

## 2 KINGS

### Miracles of Elisha

**4**<sup>1</sup>The widow of one of the fellow prophets called Elisha saying:

—You know that my husband feared God. But now his creditor has come to collect payment. And as we could not pay, he wanted to take my two sons as slaves.

<sup>2</sup>Elisha said:

—What can I do for you? Tell me what you have in your house?

She answered:

—I have but a little oil for cleaning.

<sup>3</sup>Elisha said to her:

—Go and ask your neighbors for empty jars. <sup>4</sup>Get as many as you can; then go into your house with your sons and close the door. Pour oil into the vessels. And when they are filled, set them aside.

<sup>5</sup>The woman went and locked herself in her house with her sons. They handed her the vessels and she filled them all. <sup>6</sup>She said to one of her sons:

—Bring me another vessel.

And he answered:

—There are no more.

Then the oil stopped flowing. <sup>7</sup>As she went back to tell this to the man of God, he said to her:

—Go and sell the oil to pay for your debts; you and your sons can live on the money that is left.

### The Shunamite's son

<sup>8</sup>One day Elisha went to Shunem, and a rich woman invited him to eat. Afterwards, whenever he went to that town, he would go to her house to eat.

<sup>9</sup>The woman said to her husband:

—See, this man who constantly passes by our house is a holy man of God. <sup>10</sup>If you want, we can make a small upper room for him, and place a bed, a table, a chair and a lamp in it. So when he comes, he may stay and rest.

<sup>11</sup>One day when Elisha came, he went to the upper room and lay down. <sup>12</sup>Then he said to Gehazi, his manservant:

—Call this woman.

The young man called her and as the woman stood by the door, <sup>16</sup>Elisha said:

—By this time next year, you will hold a son in your arms.

She answered:

—No, my lord, O man of God, you are deceiving your maidservant.

<sup>17</sup>But the woman gave birth to a son precisely at the time Elisha had told her.

<sup>18</sup>The boy grew. One day, when he had gone out to his father among the harvesters, he had a severe headache. <sup>19</sup>So the father ordered his servant:

—Carry him to his mother.

<sup>20</sup>The servant brought him to his mother, and the boy sat on her lap till noon, when he died. <sup>21</sup>Then the mother went up and laid him on Elisha's bed and she left, closing the door.

<sup>32</sup>Elisha came into the house, and found the dead boy lying on his bed. <sup>33</sup>He entered, closed the door behind him, and prayed to Yahweh. <sup>34</sup>Then he lay upon the boy, put his mouth upon the boy's mouth, his eyes upon his eyes, his hands upon the boy's hands, and warmth returned to the boy's body. <sup>35</sup>Elisha came down and began walking to and fro. Then he went upstairs to stretch himself upon the boy, and the boy sneezed seven times and opened his eyes.

<sup>36</sup>Elisha then called Gehazi and said:

—Call the woman.

And when she came, Elisha told her:

—Take your son.

<sup>37</sup>She bowed at his feet, then she took her son and went out.

## Naaman from Syria and Elisha

**5** <sup>1</sup>Naaman was the army commander of the king of Aram. This man was highly regarded and enjoyed the king's favor, for Yahweh had helped him lead the army of the Arameans to victory. But this valiant man was sick with leprosy.

<sup>2</sup>One day some Aramean soldiers raided the land of Israel and took a young girl captive who became a servant to the wife of Naaman. She said to her mistress:

<sup>3</sup>—If my master would only present himself to the prophet in Samaria, he would surely cure him of his leprosy.

<sup>4</sup>Naaman went to tell the king what the young Israelite maidservant had said. <sup>5</sup>The king of Aram said to him:

—Go to the prophet, and I shall also send a letter to the king of Israel.

So Naaman went and took with him ten gold bars, six thousand pieces of silver and ten festal garments. <sup>6</sup>On his arrival, he delivered the letter to the king of Israel. It said, 'I present my servant Naaman to you that you may heal him of his leprosy.'

<sup>7</sup>When the king had read the letter, he tore his clothes to show his indignation, 'I am not God to give life or death. And the king of Aram sends me this man to be healed! You see he is just looking for an excuse for war.'

<sup>8</sup>Elisha, the man of God, came to know that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, so he sent this message to him:

—Why have you torn your clothes? Let the man come to me, that he may know that there is a prophet in Israel.

