

ELISHA

Thank you Jesus for this beautiful day. As we delve into your word please enlighten our hearts... in Jesus name. Amen

We are studying about Elisha

Today is about the **background of Elisha**

Can we briefly share our knowledge on who Elisha was

Basically we all know Elisha is the man that took over from Elijah

Elisha was the faithful disciple of the prophet Elijah, and his successor. He had followed his master from the moment they met, when Elisha was a young man, plowing his father's field near the ancient town of Abel-mecholah in northern Israel. Elisha saw his master disappear in a fiery chariot, going up to heaven, without dying first. At that moment Elisha cried: "My father, my father, the chariot of Israel...!" and rent his clothes.

He knew then that he was to carry on the great work of Elijah, to spread the knowledge of God, to bring relief and blessing to his people, and teach them to be kind and charitable.

Elisha picked up the mantle which Elijah had cast off when he went up to heaven. He felt the spirit of Elijah within him, and when he had to cross the Jordan to return home, he waved Elijah's mantle against the water, and they parted suddenly and made a way for the divine prophet to cross the Jordan on its dry bed

There was now hardly a man, king or slave, who hadn't heard of Elisha's miracles and divine powers. It didn't take a long time before three kings came together to Elisha to ask his help. The occasion was the war with Moab.

For many years the Moabites had been subdued by Ahab, king of Israel (of the Ten Tribes). When Ahab died, they rebelled, and again became a menace to the land of Israel. Ahab's son Jehoram who succeeded his brother Ahaziah as King of Israel then appealed to Jehoshaphat, king of Judah, to come to his aid, and Jehoshaphat's reply was short: "I am as thou; my people as thy people, my horses as thy horses..."

It was Elisha's custom to travel about all over the land of Israel in order to observe how his people lived, to help them where necessary and to teach them the knowledge of God.

Soon Elisha was again to prove his divine powers. The people of Jericho came to him to complain of the bad water of the vicinity which caused disease to man and beast, and laid the whole land waste and barren. Elisha was ready to prove God's great kindness in a miraculous way. He requested a new cruse with salt. This he took to the nearest spring and there cast the salt into the water. To the assembled people he proclaimed in God's name that the water would now be cured, and would no longer cause death, nor make the land barren. And as the people drank of the sweet, pure and wholesome water they praised God and blessed the great prophet. Elisha's name grew far and wide.

We know of all the awesome things Elisha did.

-The Three Kings that Pleaded for Elisha's Help

-The Pot of Oil That Turned Into A Well

-Elisha And The Shunammite

-The Seven Years of Famine

And a lot more

The miracles that the holy prophet Elisha so frequently performed to ease the suffering of his dear ones, became known far and wide. Everybody knew that Elisha was kind and generous to all, even to men who did not belong to his own people. Thus he cured of leprosy a great Syrian prince, Naaman, who next to the king was the greatest man in Syria).

For over 65 years, Elisha stood at the head of the prophets of his time, among whom was also the prophet Jonah. He saw many kings reign and fall in Judah and Israel. Fearlessly, like his master the prophet Elijah, he fulfilled his divine mission, until his last day came.

As he was lying ill, king Joash of Israel came to his bedside and wept.

"My father, my father, the chariot and horsemen of Israel!" he cried.

Indeed, the people of Israel came to rely upon their great and beloved prophet more than they ever relied upon their chariots and horsemen.

Elisha's last prophecy was an encouraging one. He told the king that he would defeat Syria three times, and that the people of Israel would then see better and happier days.

We'll be stopping here for tonight

I hope we've been able to remind ourselves about the man Elisha. Join us tomorrow as we proceed in our study.

Do have a great night

Heavenly father we thank you for the privilege of hearing your word this evening, we pray that you will help us to put your word into practice in Jesus

This night we'd be talking briefly on the **achievements** of **Elisha**

Can we mention them?

A: He got double portion of Elijah's anointing

A : He made an axe to float

And cured water

A : Healed Naaman

Brought a dead boy to life

Bible historicans recorded 16 miracles of Elisha which is actually double of Elijah's miracles which were 8 and only about 11 were mentioned in the Bible

The achievement of Elisha

This was the first time Elisha was mentioned in the Bible, he was anointed. It was after that the Bible began to talk about his achievements.

