

**Elisha Makes an Ahead Float (c. 844–841 BC)**

2 Kings 6:1–7

- 1 Then the sons of the prophets said to Elisha, “Please look; the place where we are living before you *is* too cramped for us.  
 2 Let us please go to the Jordan and each bring from there one log that we might make a place there for us to live.” Then he said, “Do so.”  
 3 Then a certain one said, “Please be prepared and go with your servants,” and he said, “I will go.”  
 4 He went with them, and they went to the Jordan, and they cut down the trees.  
 5 It happened as the one *was* felling the log, that the iron ax fell into the water. He called out and said, “Oh, no! My master, it was borrowed!”  
 6 Then the man of God said, “Where did it fall?” So he showed him the place, and then he cut off a stick and threw *it* there and made the iron ax float.  
 7 Then he said, “Pick *it* up for yourself,” so he stretched out his hand and took it.

**Elisha Traps Syria’s Army (c. 844–841 BC)**

2 Kings 6:8–23

- 8 The king of Aram was fighting with Israel, so he consulted with his officers, saying, “My camp is at such and such a place.”  
 9 Then the man of God sent to the king of Israel, saying, “Take care while crossing over to this place, because *the* Arameans *are* descending there.”  
 10 So the king of Israel sent to the place which the man of God said to him and warned him, so he was on guard there continually.  
 11 Then the heart of the king of Aram was stormy because of this matter, so he called his servants and said to them, “Can you not tell me who among us sides with the king of Israel?”  
 12 Then one of his servants said, “No, my lord the king, but Elisha the prophet who is *in* Israel tells the king of Israel things which you speak in your own bedchamber.”  
 13 Then he said, “Go and see where he *is* so that I can send and capture him.” Then he was told to him, “Look, *he is* in Dothan.”  
 14 So he sent horses, chariots, and an oppressing army there. They arrived at night and surrounded the town.  
 15 The attendant of the man of God arose early and went out, and look, the army *was* surrounding the city with horses and chariots. His servant said to him, “Oh no, my master! What shall we do?”  
 16 And he said, “Don’t be afraid, for more *are* with us than are with them.”  
 17 Then Elisha prayed and said, “O Yahweh, please open his eyes that he may see,” and Yahweh opened the eyes of the servant, and he saw, and look, the mountain *was* full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.  
 18 They came down to him, and Elisha prayed to Yahweh and said, “Please strike this people with blindness,” so he struck them with blindness as Elisha had spoken.  
 19 Then Elisha said to them, “This *is* not the way and this *is* not the city. Come after me, and I will bring you to the man whom you seek.” Then he brought them to Samaria.  
 20 It happened at the moment they came to Samaria, Elisha said, “O Yahweh, open the eyes of these that they may see,” so Yahweh opened their eyes, and they saw, and look, the middle of Samaria!  
 21 Then the king of Israel said to Elisha when he saw them, “Shall I kill them? Shall I kill, my father?”  
 22 And he said, “You shall not kill. Would you kill *those* whom you took captive with the sword or with the bow? Put food and water before them that they may eat and drink and then go to their master.”  
 23 So he made a great feast for them, and they ate and drank; then he sent them, and they went to their master. And the bands of the Arameans did not come again into the land of Israel.

**Ben-Hadad of Syria Besieges Samaria (c. 844–841 BC)**

2 Kings 6:24–7:20

**Ben-Hadad’s Final Attack on Israel**

- 6:24 It happened after this that Ben-Hadad king of Aram assembled all of his army and marched up and laid siege against Samaria.  
 25 There was a great famine in Samaria, and behold, a siege *was* against it, until the head of a donkey *went* for eighty shekels of silver, and one fourth of the measure of the dung of doves *went* for five shekels of silver.  
 26 It happened that the king of Israel *was* crossing over on the wall, and a woman called out to him, saying, “Help, my lord the king!”  
 27 He said, “No, let Yahweh help you. How can I save you? From the threshing floor or from the wine press?”  
 28 The king said to her, “What is the problem?” Then the woman said, “This woman said to me, ‘Give me your son, and let us eat him today, then tomorrow we will eat my son.’  
 29 So we cooked my son and ate him, and I said to her the next day, ‘Give your son that we may eat him.’ But she had hidden her son.”  
 30 It happened that when the king heard the words of the woman, he tore his clothes. Now he had been walking on the wall, and

the people saw, and behold, sackcloth was over his flesh underneath.

