



**DEVOTIONAL**

PART 2



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## **Part 2: A STUDY OF THE LIFE OF ELISHA**

### **2 KINGS 2 - 2 Kings 9-25**

The study of 1 Kings has been an exciting one as we have witnessed Elijah's leadership and stand for God's power. Elijah stood in the face of fierce opposition from a rebellious people. Elijah was used as an instrument of dispensing God's judgment as he stood on the Word of God. As Elijah's successor, God uses Elisha to bless the people of Israel when the people repented. Elijah and Elisha are great book ends to the fullness of God. They represent God's power and justice and yet compassion and grace.

We will be using the acronym SOAP to guide us in our study through the rest of 2 Kings. Our hope is that while we take time to dive into these passages, you will grow in your love for God as you see His story more completely.

We pray that each of us would know the truth of God's Word, love Him more deeply, and live for Him more fully!

### **CONTEXT**

God had called Elisha to be Elijah's protegee and will succeed Elijah when the prophet is taken into heaven. Elisha's ministry lasted for 60 years as prophet to the Northern kingdom of Israel during the reigns of Kings Jehoram, Jehu, Jehoahaz, and Joash. The books of 1 and 2 Kings trace the history of the kings of Israel and Judah from Solomon to the Babylonian captivity.

Elijah was a mentor to Elisha and they walked faithfully together until the end. 2 Kings 2 is the pivotal moment where God calls Elijah to heaven and Elisha accepts Elijah's mantle of prophetic power.

Elisha's name means "my God is my salvation" and would do twice as many supernatural miracles as Elijah.

Baal worship would be eradicated during the ministry of Elisha. God used the upbringing of Elisha and personality to "serve as an advisor to kings, a companion of the common people, and a friend of both Israelites and foreigners." God uses Elisha to root out idol worship and to help turn Israel's hearts back to the One True God.

## HOW TO SOAP

When you have your daily time with God, use SOAP to help you think through what you are reading.

**Scripture** | Pick a book of the Bible and read 1-2 chapters a day. Each day, write out the Bible verse that stood out the most to you.

**Observation** | What is God saying in this verse? What truth did you learn? Write down your observations, thoughts, or questions.

**Application** | How can you apply what you learned? What truths do you need to believe? Write down a practical way you can apply this truth

**Prayer** | Respond to God in prayer. Write down a short prayer thanking God for this truth and ask Him to help you apply it in your life.

## EXAMPLE OF SOAP

**Scripture** | John 15:5 - "I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing."

**Observation** | We don't naturally abide in Jesus so He commands us to abide. Following this command is not burdensome, but actually for our benefit. If we're not connected to Jesus, we can't do anything. Jesus is the true vine and if we abide in Him we will bear fruit. The fruit we bear brings glory to God.

**Application** | What are ways I can abide in Jesus? Jesus says I will abide in Him if I keep His commandments, but am I actually doing that? Abiding in Jesus allows me to experience the joy that Jesus has for me. I can continue to abide in Him through regularly reading the Bible and prayer.

**Prayer** | Jesus, thank You for saving me! Please always remind me of how amazing Your Gospel is. I confess that most of the time I would rather do my own thing than abide in You. Teach me more about what it means to abide in You and I pray that abiding in You would result in great fruit for Your glory!

## WEEK 1 | 2 KINGS 2

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### DAY 1

Pray that God would make His Word alive to you this week and His Spirit fill you and give you understanding and wisdom as you read.

#### **S |** Read 2 Kings Chapter 2.

We open Part 2 of our study through Kings by revisiting the chapter we left off in through the first part of our study. As we look into the lives of Elijah and Elisha, this chapter serves as the transition point from one prophet to the other. In Part 1 of our study, we looked at the bulk of this chapter primarily through the lens of studying Elijah's life. This week we are going to change our focus and look more closely at the life of Elisha. You may have also noticed we get to explore 7 verses at the end of the chapter we didn't touch on last week!

#### **O |** To give us some context, observe practical pieces of the text. What locations do we see in this chapter?

What stands out to you about the people in this chapter?

