

The Last Days of a Prophet

2 Kings 13:14-21

¹⁴Elisha had become sick with the illness of which he would die. Then Joash the king of Israel came down to him, and wept over his face, and said, “O my father, my father, the chariots of Israel and their horsemen!” ¹⁵And Elisha said to him, “Take a bow and some arrows.” So he took himself a bow and some arrows. ¹⁶Then he said to the king of Israel, “Put your hand on the bow.” So he put his hand on it, and Elisha put his hands on the king’s hands. ¹⁷And he said, “Open the east window”; and he opened it. Then Elisha said, “Shoot”; and he shot. And he said, “The arrow of the LORD’s deliverance and the arrow of deliverance from Syria; for you must strike the Syrians at Aphek till you have destroyed them.” ¹⁸Then he said, “Take the arrows”; so he took them. And he said to the king of Israel, “Strike the ground”; so he struck three times, and stopped. ¹⁹And the man of God was angry with him, and said, “You should have struck five or six times; then you would have struck Syria till you had destroyed it! But now you will strike Syria only three times.” ²⁰Then Elisha died, and they buried him. And the raiding bands from Moab invaded the land in the spring of the year. ²¹So it was, as they were burying a man, that suddenly they spied a band of raiders; and they put the man in the tomb of Elisha; and when the man was let down and touched the bones of Elisha, he revived and stood on his feet.

—2 Kings 13:14–21

Read 2 Kings 13:14–21

True faith prays boldly and often because true faith knows that the answer, supply, and directive for every need will be given to us from God. Infrequent and anemic prayer is indicative of weak faith. Why pray if you don’t really believe that God hears, desires to bless, or really cares about you?

**FOOD
FOR THOUGHT**

Godly men and women are not immune from sickness, suffering, or death. In the New Testament, Paul the apostle wrote about his own affliction. God's answer to him was "My grace is sufficient for you" (2 Corinthians 12:7-9).

**FOOD
FOR THOUGHT**

Elisha said this same phrase, "the chariots and horsemen of Israel," to Elijah in 2 Kings 2:12. Maybe the king was expecting and awaiting a supernatural departure of Elisha too.

**FOOD
FOR THOUGHT**

Elisha's ministry began around 855 BC, so he was at least 70 years old at this time.

When Elisha was about to die, he summoned the king of Israel to come to him. Once there, the prophet instructed the king in, what some might call, prophetic exercises. The king's response to these instructions was less than enthusiastic. The outcome was not only detrimental to the king's future, but also to the future of the nation of Israel.

Our prayers become frequent and empowered when we truly believe that our God hears, desires to bless, and zealously loves us.

As you pore over your lesson this week, ask God to strengthen your faith in Him as well as increase your prayers!

1. Using 2 Kings 13:14, answer the following questions:
 - a. What was Elisha's condition?
 - b. What was the reaction of the king when he saw the prophet?
2. Draw from 2 Kings 13:15-17 to share your thoughts concerning:
 - a. Elisha's instructions to the king
 - b. The king's compliance
 - c. The significance of this action

3. According to 2 Kings 13:18, what did Elisha then direct the king to do?
 - a. How did the king respond this time?

4. From 2 Kings 13:19, note and comment on:
 - a. Elisha's response

 - b. The consequences of the king's apathy

5. Jot down the circumstances that are recorded in 2 Kings 13:20.

6. Share your reaction to the miracle that took place in 2 Kings 13:21.

**FOOD
FOR THOUGHT**

Elisha's bones had no magical powers, but the God of Israel was verifying the word and works of his now-dead prophet.

**FOOD
FOR THOUGHT**

And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men.

—Colossians 3:23

**FOOD
FOR THOUGHT**

Interestingly, Elisha's corpse was able to give life after his death. In the same way, his words would hold the power of life and death for Israel as it chose to either obey or refuse what he had said.

