

2 KINGS 6 vs 1

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The first and second books of the kings originally were one book, which Jewish tradition credits to the prophet Jeremiah. The subject follows the successes and failures of the kings of both Judah and Israel. This second book of kings follows the decline of **Israel** leading up to their captivity in Syria; and 170 years later, to the decline of **Judah** leading up to their captivity in Babylon.

Elisha recovers the axe head; the iron did float,

¹ Now the sons of the prophets said to Elisha, Behold, the place where we stay with you is too restricted for us.

² Please let us go to the Jordan, and each man there will take a beam, and let us make there a place for ourselves, where we may stay. And he answered, Go.

³ Then one said, Please be content to go with your servants. And he answered, I will go.

⁴ So he went with them. And when they came to the Jordan, they cut down trees.

⁵ But as one was chopping a beam, the axe head fell into the river: and he cried, and said, Alas, master! for it was borrowed / unlike the 21st century, axes, water buckets and other instruments were greatly valued; they were necessary for success in daily life.

⁶ And the man of God said, Where did it fall? And when he showed him the place, he cut down a stick, and threw it in the river; and the iron did float / before Jesus the Messiah came, it is prophet Elisha, successor to the great prophet Elijah, who in the last half of the 9th century bc, was known as the great miracle worker as he lived in Samaria and moved about his people.

⁷ So he said, You take it. And he put out his hand, and took it.

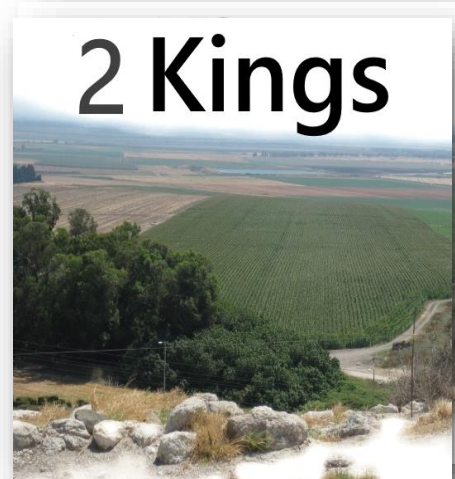
Elisha thwarts Syria,

⁸ Now the king of Syria warred against Israel, and took counsel with his servants, saying, In such and such a place will be my camp.

⁹ And the man of God sent word to the king of Israel, saying, Beware that you do not pass this place; for the Syrians are coming down there.

¹⁰ And the king of Israel sent to the place which the man of God told him; thus he warned him and saved himself there, more than once or twice.

¹¹ So the heart of the king of Syria was enraged over this thing; and he called his servants, and said to them, Will you tell me which of us is for the king of Israel?



¹² And one of his servants said, None, my lord, O king: but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the words that you speak in your bedroom.

¹³ So he said, Go and find out where he is, that I may send and take him. And it was told him, saying, Behold, he is in Dothan.

¹⁴ So he sent horses and chariots, and a great army there: and they came by night, and surrounded the city.

¹⁵ Now when the attendant of the man of God arose early, and went out, behold, an army with both horses and chariots were encircling the city. And his attendant said to him, Alas, my master! What will we do?

¹⁶ And he answered, Do not fear: for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.

¹⁷ Then Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, Please open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

¹⁸ And when they came down to him, Elisha prayed to the LORD and said, Indeed strike this people with blindness. **And He struck them with blindness according to the word of Elisha.**

¹⁹ Then Elisha said to them, This is not the way, nor is this the city: follow me, and I will bring you to the man whom you seek. But he led them to Samaria.

²⁰ And it happened, when they came into Samaria, that Elisha said, LORD, open the eyes of these men, that they may see. And the LORD opened their eyes, and they saw; and behold, they were in the midst of Samaria.

²¹ Then the king of Israel when he saw them said to Elisha, My father, should I kill them? I will kill them!

²² And he answered, You will not kill them. Would you kill those you have taken captive with your sword and with your bow? Set bread and water before them, that they may eat and drink, and go to their master.

²³ And he prepared a great feast for them: and when they had eaten and drunk, he sent them away, and they went to their master. So the marauding bands of Syria came no more into the land of Israel.

²⁴ Now it happened after this, that Ben-hadad king of Syria gathered all his army, and went up, and besieged Samaria.

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²⁵ And there was a great famine in Samaria: and, behold, they besieged it, until the head of an ass was sold for 80 pieces of silver, and $\frac{1}{4}$ of a cab of dove's dung for 5 pieces of silver.

²⁶ And as the king of Israel was passing by on the wall, a woman cried out to him, saying, Help, my lord, O king.

²⁷ And he said, If the LORD does not help you, from where will I help you? from the threshing floor, or from the winepress?

²⁸ And the king said to her, What is the matter with you? And she answered, This woman said to me, Give your son, that we may eat him to day, and we will eat my son tomorrow.

²⁹ So we boiled my son, and ate him: and I said to her on the next day, Give your son, that we may eat him: and she has hidden her son.

³⁰ And it happened, when the king heard what the woman said, that he ripped his clothes as he stood on the wall, and the people noticed, he had sackcloth beneath covering his body.

³¹ Then he said, May God kill me and worse, if the head of Elisha the son of Shaphat remains on him today.

³² Now Elisha was sitting in his house, and the elders sat with him; and the king sent a man from his presence: but before the messenger even came to him, he said to the elders, Do you see how this murderer son has ordered to take off my head? Look to it, when the messenger arrives, close the door, and shut it against him. Is not the sound of his master's feet behind him?

³³ And he was yet talking with them, behold, the messenger came down to him: and he said, Behold, this evil is from the LORD; why should I wait for the LORD any longer?

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