

The Death of Elisha

2 Kings 13

by Don Falkos

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Jehu's son became king of Israel after him. Under his guidance Israel fell deeper into sin. Hazael king of Aram continued to plague Israel until he had reduced her army to a laughable pittance. Then Jehu's grandson Jehoash took the throne.

The prophet Elisha was ill to the point of death. Jehoash went to see him and wept over him.

Elisha told Jehoash, "Pick up your bow." Jehoash obeyed. "Shoot an arrow out of the eastern window." Jehoash obeyed. "This is the arrow of the Lord, the arrow of victory over Aram. You are about to defeat the Aramean army. Now pick up the rest of your arrows and strike the ground with them." Jehoash obeyed, striking the ground three times. Elisha was angry with the king, "You should have struck the ground five or six times. Then you would have defeated and completely destroyed Aram. Now you will have only three victories."

Elisha died and was buried.

In the Spring, some men were carrying a body out for burial. Suddenly bandits appeared. The men threw the body into the nearest tomb and ran off. It was Elisha's tomb. The prophet had been laid out quite some time ago, but no one had yet returned to collect his bones into an ossuary. When the dead body touched Elisha's bones, the man came back to life. He stood up, dazed and confused.

After Hazael of Aram died, his son became king. Jehoash defeated him three times, winning back from Aram many Israelite towns.