

Elisha the prophet



Overview of the Old Testament



- ???? B.C. – 2348 B.C. From Creation to the Flood
- 2348 B.C. – 1996 B.C. From Noah to Abraham
- 1996 B.C. – 1491 B.C. From Abraham to Moses
- 1491 B.C. – 1000 B.C. From Moses to David
- 1000 B.C. – 426 B.C. From David to the Birth of Jesus Christ

Context



- ✧ Elisha was a prophet during the Era of the Kings, i.e. after David (900 BC)
- ✧ A time where the people of Israel often forgot the Lord.

Key verse:

The LORD warned Israel and Judah through all his prophets and seers: "Turn from your evil ways. Observe my commands and decrees, in accordance with the entire Law that I commanded your fathers to obey and that I delivered to you through my servants the

Elijah the Prophet



- ❧ The Prophet Elijah ministers during the reign of Ahab, an exceptionally wicked northern king. Ahab's wife Jezebel introduces Baal worship to those in the wicked northern kingdom.
- ❧ Elijah confronts Ahab the prophets of Baal in a showdown on Mount Carmel, where God miraculously sends down fire and consumes a sacrifice well-doused with water by Elijah.
- ❧ Elijah goes on to kill 450 prophets of Baal who were present at Mount Carmel.
- ❧ Elisha was Elijah's disciple

Elisha was Elijah's Disciple

- ❧ Elijah found Elisha working in his father's field
- ❧ Elijah cast his mantle (cloak) on him
 - ❧ Elisha immediately left what he was doing, and followed "the man of God"
 - ❧ Similar to the disciples, when Jesus called them to follow Him, they left what they were doing and immediately followed him..
- ❧ He served Elijah while he was alive
- ❧ He learnt from Elijah how to be a man of God

Lesson #1

Responding to God's Call



- ❧ What about me? When I hear God calling for me, what do I do?
 - ❧ Convince myself that it's not God who was talking to me
 - ❧ Acknowledge God's voice, but reject it
 - ❧ I am happy living in Sin
 - ❧ Acknowledge God's voice, but am too busy to respond to it now
 - ❧ I'll change later, I'm too young now
 - ❧ I'll change next fasting time
 - ❧ Acknowledge God's voice, and act upon it immediately

Discipleship



- ❧ Elisha was an exemplary disciple
- ❧ He was loyal to Elijah, and wanted to stay near him all the time so he can gain from him.
 - ❧ Then Elijah said to Elisha, “Stay here, please, for the Lord has sent me on to Bethel.” But Elisha said, “As the Lord lives, and as your soul lives, I will not leave you!” So they went down to Bethel. (2 Kings 2:2)
- ❧ God rewarded Elisha for his discipleship
 - ❧ He witnessed Elijah being taken up to heaven on the chariot of fire
 - ❧ Elijah’s Mantle
 - ❧ Double portion of Elijah’s spirit

Lesson #2 - Discipleship



- ❧ Every person who wants to get closer to God needs to be a disciple
 - ❧ It destroys our pride
 - ❧ It makes us humble
 - ❧ It guides us when we're uncertain of where we're heading
- ❧ What about me? Am I someone's disciple?
 - ❧ Parents?
 - ❧ Abouna
 - ❧ Sunday School Servants
 - ❧ God

Elijah was very strict when it came to dealing with sin



- ☞ One day, Elijah healed Naaman, the commander of the enemy of the Syrians, who had leprosy
- ☞ Naaman pleaded with Elisha to give him a gift, but Elisha refused
- ☞ However, Elisha's disciple Gehazi was very greedy:
 - ☞ *"Look, my master has spared Naaman this Syrian, while not receiving from his hands what he brought; but as the Lord lives, I will run after him and take something from him."* (2 Kings 5:20)

Elijah was very strict when it came to dealing with sin



- ❧ He ran after Naaman, and asked him for a talent of silver which would help his master Elisha ...Naaman was very generous, and so gave him 2 talents
 - ❧ We're not sure exactly how much that's worth today
 - ❧ Estimates are that each talent is worth around \$25,000
- ❧ He returned to Elisha, and Elisha asked him where did you go? He lied to Elisha, but Elisha knew very well he went to Naaman
- ❧ He cursed him with Leprosy, him and his descendants forever

Lesson #4

Be strict with Sin



What about me?

- Do I let sin enter my life without noticing it invading my heart?
 - Music
 - Tv/Movies
 - Magazines
 - Wrong friends
- Do I realize that the sin is entering my heart, but don't care enough to do anything about it?
- Do I realize the sin is entering my heart, but find it too hard to struggle with it...is it really worth the struggle? I'm still young.
- When I see my friends heading down a wrong path, do I encourage them to be cool, or do I care about them, and so rebuke them softly.

Elisha's Faith in God



- ❧ All through Elisha's service, he always gave credit to God
- ❧ He had full confidence in God and none in himself
- ❧ 2 Kings 6:8-23
 - ❧ Key verse: ““Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.”

Lesson #4

Our Faith in God



❧ What about me?

- ❧ Do I believe that God has the power to help me?
- ❧ Do I believe in God's love for me, or am I not sure of his love?
- ❧ Am I ashamed of my sin, and feel like I'm not worthy of asking for God's help?
- ❧ Do I believe in God's power and love, but feel that for some reason I can't experience it in my life?
- ❧ Story of Peter sinking

Youth that mocked Elisha

☞ “Then he went up from there to Bethel; and as he was going up the road, some youths came from the city and mocked him, and said to him, “Go up, you baldhead! Go up, you baldhead!” So he turned around and looked at them, and pronounced a curse on them in the name of the Lord. And two female bears came out of the woods and mauled forty-two of the youths.”

2 Kings 2:23-24

WHY??



- ❧ Why was Elisha annoyed at the youth that mocked him? And why did God punish them so severely?
 - ❧ Ancient fathers
 - ❧ Do not insult my messengers because like this you are insulting me...

Moses Story



❧ Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses after he had married an ethiopian woman (mixed marriages were wrong at the time) ”

❧ Moses was humble, and didn't defend himself...God defended him.

“Hear now My words. If there is a prophet among you, I, the Lord, make Myself known to him in a vision; I speak to him in a dream. 7 Not so with My servant Moses; He is faithful in all My house. 8 I speak with him face to face, Even plainly, and not in dark sayings; And he sees the form of the Lord. *Why then were you not afraid To speak against My servant Moses?* Numbers 12

❧ Miriam was struck with leprosy

❧ Moses prayed to the Lord to heal her.

Lesson #5

Respect

☞ What about me?

- ☞ Do I dare mock the church, or any of God's people, as a joke, or to look cool amongst my friends?
- ☞ Do I dare make a joke out of prayer or bible reading?
- ☞ Are my actions so noble that God will rush to my defence when someone mocks me?
- ☞ When someone mocks me, do I take revenge, or do I leave it up to God?

Lessons from Elisha's Life

- ❧ When God Calls to you, don't ignore Him
- ❧ Be a disciple not a teacher
- ❧ Be strict with sin
- ❧ Have Faith in God
- ❧ Show respect to God, through respecting what is his:
Prayer, The Bible, and the Elders of the Church,
including the elders of the Church at your home
(your parents).