

### Handout: 2 Kings Lesson 3

Of all the Old Testament prophets, none of them can compare to Elisha for the volume of his recorded miracles or his gifts of prophecy and clairvoyance. The Fathers of the Church saw a number of typological parallels between Elijah and St. John the Baptist and between Elisha and Jesus Christ:

Typology of Elijah and John the Baptist	Typology of Elisha and Jesus Christ
St. John was given the spirit and power of Elijah from the womb.	Jesus succeeded the ministry of John the Baptist and became a greater prophet in the same way Elisha succeeded and became greater than Elijah.
John like Elijah lived apart from the people	Jesus like Elisha lived among the people.
Both John and Elijah stressed obedience to the Law, judgment and repentance.	Both Jesus and Elisha emphasized grace, faith and hope.
John adopted a manner of dress like Elijah and ate a restricted diet.	Jesus and Elisha enjoyed communal meals with their disciples and with others.
John baptized on the east bank of the Jordan River where Elijah was translated into heaven.	Jesus like Elisha was a compassionate friend of the common people.
John like Elijah challenged the sins of a corrupt king and his wife.	Jesus and Elisha cured the sick, made feeding miracles, defended the poor and raised the dead.
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The Aramaeans were a Semitic people who lived in ancient Syria and were originally descended from Aram, a son of Shem and grandson of Noah (Gen 10:1, 22-23; 1 Chr 1:17), just as the Israelites were descended through Abram/Abraham who was also a descendant of Shem (Gen 10:1; 11:10-30). The Aramaean people held several small city-states that formed a confederation at the beginning of the first millennium, but never united sufficiently to create an empire. The Aramaean kingdoms were finally conquered by the Assyrians under Tiglath-Pileser III in 732 B.C. The defeat and conquest of the Aramaean states removed a buffer between Israel and the advancing Assyrian empire. Their gift to the region was their language that replaced Hebrew to become the common tongue of the people of Judah from the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC until 70 AD. It was Jesus' language. Genesis 10:21-24 ~ *Shem too fathered sons, being ancestor of all the son of Eber and Japheth's elder brother. Shem's sons: Elam, Asshur, Arpachshad, Lud, Aram. Aram's sons: Uz, Hul, Gether and Mash. Arpachshad fathered Shelah, and Shelah fathered Eber. Eber is the ancestor of the Hebrews.* Genesis 11:14, 26 records that Shem's son Eber was the ancestor of Terah, father of Abram (Abraham).

Over →

### The Kings of Aram in Damascus

Kings of Aram	Dates	Scripture
Herizon (Rezon)	c. 990 – 930 BC	1 Kng 11:23, 25; 15:18
Tabrimmon	c. 930 – 885 BC	1 Kng 15:18
Ben-Hadad I	c. 885 – 860 BC	1 Kng 15:18, 20
Ben-Hadad II	c. 860 – 841 BC	1 Kng Chapter 20; 2 Kng6:24; 8:7, 9, 14
Hazael	c. 841 – 801 BC	1 Kng 19:15, 17 2 Kng Chapter 8; 9:14, 15; 10:32; 12:17, 18; 13:3, 22, 24, 25
Ben-Hadad III	c. 807 – 780? BC	2 Kng 13:3, 24, 25
Rezin	c. 780? – 732 BC	2 Kng 15:37; 16:5, 6, 9 Is 7:1, 4, 8; 8:6; 9:11
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Events that took place in 841 BC:

- The seven year famine ends
- Hazael assassinates Ben-Hadad II and becomes king of Aram in Damascus
- King Jehoram of Judah dies
- His son Ahaziah becomes king of Judah
- King Ahaziah of Judah and King Jehoram of Israel go to war against Hazael of Damascus
- Jehoram and Ahaziah are wounded in the battle for Ramoth-Gilead
- Hazael commissions a stela to boast of his success in defeating the combined army of Israel and Judah at Ramoth-Gilead (Tel Dan Stele mentions the “House of David”)
- King Jehoram of Israel is assassinated by Jehu
- Queen Jezebel of Israel is assassinated
- The heirs of the house of Omi are assassinated
- Jehu becomes King of Israel
- Ahaziah is captured and murdered by Jehu
- The heirs of the house of David are assassinated (with one survivor)
- Gebirah (Queen Mother) Athaliah (dau. of Ahab and Jezebel) begins her rule of Judah