

# God or Tyrants: A Study of 1 & 2 Kings

## Lesson 07: The Mantle Bearer

### Settling In

What questions do you have from your reading of 2 Kings 3:1 – 8:6?

### Introduction

Movie sequels often lag behind their originals (feel free to debate that statement!), and Elisha seems like a sequel to Elijah. Based on the accounts of the Kings, how would you rate Elijah and Elisha in comparison to each other?

### Talk through an outline

- I. We Three King – Our Only Hope is the Word of God! (2 Kings 3)
  - A. The totalitarian claim of the Word of God (vs. 1-3)
  - B. The alarming danger of the Word of God (vs. 4-14)
  - C. The typical tendency of the Word of God (vs. 15-25)
  - D. The easy yoke of the Word of God (vs. 26,27)
  
- II. Help of the Helpless and Nameless (2 Kings 4:1-7)
  - A. God's desperate people (vs. 1)
    - a. Aggravation
    - b. Faithful
    - c. Privilege
  - B. God's typical tendencies (vs. 2-6)
    - a. Where God begins
    - b. How God conceals
    - c. What God stimulates
  - C. God's overflowing kindness (vs. 7)
  - D. The easy yoke of the Word of God (vs. 26,27)
  
- III. The Sad and the Glad of God (2 Kings 4:8-37)
  - A. The simplicity of God's goodness (vs. 14-17)
  - B. The inconsistency of God's ways (vs. 18-30)
  - C. The limitations of God's servant (vs. 27-33)
  - D. The witness of God's power (vs. 32-37)
  
- IV. The Peril of Church Suppers (2 Kings 4:38-41)
  - A. The situation of God's people (vs. 38a)
  - B. The earthiness of God's interests (vs. 38,40)
  - C. The sign of God's work (vs. 41)
  - D. The fallibility of God's servants (vs. 39)
  
- V. Christ and Our Deficiencies (2 Kings 4:42-44)
  - A. The faith that still live in a faithless land (vs. 42a)
  - B. The word that still supplies a needy people (vs. 43,44)

C. The story that still points to an adequate Savior (all)

VI. Grace Goes International (2 Kings 5)

- A. God's sovereignty is total (vs. 1-4)
- B. God's "servants" can be pathetic (vs. 5-8)
- C. God's ways are offensive (vs. 9-14)
  - a. God's ways humble our pride
  - b. God's ways reverse our expectations
  - c. God's ways trample our broadmindedness
- D. God's work is unmistakable (vs. 15-19)
  - a. Naaman's change is seen in his attitude
  - b. Naaman's change is seen in his confession
  - c. Naaman's change is seen in his resolution
  - d. Naaman's change is seen in his sensitivity
- E. God's grace can be dangerous (vs. 20-27)

VII. When God Gave a Preacher the Axe (2 Kings 6:1-7)

- A. God's concern for a simple need (vs. 5a)
- B. God's power for a genuine need (vs. 5b)
- C. God's appeal to a spiritual need (all)

VIII. Safe in the Shadow of the Lord (2 Kings 6:8-23)

- A. The kingdoms of earth meet his uncanny protection (vs. 8-13)
- B. The servants of God enjoy his unseen protection (vs. 14-17)
- C. The enemies of God receive his unexpected protection (vs. 18-23)

IX. A Sure and Severe Deliverance (2 Kings 6:24-7:20)

- A. The desperate need for deliverance (6:24-33)
  - a. Human desperation
  - b. Divine judgment
  - c. Exhausted patience
  - d. Political helplessness
- B. The astounding promise of deliverance (7:1,2)
- C. The unlikely instruments of deliverance (7:3-11, 12-15)
- D. The haunting tragedy of deliverance (7:16-20)

X. The God who Revives and Slays (2 Kings 8:1-15)

- A. Small kindness (vs. 1,2)
- B. Huge responsibility (vs. 3-6)
- C. Sad necessity (vs. 7-15)