31 Then he said, “May God do to me and thus may he add, if the head of Elisha the son of Shaphat remains on him today!”

#### **Elisha Prophesies Deliverance for Samaria and Disaster for the King’s Officer**

32 Now Elisha *was* sitting in his house and the elders *were* sitting with him, and *the king* dispatched a man from before him, but before the messenger came to him, he said to the elders, “Did you see that this son of a murderer has sent to remove my head? Look, when the messenger comes, close the door; and you must hold the door closed against him. *Is* not the sound of the feet of his master behind him?”

33 While he *was* still speaking with them, suddenly the messenger *was* coming down to him, and he said, “Look this trouble *is* from Yahweh. Why should I wait for Yahweh any longer?”

7:1 Elisha said, “Hear the word of Yahweh: ‘Thus says Yahweh, “At this time tomorrow a seah of wheat bread flour *will sell* for a shekel, and two seahs of barley for a shekel in the gate of Samaria.’”

2 Then the officer on whom the king relied answered the man of God and said, “Look, *even if* Yahweh *is* making windows in heaven, could this thing happen?” And he said, “Look, you *will be* seeing *it* with your eyes, but you shall not eat from it there.”

#### **Four Lepers Take a Desperate Gamble**

3 Now four men who had a skin disease were *at* the entrance of the gate, and they said to each other, “Why *are* we sitting here until we die?”

4 If we say, ‘Let us go *into* the city,’ the famine *is* in the city, and we shall die there; but if we sit here, we shall die. So then, come, let us fall into the camp of *the Arameans*. If they let us live, we shall live; but if they kill us, then we shall die.”

5 So they got up at dusk to go to the camp of *the Arameans*. They went up to the edge of the camp of *the Arameans*, and look, there was no man there!

6 Now the Lord had caused the camp of *the Arameans* to hear the sound of chariots, the sound of horses, and the sound of a great army. So they said to one another, “Look, the king of Israel has hired the kings of the Hittites and the kings of Egypt to come against us!”

7 So they got up and fled at dusk and left their tents, their horses, their donkeys, and the camp as it was, and they fled for their lives.

8 When these who had the skin disease came to the edge of the camp, they went into a certain tent and they ate, drank, and took from there silver and gold and clothes. Then they went and hid *them*, then returned and came to another tent, and they took from there and went and hid *them*.

#### **Joram Does Not Believe the Lepers**

9 Then they said to one another, “We *are* not doing right. This day is a day of good news! If we *are* silent and wait until the light of morning, they will find us and we will be punished. So then, come, let us go and tell the house of the king.”

10 When they came, they called to the gatekeepers of the city and told them, saying, “We came to the camp of *the Arameans*, and behold, there was no man or the voice of a man there! Only the horses and the donkeys were tied up, and the tents *were left* as they *were*.”

11 Then the gatekeepers called and told *it* inside the house of the king.

12 The king got up in the night and said to his servants, “Please let me tell you what *the Arameans* have done to us. *The Arameans* know that we *are* hungry, so they went out from the camp to hide in the field, saying, ‘When they go out from the city, we shall seize them alive and go into the city.’”

13 Then one of his servants replied and said, “Please let them take five of the remaining horses which remain in *the city*; behold, they *are* like all of the multitude of Israel that remain in it; they are like all the multitude of Israel who have perished. Let us send and see.”

14 So he took two charioteer horsemen, and the king sent after the camp of *the Arameans*, saying, “Go, find out,”

15 and they went after them to the Jordan. Look, all of the way *was* littered with clothes and equipment which *the Arameans* had thrown away in their haste. Then the messengers returned and told the king.

#### **Both of Elisha’s Predictions are Fulfilled**

16 So the people went out and plundered the camp of *the Arameans*. A seah of wheat flour *went* for a shekel and two seahs of barley *went* for a shekel according to the word of Yahweh.

17 Then the king appointed the officer he was depending on over the gate, but the people trampled him and he died, according to that which the man of God had said which he spoke when the king came down to him.

18 It happened as the man of God spoke to the king, saying, “Two seahs of barley *shall be sold* for a shekel and a seah of wheat flour for a shekel at this time tomorrow in the gate of Samaria.”

19 Then the officer had replied to the man of God and said, “Look, even if Yahweh *is* opening the windows in heaven, could this thing happen?” And he had said, “Look you *are about to* see it with your eyes, but you will not eat from it.”