<sup>9</sup>So Naaman came with his horses and chariots, and stopped before the house of Elisha. <sup>10</sup>Elisha then sent a messenger to tell him:

—Go to the river Jordan and wash seven times, and your flesh shall be as it was before, and you shall be cleansed.

<sup>11</sup>Naaman was angry, so he went away. He thought:

—On my arrival, he should have personally come out, and then paused and called on the name of Yahweh, his God. And he should have touched with his hand the infected part, and I would have been healed. <sup>12</sup>Are the rivers of Damascus, Abana and Pharpar not better than all the rivers of the land of Israel? Could I not wash there to be healed?

<sup>13</sup>His servants approached him and said to him:

—Father, if the prophet had ordered you to do something difficult, would you not have done it? But how much easier when he said: Take a bath and you will be cleansed.

<sup>14</sup>So Naaman went down to the Jordan where he washed himself seven times as Elisha had ordered. His skin became soft like that of a child and he was cleansed.

<sup>15</sup>Then Naaman returned to the man of God with all his men. He entered and said to him:

—Now I know that there is no other God anywhere in the world but in Israel. I ask you to accept these gifts from your servant.

<sup>16</sup>But Elisha answered:

—I swear by Yahweh whom I serve, I will accept nothing.

And however much Naaman insisted, Elisha would not accept his gifts.

## Death of Elisha

**13** <sup>20</sup>Elisha died and they buried him.

A little later, a detachment of Moabites conducted a raid as they used to do at the beginning of every year. <sup>21</sup>It happened that at that time some people were burying a dead man, when they saw the Moabites. So they quickly threw the body into the grave of Elisha, and then fled to safety. But as soon as the man's body touched the bones of Elisha, the man revived and stood on his feet.

<sup>22</sup>Hazael, king of Aram, oppressed the Israelites throughout the reign of Jehoahaz. <sup>23</sup>But Yahweh had pity and took compassion on them; he turned towards them because of his covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and would not utterly destroy them, or cast them far from his face.

## Azariah of Judah (796–767)

**15** <sup>27</sup>In the fifty-second year of Azariah, king of Judah, Pekah, son of Remaliah, began to reign over Israel in Samaria, its capital. He reigned for twenty years, and he acted badly towards Yahweh, <sup>28</sup>for he did not turn away from the sins which Jeroboam made Israel commit.

<sup>29</sup>In the time of Pekah, king of Israel, Tiglath-pileser, king of Assyria, came and seized Iyon, Abel-bethmaacah, Janoah, Kedesh, Hazor, the territory of Gilead and Galilee, and the whole land of Naphtali, and deported their inhabitants to Asshur.

## Zedekiah of Judah (597–587)

**24** <sup>18</sup>Zedekiah was twenty-one years old, and he reigned in Jerusalem for eleven years. His mother was Hamutal, daughter of Jeremiah. <sup>19</sup>He did what displeased Yahweh, as Jehoiakim had done; <sup>20</sup>so the punishment of Yahweh fell on Jerusalem and Judah, until he cast them far away from his presence. And Zedekiah rebelled against the king of Babylon.

## Fall of Jerusalem

**25** <sup>1</sup>In the ninth year of Zedekiah's reign, on the tenth day of the tenth month, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon marched with his entire army and laid siege to Jerusalem. They camped outside the city and built siege works all around it. <sup>2</sup>The city was under siege up to the eleventh year of Zedekiah.

<sup>3</sup>On the ninth day of the fourth month famine became a serious problem in the city, and throughout the land there was no bread for the people.

<sup>8</sup>On the seventh day of the fifth month in the nineteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, Nebuzaradan, commander of the bodyguard and servant of the king of Babylon, entered Jerusalem and <sup>9</sup>set fire to the House of Yahweh and the royal palace as well as to all the houses in Jerusalem. <sup>10</sup>The Chaldean army under the commander of the bodyguard completely demolished all the walls around Jerusalem.

<sup>11</sup>Nebuzaradan, commander of the bodyguard, carried off into exile the last of the Jews left in the city, those who had deserted to the king of Babylon and the remainder of the artisans. <sup>12</sup>But he left those among the very poor who were capable of working in vineyards and cultivating the soil.