Write down one thing that stood out to you most about Elisha in this chapter.



**A |** Who has God put in our life that He may be encouraging us to move toward with these truths? Write down the names of 3 people you would love to experience Christ in a redeeming way.

**P |** Thank God for His Word! Ask Him to remind you of His truth often this week. Pray for the 3 people you wrote down.

## DAY 2

Take a moment to invite God into this time and ask Him for eyes to see the truth of His character in His Word.

- S |** Read 2 Kings 2:1-11.
- O |** How does Elisha respond to Elijah's instruction along this journey?

How does Elisha respond to the prophets who come out to see them in Bethel and Jericho?

In verse 8 Elijah performs a miracle right in front of the prophets from Jericho and moves to the other side of the Jordan river with Elisha only. What stands out to you about these last moments Elijah and Elisha have together?

- A |** Do you have someone in your life who has walked alongside you in your faith? If so, write down a couple things that impacted you most. If not, consider whether that may be a next faith step for you.
- P |** Write a short prayer below thanking God for what we've learned of His character in this chapter. Include anything personal that may have impacted you as you looked at His Word today.

## DAY 3

Pray that God's Spirit would fill you, reveal His truth, and give you understanding as you read.

**S |** Read 2 Kings 2:12-17.

**O |** How do we see Elisha respond to this supernatural phenomenon? What might this tell you about Elisha?

As Elisha returns to the west side of the Jordan what do the prophets acknowledge? Why?

What do the prophets seem to miss?

- What did the prophets want to send people to do?
- What was Elisha's response?
- What was the end result?

What do we learn about humanity in this passage?

**A |** Has there been a time when the people around you seem to be missing what God is doing in your life and unwilling to hear you? Take a moment to re-read verse 14 and see God's response. Write down any verse you can meditate on that reminds you that God sees you and hears you.

**P |** Thank God for how He has been present in your life. Praise Him because He sees, celebrates with you, and hears your heart!

## DAY 4

Take a moment to invite God into this time and ask Him for eyes to see the truth of His character in His Word.

**S |** Read 2 Kings 2:16-25.

**O |** How did Elisha respond to the men upon their return?

We are introduced to a problem in Jericho. What is it? How is it reconciled?

In this section we also meet some young men who begin challenging Elisha's prophetic office. Look at Deuteronomy 18:17-22. Now read again 2 Kings 2:23-25. Is there something we might learn from seeing these passages next to each other?

**A |** How does the truth in this passage challenge or encourage your heart?

**P |** Take time right now to start praying for whatever God has laid on your heart.

## DAY 5

Pray and ask God for wisdom as you read His word  
and apply it to your life.

**S |** Read 2 Kings 2. Write down the Bible verse that stands out to you most in this chapter.

**O |** What do you learn about Elisha's character in this chapter?

What do you learn about God?

**A |** Write down a practical way the truth you've learned this week can be applied to your life.

**P |** Pray for an opportunity to show Christ to those around you. Pray specifically for the individuals you wrote down in Day 1.

## WEEK 2 | 2 Kings 4

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### DAY 1

Pray that God would make His Word alive to you this week and that His Spirit would fill you and give you understanding and wisdom as you read.

- S** | Read 2 Kings 4. Elisha is a different kind of prophet from Elijah. Read to gain an overall perspective of Chapter 4.
- O** | What are the four main vignettes in Chapter 4?

What do you notice about Elisha and his ministry that is different from Elijah?

How would you explain Elisha's personality and approach to people? How is this different from Elijah?

- A** | When we decide to follow Jesus, He gives each of us gifts for us to use to equip the body of Christ. What gifts has God given you? How are you using these gifts?
- P** | Thank God for His Spirit as He lives inside us and for all of the good gifts God gives His children. Pray for God to open our eyes to opportunities for us to use our gifts for His glory.

## DAY 2

Take a moment to invite God into this time and ask Him for eyes to see the truth of His character in His Word.

**S |** Read 2 Kings 4:1-7. Summarize the main characters and the story.

**O |** Why were the woman's boys to be servants to the creditor?

What did the woman have to give?