1Ki 19:16 And Jehu the son of Nimshi shalt thou anoint to be king over Israel: and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abelmeholah shalt thou anoint to be prophet in thy room.

1Ki 19:19 So he departed thence, and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen before him, and he with the twelfth: and Elijah passed by him, and cast his mantle upon him.

He did a number of miracles that we'd not be focusing so well on , those where his achievements in the Bible but he didn't achieve them until after he was anointed. We can liken his anointing to salvation in our day, *there's no true achievement outside Christ*

When we realize this we wouldn't try to achieve this outside God. It doesn't have to be a 'spiritual' achievement sef but you still need God. The world measure of success is different from that of the kingdom. You and an unbeliever might have same physical achievement but it's not same, God was involved in yours.

Your pursuit of achievement should bring you closer to God, not take you away. He is the source of good success like Joshua 1:8 puts it. Elisha could achieve all he did through God in him.

As a writer, business woman and whatever cooperate career path you have chosen. Acknowledge the place of God don't leave God out of your 'secular' life and work.

I'd end with this

1Co 15:10 But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

Whatever you've achieved, the glory still belongs to God, yes you've worked hard and all but it's God that

crowned your effort with success.

Father, we thank you for the grace to learn at your feet one more time. We give you the glory for the lessons learnt. We ask that you help us to be doers of your word. Bless your words in our hearts.

May we continue to have listening ears, seeing eyes and receptive hearts in Jesus name.

Amen!

Mistakes of Elisha

So, today, we're going to be looking at Elisha.

So, before I start, can someone tell us something memorable you've learnt about Elisha?

To his mistakes.

We all know it's not that easy to take on a new position, especially when your predecessors have done it so well that your boss has so much expectations for you.

It happened as such for Elisha.

Even after he told the people that God had taken Elijah up, they still conducted a search for his body. Somehow, they either thought he wasn't saying the truth or they Sha wanted his body.

It showed that they yet haven't had respect for his ordainment.

It had to Dawn on them since Elijah was like a Spiritual authority at the time.

: And afterwards he had to follow the order of passing it down but unfortunately, Gehazi who was meant to have it, didn't-- because of his greed and rebellion.

After studying this 2 Kings, I realize that the only mistake I found in him was not anointing anyone after himself to take over.

I also feel that he didn't have a good sense of discipleship in that he didn't bring up his servants so well in spirituals and they all were like babies in the Spirit.

Elisha had to explain everything to them.

Even when they went to the battle field, he had to open their eyes for them again.

So the lesson is, how much to you pour out to your disciples/mentees?

Or do you just leave them hanging like "Go and pray let the Lord reveal it to you".

Sometimes, the Lord has to even reveal it through you but no, you're hoarding knowledge.

Elisha could have had someone to take over from him if he like Elijah did spur up hunger in his servants for the things of God.

Also, as mentees, our mentors shouldn't run after us though.

Ask questions too. Let them explain. Pray for them, they also have to understand leadership and mentorship to help you grow.

Although they had a guild of prophets at the time but it wasn't enough to put someone in his stead.

He was carried away with administrative duties, ministry, etc that he forgot that the word would only move better if he poured unto someone all that God had dealt with him on.

And so one day, he just fell sick and died. Lobatan.

I hope we learnt a lot like I did.

Taking this part for me was pretty hard as I had to do extra studies to get another mistake but I didn't.
LOL

Lord Jesus we thank you for your word that gives life. We pray and trust in you that you help us to understand leadership and shine the light wherever we go that in our absence your kingdom moves.

Thank you Lord for answers.

In Jesus' Name we pray.

: Father in Jesus name, we so much thank you for your grace, another opportunity to gather here again , your name is highly exalted.

As we go into today's review, teach us lord, we walk in ur knowledge and wisdom in Jesus name .Amen!

We bless God for how far he had taken us this week on the study of Elisha. So much has been said already, so I just trust God to help us again today, open our eyes and help our weakness

So we are supposed to study the **impacts** of **Elisha** today..

