

BIG WORD: 2 Kings

Homework for Chapters 4—8

Discussion Dates: 10 October 2013 (in house)
and 11 October 2013 (online)

DAY ONE: Overview

PRAY for the Holy Spirit to clear your mind so that you may focus on God's Word without distractions or preconceptions. Ask Him to help you discern only what He wants for you in this reading and for this day.

READ: 2 Kings 4—8.

If possible, read all four chapters in one sitting. Make notes of any details that stick out to you, questions that rise and/or personal insights God gives you while you read.

DAY TWO: Miracles of Provision

READ 2 Kings 4.

In this chapter we see three miracles of provision. We see many examples of God's provision throughout Scripture. Can you list at least three other stories similar to this from other parts of the Bible?

What do we learn from these interventions of God?

Compare the women in the first two stories of 2 Kings 4.

- What of their financial and social status?
- How did they approach to the prophet?

- What were their motivations?

And how did the prophet relate to each of them? Was it in consistent fashion or with distinct approaches?

Let's focus now on the Shunammite woman. We have a greater account of her story. In spite of her status as a barren woman, she found a way to prove herself an asset and a friend to the prophet. What role does hospitality play in God's work?

When her son died, she went to great lengths to reach Elisha. What does this say of her faith? Of her passions?

What were Elisha's instructions to Gehazi?

Why do you think the miracle didn't come for Gehazi?

Elisha's actions here imitate those of his mentor, Elijah, as recorded in 1 Kings 17:17—24. What do you think of this and of the woman's response?

Do you have any specific observations about the last story? The one of the multiplying soup?

DAY THREE: Naaman's Story

READ 2 Kings 5:1—19.

Who was Naaman?

Why is this significant?

What was his problem?

Who told Naaman of Elisha?

Why is this significant?

What were Elisha's instructions to Naaman for restoration?

How did Naaman respond?

Verse 13 is key to this story and to modern application. What can we gather from this verse about the faith of Naaman's servants?

What role does humility play in faith?

In verse 15 we see Naaman's profession of faith and his immediate, tangible response. What does this teach us about conversion?

While salvation is by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8-9), once saved, we become new creations (2 Corinthians 5:17) enabled to do good works (Ephesians 2:10). Gratitude is a natural outpouring upon the acceptance of grace and, with redemption, we receive the ability to produce fruit.

Consider these passages:

- Titus 3:7—9
- Galatians 5:22—23
- James 2:14—26
- Hebrews 10:23—24

What observations do you make of the relationship between salvation (spiritual restoration) and good works?

DAY FOUR: Gehazi and the Axe Head

READ 2 Kings 5:20—27.

While Naaman received a reward for his faith, Gehazi suffered the antithesis. Describe the events in this passage.

What motivated Gehazi's actions?

What was wrong in Gehazi's actions?

What response did Elisha give?

READ 2 Kings 6:1—7.

How would you describe the servant's attitude or character?

What significance does this story hold?

READ Matthew 25:34—40.

What do you think of these verses in relation to Elisha's interactions with those around him?

DAY FIVE: Trouble with Aram

READ 2 Kings 6:8—8:15.

When the king of Aram planned war against Israel, Elisha sent a message to him. What was that message?

How many times did the king hear this?

What was the king's attitude or response toward this word from God?

Verses 15—17 provide an encouraging scene for those who trust in the Lord. Have you ever had a time when you felt all alone then later discovered God had sent many to fight on your behalf? What did you learn from that situation?

READ Psalm 115:3—8.

How does this passage prove true in the account of Aram?

Describe what happened after this.

In Chapter 8 we again see the Shunammite woman and her son. We also see Gehazi.

Some scholars believe that this section is chronologically misplaced in the text. They claim that it must have happened before the healing of Naaman because, after that, Gehazi became a leper and lepers would never be permitted in the palace.

Others claim that Gehazi's form of leprosy did not require isolation. Since verse three references the end of the seven-year famine, they believe the chapters to be in accurate historical sequence.

What do you think of this?

DAY SIX: The Reign of Joram (Jehoram) in Judah

READ 2 Kings 8:16—24 and 2 Chronicles 21:1—20.

Who was Joram?

Who was Joram's wife?

What significance does this hold? Does it explain any of his actions?

How did he die?

What was distinct about the reign of Joram?

What legacy did he leave in Judah?

What distinctions, if any, do you notice between the accounts of Kings and Chronicles?

DAY SEVEN: The Reign of Ahaziah in Judah

READ 2 Kings 8:25—29 and 2 Chronicles 22:1—9.

Who was Ahaziah?

What was distinct about his reign?

How did he die?

What legacy did he leave in Judah?

What distinctions, if any, do you notice between the accounts of Kings and Chronicles?