What did the oil symbolize in this story?

**A |** God's miraculous provision of oil meets all of the widow's needs and more. How does God's Spirit provide for your needs?

What keeps you from giving God all that you have?

**P |** Pray and thank God for His provision in His Spirit and every spiritual blessing.. Ask the Lord, where you can follow Him in obedience to give Him all that you have.

## DAY 3

Pray that God's Spirit would fill you, reveal His truth, and give you understanding as you read.

- S** | Read 2 Kings 4:8-37. Summarize the characters and events of this story.
- O** | What was the woman's heart desire? How did God bless this woman through Elisha?

What happened to the boy and how did the woman respond?

What was Elisha's response and by what means did the boy receive life?

How did God respond to the woman's faith?

- A** | We read the woman had great faith in God and in His servant. When trouble and hardship happen, where do you run?

Only God has power over death. Where in your life are you praying for God to bring life out of death?

What do you learn about God in this story?

- P** | Thank God that only He can bring life in our everyday life. Ask the Lord to reveal areas of your life that are not offered up to Him in prayer. How can you pray over your present circumstances?



## DAY 4

Take a moment to invite God into this time and ask Him for eyes to see the truth of His character in His Word.

- S |** Read 2 Kings 4:38-41. Summarize the characters and the events in this story.
- O |** What was the land experiencing and why?

As the servant went to gather food, the fruit looked like good fruit, but was actually deadly. How does this reflect the spiritual condition of Israel? Where was Israel turning for provision and worship?

Scripture compares meal or bread to the Word of God. How does Elisha's contribution of the meal or flour to the stew pot illustrate the availability of the Word of God to God's people?

What does the Word of God symbolized by the meal or flour do to the deadly stew?

- A |** How do you rely on the Word of God for basic daily sustenance?

Where are you experiencing "spiritual famine" in your life?

- P |** We need the Word of God like we need daily food. Pray that God would sustain you by the Word of the Lord and that He would give you the spiritual nourishment you need.

## DAY 5

Take a moment to invite God into this time and ask Him for eyes to see the truth of His character in His Word. Pray and ask God for wisdom as you read His word and apply it to your life.

- S |** Read 2 Kings 4:42-44. Summarize the characters and events of this story.
- O |** The man honors the Lord by bringing his first-fruit of the harvest to God's servants according to the Mosaic law. What was the challenge for this man and feeding the servants?

What did God do in response to the man's obedience?

In summary of Chapter 4, what was God teaching His people from these four miracles about Himself?

- A |** How have you experienced God's multiplication of blessing in response to your obedience to the Lord?

As we read this week, God provides His Spirit, life, and the Word of God to His people so that we might have more of Him. Where in your life do you want more of Him?

- P |** God gives to His children generously as He provides more of Himself. Pray that you live according to His Spirit, that you live as one that has been given eternal life, and by the Word of the Lord. Jesus is the way, the truth and the life (John 14:6)! Ask Him to give more of Himself to you!

## WEEK 3 | 2 KINGS 5

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### DAY 1

Pray that God would make His Word alive to you and that His Spirit would fill you and give you understanding and wisdom as you read.

- S |** Read 2 Kings 5. Then re-read vs 1-8.
- O |** What stood out to you from the passage?

Notice who the new characters are that have entered the narrative. Where are they from?

What is the problem Namaan has and how did he seek help?

Elisha asks the king of Israel in vs 8 "Why have you torn your clothes?" Why do you think he asks this?

What stands out about Elisha's response to the problem?

**A |** Have you experienced feelings of despair at your circumstances?

What do you tend to forget about God in those moments?

What about God's character do you need to be reminded of today?

**P |** Thank God for His Word! Lay down any fears or burdens you may have before him. Ask Him to remind you of His the truth of his character often this week.

## DAY 2

Pray that God's Spirit would fill you, reveal His truth, and give you understanding as you read.

