



Lesson 136

Elisha and Ben-hadad's Death

Story Elements

- **Text:** 2 Kings 8:7-29
- **Setting:** circa 800 B.C., in Damascus
- **Main Characters:** God, Elisha, Ben-hadad, Hazael, and Jehoram
- **Plot:** Elisha foretells the change in power in Syria; Ahaziah comes to Judah's throne and Jehoram begins his fateful end.
- **Key word(s):** “ _____ ”
- **Climax:** 2 Kings 8:13 *And Hazael said, But what, is thy servant a dog, that he should do this great thing? And Elisha answered, The LORD hath shewed me that thou shalt be king over Syria.*

Assassination in Syria

1. (8:7) Elisha went to visit Damascus, the capital city of the Syrian kingdom (*aka* Aram). Elisha went to Damascus to perform one of the three directives that God gave to Elijah on Mt. Horeb. (1 Ki. 19:15-16) When Elijah passed on his mantle to Elisha, he not only passed on his ministry, but also his _____.
2. (8:8-9) Ben-hadad was very ill, and when he heard that Elisha had come to Damascus, he sent 40 camels-worth of presents to the prophet along with his trusted servant _____. Ben-hadad hoped that Elisha could tell him if he would recover from his illness.
 - a) (8:10) Elisha told Hazael that his master would indeed recover but that he would nevertheless _____.
 - b) (8:11-14) After his ominous declaration, Elisha looked eyes with Hazael until Hazael was embarrassed. Then Elisha began to _____. The prophet knew Hazael would be the next king of Syria and could foresee the evil atrocities that Hazael would commit against the Hebrews.
3. (8:15) Later the next day, Hazael assassinated his king by _____ him with a cloth dipped in water; Hazael became the new king of Syria.

Apostasy in Judah

4. (8:16-24) In the fifth year of Jehoram's (son of Ahab) reign in the north, Jehoram (son of Jehoshaphat) began to reign in the south.
 - a) He was a wicked king who walked in the sins of his father-in-law _____.
 - b) As a result of his apostasy, he suffered frequent military defeats and ultimately died of a painful disease of the _____. He was buried without mourning and without honor. (2 Chron. 21:16-20)

5. (8:25-27) After Jehoram's death, Ahaziah reigned in his stead. Ahaziah was as wicked as his father and continued to be maritally linked to the sinful house of Omri.
- a) (8:28-29) Jehoram of Israel and Ahaziah of Judah joined forces against Hazael of Syria. The Syrians gained the victory and even wounded _____ who fled to Jezreel.
- b) Ahaziah journeyed to Jezreel to visit the recuperating Jehoram. Providentially, their rendezvous would prove to be the place where a _____ that had been declared years earlier would be fulfilled (more on this in the next lesson).

Application

6. Elisha not only continued Elijah's ministry but in a very specific way he fulfilled Elijah's mission. This is a good example of how Christians continue the ministry and the mission of Jesus Christ: we not only live as he did, but we seek to fulfill his _____ and plan on earth. (cf. John 20:21)
7. Jehoram of Judah made the tragic mistake choice of choosing the wrong role models. Matthew Henry warns, "No mistake is more fatal to young people than a mistake in the choice of those whom they would recommend themselves to and take their measures from, and whose good opinion they _____ themselves by."¹
8. Though apostasy had crept into the house of David, God continued to have mercy on the kings of Jerusalem. The continuance of the house of David was the light God left his people – a reminder that he did not forget his promises despite their sin. (2 Kings 8:19) The "light" is a reference to the promise of an heir and is symbolic of _____ and blessing.

Lamentations 3:22 It is of the LORD's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. 23 They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.

Notes: _____

Answer Key: Key word(s): "king" • 1. mission • 2. Hazael; a) die; b) weep • 3. suffocating • 4. a) Ahab; b) bowels • 5. a) Jehoram; b) prophecy • 6. purpose • 7. value • 8. hope

How to use this worksheet for personal Bible study: (1) Read the Bible passage given in the **Story Elements** section. (2) Read through the worksheet and try to fill in the blanks without looking at the **Answer Key**. (3) Check your answers with the key and make the necessary corrections. Keep in mind that some answers are a matter of opinion, and often more than one answer is correct. (4) Write down your own thoughts, applications, and questions for further study in the **Notes** section.

¹ Henry, Matthew. *Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible: Complete and Unabridged in One Volume*. Peabody: Hendrickson, 1994. Print.