

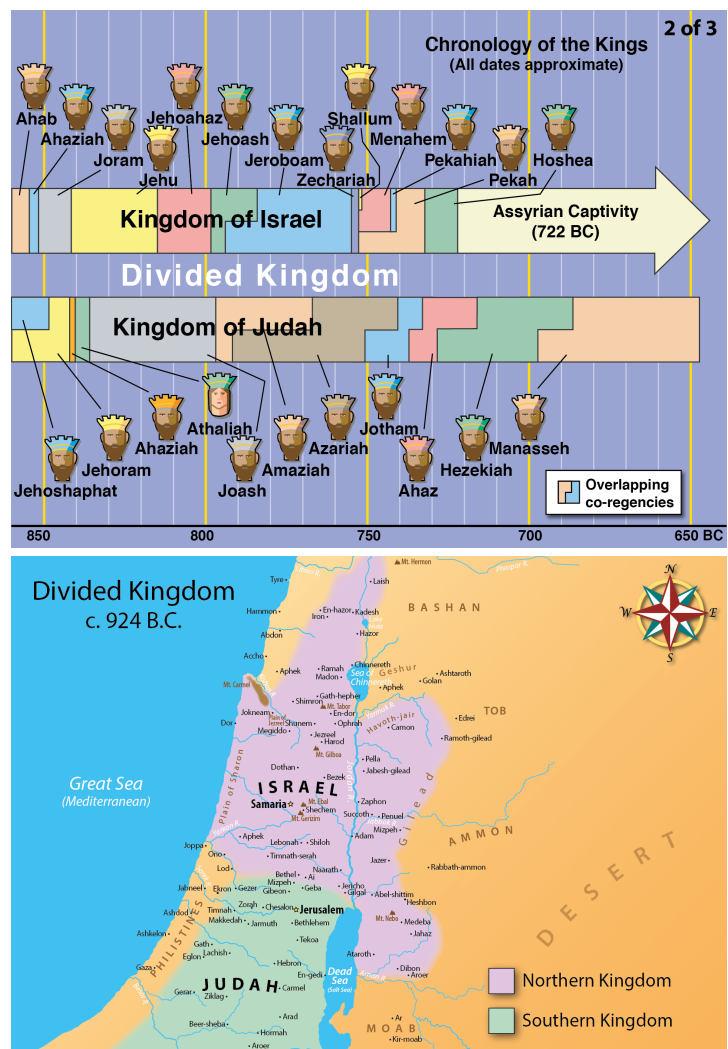
2 Kings describes a transition from one “messenger of God” to the next.

Now when the LORD was about to take _____ up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and _____ were on their way from Gilgal. And Elijah said to Elisha, “Please stay here, for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel.” But Elisha said, “As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” (2:1-2)

As the two prophets approached the Jordan River...

Then Elijah took his cloak and rolled it up and struck the water, and the water was _____ to the one side and to the other, till the two of them could go over on dry ground.

When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Ask what I shall do for you, before I am taken from you.” And Elisha said, “Please let there be a double portion of your _____ on me.” And he said, “You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it shall be so for you, but if you do not see me, it shall not be so.” And as they still went on and talked, behold, chariots of _____ and horses of fire separated the two of them. And Elijah went up by a _____ into heaven.



And Elisha saw it and he cried, "My father, my father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" And he saw him no more.

Then he took hold of his own clothes and tore them in two pieces. And he took up the cloak of Elijah that had fallen from him and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. Then he took the cloak of Elijah that had fallen from him and _____ the water, saying, "Where is the LORD, the God of Elijah?" And when he had struck the water, the water was parted to the one side and to the other, and Elisha went over. (2:8-14)

From that point on, we read about Elisha being involved in several miracles.

- ✿ The "_____ " of the water of Jericho (2:19-22)
- ✿ Multiplication of _____ for a widow and her two sons (4:1-7)
- ✿ The blessing of a _____ to a woman of Shunem and her old husband (4:8-17)
- ✿ The raising of that promised son from the _____ (4:18-37)
- ✿ The purifying of a deadly _____ (4:38-41)
- ✿ Multiplication of _____ for a multitude of men (4:42-44)
- ✿ The cleansing of Naaman from _____ (5:1-14)
- ✿ Making an iron _____ head float so that it could be recovered (6:1-7)

What was the point of all these miracles? 2 Kings 5:8 provides at least one really good answer: "...that he may _____ that there is a _____ in Israel."

- ✿ Think about that phrase. Why was it important for everyone from common people to kings in Israel and Judah to "know" that there was a prophet in Israel? How does this connect to 2 Chronicles 36:15-16, the sad passage we've reminded ourselves of several times throughout this series?

- ✿ But this knowledge wasn't just for the descendants of Abraham. Let's take the time to dig into Naaman's story in 2 Kings 5:1-14. How did he come to know that there was a prophet in Israel? What can we learn from his story, even today?

- ✿ We live a long time after the days when these miracle-working messengers of God walked the earth, but why is it important for us to still recognize and appreciate that there were prophets in Israel during the divided kingdom? 2 Peter 3:1-13 might be helpful here...

- ✿ What have you seen and heard in 2 Kings 2-6 that makes you appreciate Jesus our King even more?