Alot has been said over the week already and I don't really have a lot to say that haven't been said before...

So, like we have learnt, Elisha did many miracles and I will pick very few of them

1. Was the water that was healed in Jericho... as in that was tear rubber miracle (first fruit miracle, that was the first he did after the anointing of his father rested on him

So from this one, like we learnt on Tuesday from @ BarrDella , Elisha was a very stubborn man and he was ready to go any length for God

This affected his service with Elijah, and he was able to get double portion of anointing, by his willingness to follow

Elijah asked him to wait at some points but he didn't... (this is not disobedience but wisdom) like Ruth also followed her mother inlaw

2. Elisha prophesied about how the lord will deliver the moabites into the hands of the king of Israel, Judah and Edom

And we would see in that chapter (2kings3) that it was one of the kings servants that advised the king to go to Elisha

Meaning that, they know that he is trusted

He yields to the lord

So one major impact that I see elisha had to himself and to the people was that he yields to the lord...

We should know that our walk with God affects lives around us

1 Timothy 4:16

[16]Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: *for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.*

It starts with us taking heed unto ourselves, unto our lives

So are you a leader? You want to make impacts? You want to touch lives??

Take heed unto yourself first

Then the story of the shunnamite woman who gave birth by prophesy from our prophet elisha and the boy died and by gods grace, was raised again

From here, t the woman was very desperate to want Elisha himself to come and see th boy

I learnt something here, it is someone who is desperate for the lord that will see him.

We can't sit down at the comfort of our own and be saying we desire the lord

Like the woman that went in search of elisha,

Can we also seek the lord and tarry there

Be stubborn and wouldn't leave until you've seen him??

Until I take up your life lord, I wont leave you

Until you fill me up with yourself, you will not rest

I will keep on knocking on the door until you open

On the one hand, he will give eternal life to those who look for glory, honor, and immortality based on their patient good work.

Romans 2:7 CEB

We should be a people that will say to the lord

Thank you for giving me tongues, thank you for gifts of the spirit

But it is ONLY YOU THAT CAN SATISFY ME

GIVE ME YOURSELF

I dont want gehazi, I want you

That was the cry of the shunnamite woman

Ofcouser we know, that gehazi went first and he couldnt get the work done

Until the man himself steps in

OLORI OKO entered † ♀, the boy came back alive

Lastly, I want to talk about Naaman that was healed of his leprosy

I know leprosy is a condition that the body cant feel anything

I think I am

So, I know we all know the story

How he was told to go Jordan to bath 7 times

Interpreting that scenario, you know I see naaman as believers

We can't respond to the lord again in our souls

The lord is talking but we have leprosy, we are not sensitive ☹

You see, the lord is not happy and he wants to heal us

And then, Jordan is where we have to go to get washed

Ephesians 5:26-27

[26]That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

[27]That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

Of course we know that there's shame in the gospel the same way it was shameful for Naaman to have to wash in the Jordan River

Romans 1:16

[16]For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

We must not get ashamed, we must humble ourselves before God so he can heal us of our infirmities

Sometimes, in fact most times it is shameful

But we leave the shame behind us and press forward

For instance, you have anger issues and the Lord wants to heal you of that infirmity

And then someone annoyed you one day (the person was at fault), the person is younger than you and then the Lord asked you to beg the person ♂ ♀ after she humiliated you outside

Sisters, that is your Jordan... grab your copy.. jump into it and you will be made whole

When the word of the Lord comes, we should humble ourselves, receive with meekness

James 1:21

[21]Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.

So lastly I just want to say that though Elisha was a good man, he is not perfect, Hence he is not our role model but Christ

All of us desiring Elisha kind of anointing

Looking unto to Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith

I hope we have learnt at least one thing from this my long story † ♀

I ask for grace for us all and that the Lord interprets his word to us

In Jesus name

Father, as we have come to learn again this evening, recharge our soul with your word, speak through your daughter and let your word be of benefit to us for it's in Jesus name we pray. Amen

We're studying the **moral lessons from Elisha** today...

A lot has been said about Elisha this week...