**S |** Read 2 Kings 2:9-19.

**O |** Why do you think Elisha sent messengers to Namaan rather than going himself? What does this say about Elisha?

In vs 1, Namaan was called a great man, but in order to find healing he had to listen to advice from a little girl. In vs 14, it says that "his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child." What does this language suggest about what Namaan had to do in order to wash in the Jordan and experience healing?

How does Namaan respond to his healing? How is he changed?

**A |** In humbling himself before Elisha and ultimately God, Namaan would not only experience healing but also find faith in the one true God.

How is Namaan's restoration similar to ours in Christ?

Read 2 Corinthians 14-15,17. How have you seen the Lord create a "new man" in you?

What areas do you need to humbly submit before the Lord?

**P |** Thank God for His Son Jesus and his willingness to humble himself on the cross for us. Write a short prayer thanking God for a way He has been working in your life.

## DAY 3

Take a moment to invite God into this time and ask Him for eyes to see the truth of His character in His Word.

- S** | Read 2 Kings 1-15
- O** | Where is Namaan from? How does he hear about Elisha the prophet?

Turn back to 1 Kings 17:8,17-24. Where was the woman of this story from? What was her problem and how did the Lord address her problem?

What do these accounts (and many others) of God caring for people outside of Israel reveal about God's character?

Turn to Luke 4:25-27. Jesus reveals that the only account of Elisha healing a leper is of Namaan the Syrian, although there were lepers among the Israelites. So the Lord extended His grace to the Gentiles.

**A |** From the beginning God was revealing himself to the nations so that ALL people would come to know and worship him.

How does this apply to you? How does this encourage you?

**P |** Write a short prayer below thanking God for what we've learned of His character in this chapter. Include anything personal or any conviction that may have impacted you as you studied His Word today. Pray for an opportunity to show Christ to those around you.

## DAY 4

Take a moment to invite God into this time and ask Him for eyes to see the truth of His character in His Word.

**S |** Read 2 Kings 5:15-27

**O |** Why does Elisha refuse the gifts that Naaman offers him?

What was Gehazi's motivation for going after Naaman after he had left?

When confronted by Elisha, what is Gehazi's response?

In verse 26, what does Elisha mean when he asked, "Was it a time to accept...?"

**A |** How did Gehazi's greed detract from the lessons about God that Elisha was attempting to impress on Naaman?

How can our actions do the same for unbelievers?

Gehazi not only acted out of selfish greed, but he also failed to trust in God's provision for him and Elisha. In what ways do you take matters into your hands instead of trusting the Lord to provide?

**P |** Take time now to pray for what God has laid on your heart



## DAY 5

Pray and ask God for wisdom as you read His word and apply it to your life.

- S** | Read 2 Kings 5.
- O** | Write down the Bible verse that stands out to you most in this chapter.

What do you learn about Elisha's character in this chapter?  
What do you learn about God?

Write down what the Lord has been revealing to, encouraging you, and/or convicting you from this chapter.

- A** | Write down a practical way the truth you've learned this week can be applied to your life.

Remember to share this with a friend, your huddle, or your City Group!

- P** | Pray for the things the Lord has put on your heart this week through through His Word. Pray for an opportunity to show Christ to those around you.

## WEEK 4 | 2 KINGS 6

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### DAY 1

Pray that God would make His Word alive to you and that His Spirit would fill you and give you understanding and wisdom as you read.

- S |** Read 2 Kings 6 and reread verses 1 - 7.  
Who are the main characters?
  
- O |** The number of Elisha's followers has grown and they endeavor to build a "place where we can meet" (with Elisha). Each is to chop down a large piece of wood to contribute to building a larger meeting place. How does the hard work of this group of young prophets demonstrate humility and the value they placed on learning from the godly man, Elisha?

Elisha is an honored prophet and he is asked by his followers to join them in the work project. How would you describe Elisha's leadership style and what does it show about him?

**A |** How can you serve those God has entrusted to you to lead?

Are there areas in your thinking, affections, or physical habits that have gotten stuck in the ways of the world and not in line with God's standards?

What areas of your life need to be rescued and restored to be used for good purposes?

