

