20 So it had happened to him; the people trampled him in the gate and he died.

**Jehoram [Judah] Afflicted With Intestinal Disease (843t BC)**

2 Chronicles 21:18

18 And after all this Yahweh afflicted him [Jehoram] in his bowels with an illness for *which there was* no cure.

**The Death of Jehoram [Judah] (842t BC)**

2 Kings 8:23–24

2 Chronicles 21:19–20

23 The remainder of the acts of Joram and all that he did, *are* they not written in the scroll of the events of the days of the kings of Judah?

24 So Joram slept with his ancestors, and he was buried with his ancestors in the city of David,

and Ahaziah his son became king in place of him.

19 And it happened *that* after many days, at the end of two years, his bowels came out because of his illness, and he died in terrible agony. And his people did not make a fire for him like the fire for his ancestors.

20 He was thirty-two years old when he began to reign, and he reigned eight years in Jerusalem.

And he departed with no *one's* regret. And they buried him in the city of David, but not in the burial sites of the kings.

**Ahaziah, Jehoram's Son, Assumes the Throne of Judah (842t BC)**

2 Kings 8:25–27

2 Chronicles 22:1–4

25 In the twelfth year [*by non-accession reckoning*] of Joram the son of Ahab, king of Israel,

Ahaziah the son of Joram became king of Judah.

26 Ahaziah *was* twenty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned one year in Jerusalem. The name of his mother *was* Athaliah daughter of Omri, king of Israel.

27 He walked in the way of the house of Ahab

and did evil in the eyes of Yahweh, as the house of Ahab; for he *was* the son-in-law of the house of Ahab.

1 And the inhabitants of Jerusalem made Ahaziah his youngest son king in his place, for the band of men who had come with the Arabs to the camp had murdered all the older sons.

And Ahaziah the son of Jehoram, the king of Judah, reigned.

2 Ahaziah *was* [*twenty*]-two years old when he became king, and he reigned one year in Jerusalem. And the name of his mother *was* Athaliah, the daughter of Omri.

3 He also walked in the ways of the house of Ahab, for his mother *was* his counselor for doing wickedness.

4 And he did evil in the eyes of Yahweh as the house of Ahab *had done*, for they were his counselors to his destruction after the death of his father.

**Elisha Prophesies Hazael as Syria's Next King (c. 841n BC)**

2 Kings 8:7–15

7 Elisha came *to* Damascus. Now Ben-Hadad king of Aram *was* ill, and he was told, "The man of God has come up here."

8 Then the king said to Hazael, "Take a gift in your hand and go meet the man of God. Inquire of Yahweh from him, saying, 'Shall I recover from this illness?'"

9 So Hazael went to meet him and took a gift in his hand of all of the good things of Damascus, a load *on each* of forty camels, and he came and stood before him. Then he said, "Your son Ben-Hadad king of Aram has sent me to you, saying, 'Shall I recover from this illness?'"

10 Elisha said to him, "Go; say to him, 'You shall certainly recover,' but Yahweh has shown me that he certainly will die."

11 Then the man fixed his gaze and stared at him until he was ashamed and the man of God cried.

12 Then Hazael asked, "Why *is* my lord crying?" He said, "Because I know what evil you will do to the Israelites. You will set their fortifications on fire, and you will kill their young men with the sword. Their little ones you will dash to pieces, and their pregnant women you will rip open!"

13 Then Hazael said, "But how could your servant, who *is* like a dog, do this great thing?" Elisha said, "Yahweh has shown me *that* you *are to be* king over Aram."

14 So he departed from Elisha and came to his master. He asked him, "What did Elisha say to you." So he said, "He said to me that you will certainly recover."

15 On the next day, he took the bed cover, dipped *it* in the water, and spread *it* over his face so that he died. Then Hazael became king in his place.

**Joram [Israel], Aided by Ahaziah [Judah], Attacks Hazael (841n BC)**

2 Kings 8:28–29

2 Chronicles 22:5–6

28 He went with Joram the son of Ahab for the battle against Hazael king of Aram at Ramoth-Gilead, and the Arameans wounded Joram.  
 29 Joram the king returned to Jezreel to heal from the wounds which the Arameans had inflicted at Ramah when Hazael king of Aram fought him. Ahaziah the son of Joram, king of Judah, went down to see Joram the son of Ahab in Jezreel, for he *was* ill.

5 He also walked in their counsel and went with Jehoram the son of Ahab, king of Israel, to war against Hazael king of Aram at Ramoth-Gilead. And the Arameans wounded Joram.  
 6 And he returned to be healed in Jezreel because of the wounds he had suffered at Ramah, when he made war against Hazael king of Aram. And Azariah the son of Jehoram, king of Judah, went down to see Jehoram son of Ahab in Jezreel for he *was* sick.

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