**P |** Pray that God's Spirit would help you to love and grow closer to Christ, serve others, and reveal areas of your life that need to be restored by Him.

## DAY 2

Take a moment to invite God into this time and ask Him for eyes to see the truth of His character in His Word.

**S |** Read 2 Kings 8 - 23. Reread 8 - 12.

Who are the main characters and setting in this passage?

**O |** What does he do to serve the king of Israel during this time of war with the Aramaens?

The king of Aram suspects a traitor in his midst. In verse 12, how does the army officer respond to king Aram's accusation that there must be a traitor among them?

Elisha was not in the king of Aram's house, but "heard" very private words regarding battle plans that only the king would know. How do you explain this when you consider God's nature? Consider Psalm 139:2.

- A |** How can you make yourself available to use the specially designed gifts God has given you to serve in the church? In your workplace? In your community?

God can perceive our every thought and hear our every word. In what situations do you need God's Spirit to remind you of this truth so that both your private thoughts and your spoken words will honor Him?

- P |** Ask the Holy Spirit to give you confidence to use the gifts God has specially given you. Ask Him to remind you throughout the day that He knows your thoughts and hears your words that you would honor Him with both.

## DAY 3

Pray that God's Spirit would fill you, reveal His truth, and give you understanding as you read.

- S |** Read 2 Kings 6:8-23. Reread verse 13 - 23. Summarize the characters, places and events that are taking place.
  
- O |** The king of Aram is determined to stop Elisha's influence. To capture Elisha, what does the king of Aram do in verse 14?

Elisha's servant is overwhelmed by the apparent enemy forces. What does Elisha pray for his servant?

What does the servant's new vision enable him to see?  
Elisha prayed another prayer. What was the prayer? How was the army of Aram affected?

After the king of Israel sees the army of Aram captive before him, he could have killed them. What does he do instead?  
Why would the king's understanding that the Lord had captured the army of Aram result in this dramatic act of grace?

**A |** When are the times when you feel afraid, overwhelmed or discouraged by the things you see and experience in this life?

1 John 4:4, "You, dear children, are from God and you have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world." How does this verse give you comfort and strength?

**P |** Sing a prayer. Open the Eyes of My Heart by Michael W. Smith

## DAY 4

Take a moment to invite God into this time and ask Him for eyes to see the truth of His character in His Word.

- S |** Read 2 Kings 6:24-33. This is the beginning of a new story that ends in Chapter 7. Summarize the characters and events.
  
- O |** What does this very same army do and cause in verses 24 - 25 that drastically change the circumstances of the city of Samaria in Israel?

We read in verses 26-31 a woman's gruesome and horrifying story, the desperation of starving people who didn't turn to God for help but took circumstances in their own hands. The king of Israel blames innocent Elisha, and thus God for the horrific turn of events. Who really was the guilty party?

What were the results of disobeying God in this passage?

The king gives the Lord credit for His control over disasters but we see his lack of confidence and patience for God's goodness and provision. In verse 33 what question does the king ask? How is this response different than what we read in Isaiah 40:31?



**A |** What promises in God’s Word can help you to desperately lean on God’s strength during times of trial? Consider Proverbs 3:5-6 or Romans 8:37-39.

**P |** Our heavenly Father sent His Son to rescue us from the death and judgement we deserved. Take time to “share the gospel” with yourself! Celebrate the wonderful work Jesus has done in your life.

## DAY 5

Pray and ask God for wisdom as you read His word and apply it to your life.

- S** | Re-read 2 Kings 6 one last time.
- O** | What story in Chapter 6 stood out to you the most?

Write down the Bible verse that affected you the most in this chapter.

What has the Lord been reminding you of throughout this week or stirring in your heart from this chapter?

- A** | Write down a truth you learned this week that impressed or convicted you and how you will apply that truth in your life.

Share what you have learned and how you are applying God's Word with a close friend or in your City Group.

- P** | Ask the Holy Spirit to help you to not just be a hearer but also a doer of God's Word for meaningful change. Pray for opportunities to share your what you learned this week about God and His character with your family and co-workers.

