



Cover to Cover: (Elisha)

Aug 19

Watch: [Kings](#)

Context: Meanwhile... Last LG and Lord's Day we focused on events in Judah. Today we turn our attention to events that happened slightly later in the northern kingdom of Israel. Here great focus is given to the story of King Asa and the Prophet Elijah. Elijah alone was the faithful voice of the LORD against Israel's wickedness as a prophet, or spokesman of God. Having been taken up into heaven, Elijah's mantle fell upon Elisha (meaning God is salvation), who is given a double portion of Elijah's power and so performs twice as many miracles. In today's readings there are many noteworthy stories of Elisha upon which we could focus, however, we'll turn our attention to "chariots of fire."

First let's think about Pastor's sermon from this past Lord's Day on Jehoshaphat (2 Chr 20).

Sermon Recap:

- On a scale of 1–10 where would you place Jehoshaphat, as a good or bad king?
- What good things did he do?
- V. 6- What did he do when he feared?
- What is meant by "but our eyes are on you"? (v. 12).
- What do you think of the way in which his enemies were defeated? How ought praise factor into our spiritual warfare?

Reading: 2 Kings 6:8–23

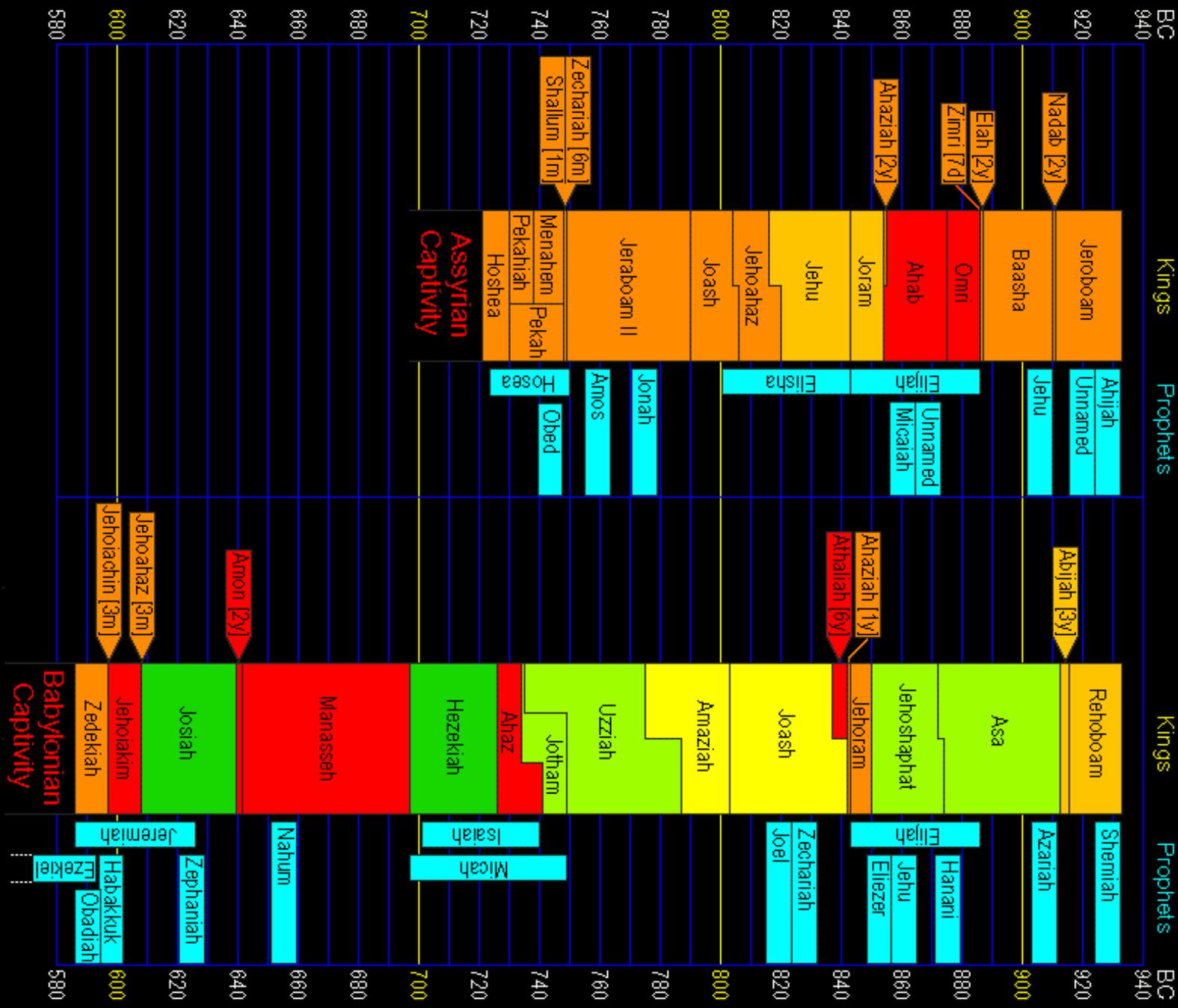
Questions:

- *During Elisha's ministry the Syrians were the main foe to the Kingdom of Israel (ch.5).* Showing grace to Israel what does Elisha do to help them? (v. 8–10).
 - How should it be humbling to know God can reveal things to people (Nu 32:33)?
 - How is God's general grace shown toward sinners a means to make them without excuse?

- Vv. 11–14– *Elisha was currently in Dothan (10 miles north of Samaria), which was then controlled by the Syrians and shows the extent of their penetration into Israelite territory.* What did the king of Syria resolve to do about this [supernatural] spy? Why is it futile to try to "send and seize" those who belong to God? (Ps 20:7).
- *Elisha's servant is the first to become aware of this great army.* What is his reaction (v. 15)? How can we often react like Him in the midst of sudden trials? How is fear the opposite of faith? What ought our response to be?
- An important verse in the story is v. 16.
- *Apparently Elisha is able to see this army sent by God to protect him (LORD of hosts means "God of angel armies").* Why were the angels invisible to the servant (and the Syrians!)?
- (v. 15 vs. v. 17) Syrian troops may have surrounded the city but Elisha himself was surrounded by angels! What does the Bible say about angelic protection of believers? (Ps 34:7, 91:11; Heb 1:14). How actually do we have far greater reason to be encouraged as a New Covenant believer?
- Elijah then offered three prayers, after which amazing things happened. What were these?
- What does this say about the prayers of a godly man (Ja5:16)? (Though we must recognize Elisha also had a special anointing upon his life).
- The servant's eyes were opened to spiritual truth in the heavenly realms, what happened to the eyes of the Syrians? Why must this not have been a physical blindness but rather a daze (which "blindness can mean")? (compare v.18 and v.20).
- (v. 19)- Why did Elisha lead the soldiers to the King of Israel in the capital city of Samaria? (Just imagine an army suddenly having infiltrated the city they desired! Shocking for everyone involved!).
- How does "my father" (v. 21) represent the king's [momentary] acknowledgement of the spiritual authority with which Elisha had?
- Why did Elisha command hospitality be shown to these enemies? What [temporary] effect did this have? (Prov 15:1; Ro 12:20)

Israel

Judah



Righteous

Evil