And I believe we have all learned one or two things from Elisha this week?

But now God told Elijah to leave his hiding place, return to the north, and anoint Elisha to be his successor as prophet (see 1 Kings 19:15–21).

From that time onward, Elisha followed Elijah, serving him and learning from him as his disciple.

We don't know just how long Elisha had been Elijah's servant before he became his successor. But clearly, Elisha had formed a strong bond with his master.

In the story of 2 Kings 2:1–18, three times Elijah told Elisha to stay behind while Elijah traveled to another place. Each time, Elisha refused, and stuck by his master's side. As he traveled onward with Elijah, the local "company of the prophets" came out and told him that his master was about to be taken from him. This, Elisha told them, he already knew.

For Elisha, it was a bittersweet journey. He knew he was to become Elijah's successor. And yet, he knew that for this to happen, he had to lose the great man that he looked up to. It might have been easier for him to avoid this painful event and stay behind, as Elijah urged him to do. But he was determined to see it through to the end...

And here lies the first lesson in this story for Christians—and for anyone else on a spiritual path.

We get the sense that Elijah was

testing his disciple to see if he would be a worthy successor. He kept telling Elisha, "Remain here. Don't follow me."

Did Elisha have the dedication and strength of character to follow his own calling despite pressure from the man he revered? Could he overcome both outward resistance and the heaviness of his own heart????

These days, especially in the wealthiest countries young people get used to having things handed to them on a silver platter. Everything is made as easy as possible for them. All obstacles are cleared out of their path. They grow up thinking that the world exists to serve their needs.

But once they hit adulthood, there is a rude awakening. They discover that the world doesn't consider them special at all. Once they leave the protective cocoon of their parents' home, they find that nobody is interested in giving them anything. They have to work hard just to meet their basic needs. Many of them sink under the weight of an uncaring world that they were never prepared for.

Elijah's approach was very different. Elisha became a servant to Elijah.

Instead of being cared for, he had to take care of his master's needs, pouring his water, washing his feet. He had to endure the same hardships Elijah did. Before Elijah could pass on his mantle, he had to be sure that Elisha had enough iron ribbing in his character to withstand the harsh challenges of being a prophet of the Lord in a hostile world. Right to the end, he tested him to see if he could be too easily turned away from the hard road he must travel...

Similarly, the life of a true Christian is not an easy one. We will be repeatedly tempted to stay where we are instead of moving forward on the difficult journey ahead. But if we wish to follow in the footsteps of Jesus Christ, our master, we must develop the strength of character to push forward despite every distraction, discouragement

Elisha knew his master was gone for good. But the company of prophets was not ready to accept it. They asked Elisha to let them search the region across the Jordan to see if God had dropped Elijah on some mountain or in some valley.

Elisha told them not to go.

They kept pressing and urging him until he relented.

After three days of searching, they found nothing. Elisha said, "I told you so!"

Yet the incident has one more lesson for us in our Christian walk:

Look forward, not back.

It's a common saying—but much easier said than done.

The company of the prophets was looking back to the familiar times of having Elijah as their leader.

But now they had a new leader....

And though Elisha had learned many things from his master, his style would be different. Elijah's main mission was to stand up for the God of Israel against popular pagan gods such as Baal and Asherah. Elisha was more about doing amazing miracles and advising kings, princes, and commoners alike. Elijah was a lonely voice in the wilderness. Elisha was a man of the people.

Elisha did not merely repeat what his master did. *He had his own distinctive voice and mission as a prophet*

Just so, when it comes our time to take up the mantle of leadership, our job is not to repeat what those before us did. *Our job is to take up the journey where they left off, and move boldly into new territory—even if our parents and teachers might not understand or appreciate what we are doing.*

I hope we have learnt something from this my long talk?

Father, we thank you for today.

We thank you for yet another opportunity to feed on your Word.

We thank you for the fullness of light and revelation.

We thank you because our eyes see clearly, our ears hear audibly & our hearts are receptive to the Word.

We thank you because the Word is conveyed with simplicity and with power into our hearts and it bears much fruit, even a hundredfold.

Thank you Father, in Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.