## WEEK 5 | 2 KINGS 9-25

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### DAY 1

Pray that God would make His Word alive to you and that His Spirit would fill you and give you understanding and wisdom as you read.

- S |** Read 2 Kings Chapters 9-16. This week, there is much reading. Summarize what is happening as you take a macro view.
  
- O |** Jehu cleans the house of Israel and is used as God's instrument of justice in Chapters 9-10. Jehu destroyed the house of Baal and its prophets.

What did you notice about Jehu? In what areas was Jehu faithful? In what areas was Jehu unfaithful? What is the result?

Chapters 11-16 mentions 13 different kings. Five kings are from Judah and eight are from Israel. God is patient with His rebellious people, slow to anger and faithful in love.

How does God's patience and anger work together? How did God continue to show grace to a rebellious people?

Why might God's people be unwilling to completely remove the "high places"?

**A |** All of these kings were faithful in some areas and unfaithful in others. What areas might you be practicing partial obedience? How does God continue to show you grace?

**P |** Thank God for His Word! Ask Him to remind you of His truth often this week.

## DAY 2

Take a moment to invite God into this time and ask Him for eyes to see the truth of His character in His Word.

- S |** Read 2 Kings Chapter 17. Summarize what takes place.
  
- O |** We read that the Northern Kingdom of Israel are taken captive and exiled in Assyria. Samaria fell to Assyria in 722 B.C. God has had enough. Why does God exercise judgment over Israel?

God continued to warn His people, yet Israel rejected His warnings. Why are people stubborn and unwilling to obey the Word of the Lord?

The nation of Israel was worshipping the Lord AND their idols. How does God view this kind of “tolerance”?

- A |** Where are you tempted to worship other things?

Where is your heart torn in different directions?

- P |** Pray and thank God for His grace in sending His Son Jesus for us. Ask the Lord to show you areas where your heart might be divided in pursuit of other things besides Christ.

## DAY 3

Pray that God's Spirit would fill you, reveal His truth, and give you understanding as you read.

- S |** Read 2 Kings 18-20. Summarize the situation in the Southern Kingdom of Judah.
  
- O |** Chapter 17 not only gave us a picture of Israel, but also of Judah. Yet, in Chapters 18-20, Judah finds relief. King Hezekiah takes the throne and leads God's people into a time of restoration. He leads them back to true worship and models trust in God. How did Hezekiah demonstrate trust and faith in God?

In what ways is Hezekiah's faith challenged in these chapters?

How does Hezekiah respond to life's challenges?

**A |** In what ways do your actions reflect your heart toward Jesus?

How is God challenging your faith right now?

Where can we look for hope in the midst of life's challenges?  
What does look like practically?

**P |** Praise God for his steadfast love for us. Ask the Lord to search your heart and reveal any ways in which your actions reflect a lack of faith. Ask God to give you strength in His Spirit to transform your heart posture.

## DAY 4

Take a moment to invite God into this time and ask Him for eyes to see the truth of His character in His Word.

- S** | Read 2 Kings 21-25. Summarize what is taking place in the life of Judah.
  
- O** | Events are taking place as Judah, too, will experience God's judgment and exile to Babylon from their promised land.

Why did Judah fall?

Describe the leadership that was in place before Judah is exiled. What characteristics describe the majority of these kings?

How does God give us hope in 2 Kings 25:27-30?



**A |** Where is God giving a warning to you in your life? How will you respond?

Where is God encouraging you as He urges to find hope in Him and His Word?

What do you learn from the kings in this passage?

**P |** Pray that you will receive the “God of hope” in the daily things of life.

## DAY 5

Pray and ask God for wisdom as you read His word and apply it to your life.

- S** | Review and reflect upon 2 Kings 9-25.
- O** | Write down the Bible verse that stands out to you most in this chapter.

What is one take-away that God has taught you this week?

- A** | How can you apply the lesson learned this week to your life?

- P** | Pray for God to transform your heart and mind in Christ Jesus, the hope of glory!





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