



# Lesson 141

## The Death of Elisha

### Story Elements

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Text:</b> 2 Ki. 13:14-25</li> <li>• <b>Setting:</b> circa 798 B.C., in Jerusalem</li> <li>• <b>Main Characters:</b> God, Joash King of Israel, and Elisha</li> <li>• <b>Plot:</b> Upon his deathbed and later in the grave, Elisha's miraculous ministry touches the lives around him.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Key word(s):</b> "arrow of _____"</li> <li>• <b>Climax:</b> <i>2 Kings 13:19 And the man of God was wroth with him, and said, Thou shouldest have smitten five or six times; then hadst thou smitten Syria till thou hadst consumed it: whereas now thou shalt smite Syria but thrice.</i></li> </ul> |
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### Elisha on His Deathbed

1. (v 14) Elisha became very ill, and as death approached, Joash the King of Israel (the grandson of Jehu) came to visit the old prophet. He wept for Elisha and exclaimed, "*O my father, my father, the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof!*"
  - a) Who else has said that when they were about to be bereaved of their spiritual father \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.
  - b) What is meant by *the chariot of Israel and the horsemen thereof?* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.
  
2. (vv 15-17) Elisha told Joash to take his bow and shoot an arrow out the window towards the east. Then, Elisha called the arrow, "the arrow of deliverance" and proclaimed that deliverance from the Syrians would come in a battle at \_\_\_\_\_.
  
3. (vv 18-19) Elisha then instructed Joash to take the arrows and smite (or probably \_\_\_\_\_) the ground with them.
  - a) Joash did so, but only smote the ground \_\_\_\_\_ times.
  - b) Elisha was angry with Joash for his lack of zeal and lamented, "*Thou shouldest have smitten five or six times; then hadst thou smitten Syria till thou hadst consumed it: whereas now thou shalt smite Syria but \_\_\_\_\_.*"

### Elisha in the Sepulchre

4. (v 21) Later in the Spring, some men were burying a dead body, but their work was interrupted by a band of marauding Moabites.
  - a) In haste, the gravediggers tossed the corpse into \_\_\_\_\_ sepulchre. The dead man was resurrected and sprang to his feet when he came in contact with Elisha's remains.
  - b) (vv 22-25) This miracle, the last in Elisha's ministry, was intended to build the \_\_\_\_\_ of Israel, and to show that Elisha's prediction of deliverance from Syria would indeed be fulfilled, as we see in the last verses of the chapter. Israel's eastern cities were restored, and Joash smote the Syrians three times.

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## Application

5. Joash knew that Elisha was God's man and that he was imparting to the king the blessing of God in deliverance from the Syrians. Joash's halting his shots at three arrows instead of emptying his quiver indicates his weak faith. "As the discharged arrow signified a victory over the Syrians, it is evident that the more arrows he shot the more victories he would gain."<sup>1</sup> When we fail to trust God with all our hearts, how \_\_\_\_\_ he will bless!

*Mark 6:5 And he could there do no mighty work, save that he laid his hands upon a few sick folk, and healed them. 6 And he marvelled because of their unbelief. And he went round about the villages, teaching.*

6. The death of Elisha was a tremendous blow against Israel's spiritual condition, but God's Plan of Redemption marched on without the prophet. Matthew Henry remarked, "God's grace is not tied to one hand. He can bury his workmen and yet carry on his \_\_\_\_\_."<sup>2</sup>

7. The miracle that took place in Elisha's tomb is evidence of the afterlife. Matthew Henry explained, "From operation we may infer existence. By this it appeared that the Lord was still the God of Elisha; therefore Elisha still lived, *for God is not the God of the dead, but of the \_\_\_\_\_.*"

8. Elijah and Elisha are types of Christ and his \_\_\_\_\_: As Elijah chose Elisha, so also Christ chose us; as Elijah commissioned Elisha before he was taken up into heaven, so also did Christ commission his disciples before his ascension; as Elisha continued Elijah's mission and did twice as many miracles, so also we continue Christ's mission and by his grace do "greater works."<sup>3</sup>

*John 14:12 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.*

**Notes:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Answer Key:** Key word(s): "deliverance" • 1. a) Elisha said it of Elijah (2 Ki. 2:12); b) A chariot team was a picture of strength in battle and victory over the enemy; the use of the phrase honored Elisha as the true guardian of God's people • 2. Aphek • 3. shoot; a) three; b) thrice • 4. a) Elisha's; b) faith • 5. little • 6. work • 7. living • 8. church

**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.

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<sup>1</sup> Jamieson, Robert, A. R. Fausset, and David Brown. *Commentary Critical and Explanatory on the Whole Bible*. Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997. Print.

<sup>2</sup> Henry, Matthew. *Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible: Complete and Unabridged in One Volume*. Peabody: Hendrickson, 1994. Print.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.