

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

THE PROPHET ELISHA

RLJ-1013

JOHN S. TORELL

JANUARY 22, 2006

PART 6: HIS LAST YEARS ON EARTH

THE WHEAT AND THE TARES

Even though Elisha had a powerful anointing and was well known in Israel, Judah, and Syria, God did not use him to bring a spiritual turn-around of the Hebrew children. It would be another 850 years before the promised Messiah would come in the flesh. It is important to understand that most people of the twelve tribes of Israel died as idol worshippers and went to hell at their death. The same condition prevails today in the United States, it is now more than a hundred years since there was a nationwide revival, and most people living today are dying in their sins and going to hell. The Holy Spirit is not calling many to repentance and few are chosen for salvation. **Matthew 13:18-30, 22:1-14**

THE WIDOW AND HER SON

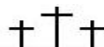
- God told Elisha that there was going to be a famine in Israel for seven years. Only the widow and her son were given a warning. Elisha chose to stay in the land during these famine years. The Bible does not give us any insight to what happened during these seven years. **2 Kings 8:1-2**
- At the end of the famine, the widow came back to Israel, and found that her land had been taken away from her. She wanted it restored and went to the king, who was a wicked man. This time God chose to use Elisha's servant, Gehazi, to minister to the woman. **verses 3-6**

THE PROPHET VISITS THE ARCHENEMY OF ISRAEL

- Again, we are confronted with events which are difficult for human beings to understand. King Benhadad of Syria was deathly ill, and when he heard that Elisha was in town, he wanted to know if he was going to live or die since he had great respect for him. **verses 7-9**
- It is obvious that Elisha did not travel to Damascus as a tourist but was on a mission. The message which Elisha delivered emboldened the king's deputy to murder the king and proclaim himself to be the new king. **verses 10-15**
- God knew that in a few years, the sin condition of Israel would become so bad, that He used the Syrians to move in and punish the children of Israel. **2 Kings 10:31-33**
- We would do well to understand that God is in total control and no government on this earth can exist unless God has allowed it. **Daniel 4:13-17**

ELISHA IS USED BY GOD TO UNSEAT THE AHAB DYNASTY

- The time had come for God to remove the house of Ahab from ruling Israel and it was Elisha who set the events into motion. **2 Kings 9:1-6**



- ❑ Jehu was the man that God had elected to be the next king even though He knew in advance that Jehu would not walk fully with Him (*The very idea that God would select a man who would not fully walk with Him is hard to understand*). At the time of his anointing, Jehu was given specific instructions. **verses 7-9**
 - King Joram was slain. **verses 22-26**
 - King Ahaziah of Jerusalem was slain. **verses 27-28**
 - Jezebel was slain. **verses 30-37**
 - Joram's 70 sons were slain. **2 Kings 10:5-11**
- ❑ There was no mercy for the descendants of Ahab and Jezebel! It is important to note that there will be no mercy for the descendants of Adam and Eve who have rejected the Grace of God. **Revelation 20:10-15**
- ❑ **UNDERSTAND THIS:** By default, the descendants of Ahab and Jezebel lost their lives on this earth due to the sins of their ancestors. The rejection of God by past generations thousands of years ago is still sending people to hell today, and unless the current generation hears the Gospel and receives Christ as their personal Lord and Saviour, they too will be doomed just like the previous generations! **Exodus 20:1-6**

THE DEATH OF ELISHA

- ❑ On his death bed, God used Elisha one more time to make an impact upon the political situation in Israel. **2 Kings 13:14-18**
- ❑ When the king did not do what he was told to do, Elisha became angry as he realized that there would not be any change in the nation. War upon war would come and idolatry would still be practiced in the land. **verse 19**
- ❑ There was a final miracle after his death. **verses 20-21**

WHAT CAN WE LEARN OF THESE EVENTS?

Each man is responsible for himself. Regardless what happens in a nation, in a church or in a marriage, the bottom line is this, the eternal fate of each human being depends upon his personal relationship with Christ. Take heed and make sure that you have been born again or you will forever cry out and regret your actions on this earth! **John 3:3-8, 14:6; Revelation 20:11-15**

Do you have an ear to hear with?