

II Kings 3-8

Historical Books II
Lecture #19

II Kings Chapter 3

Jehoram's Reign

Jehoram

- Reigned over Israel for 12 years.
- Seems to have rejected the Baal worship of his family but followed the ways of Jeroboam's religion.



Moab's Rebellion

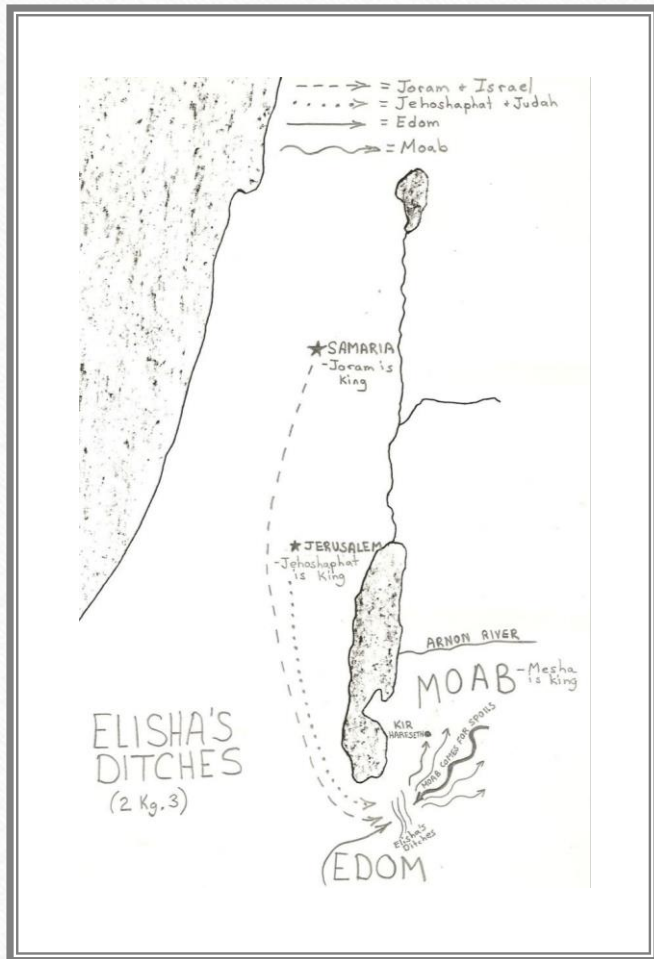
- Mesha leads a rebellion against Israel.
 - His exploits are recorded on the “Mesha Stele”
- An alliance of Israel, Judah, and Edom gather to attack Moab.



Elisha

- Elisha is consulted when the army has no water.
- He is agitated at the presence of Jehoram and asks for a musician to play for him.
- God tells them to dig ditches in the valley to catch the water he would send.

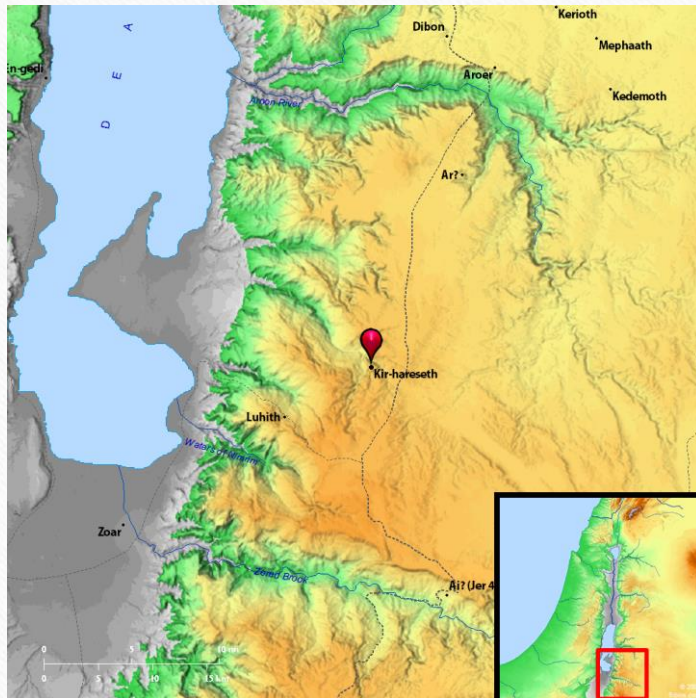




Moab's Defeat

- Moab sees the sun reflecting off the pools of water and thinks it is blood.
- They come into spoil the “battlefield” and are defeated.
- Moab is pushed northward.

Siege of Kirharaseth



- Mesha and his remaining forces are trapped at the fortress at Kirharaseth.
- Unable to break through, Mesha offers his own son as a sacrifice on the wall.
- This breaks the resolve of the attackers.

II Kings

Chapter 4

Elisha's Ministry

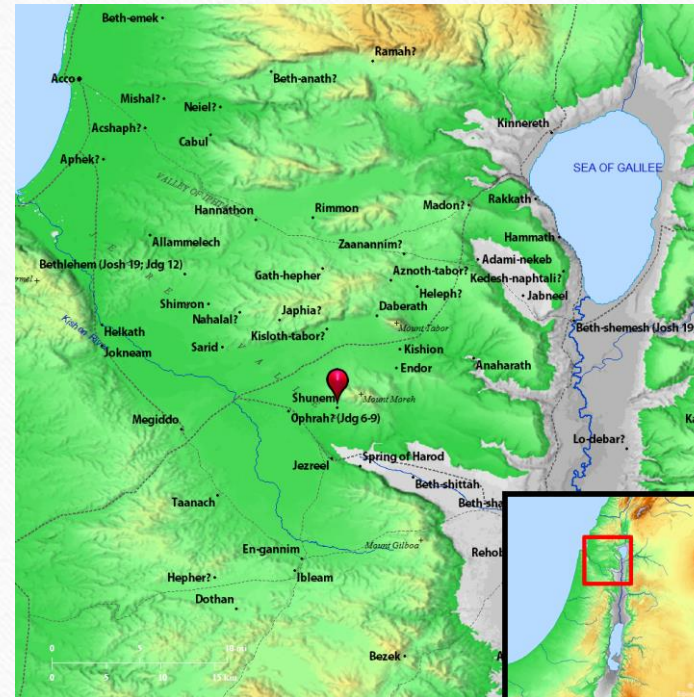
The Widow's Oil



- A widow of a son of a prophet has a debt and the creditor is ready to take her children into servitude.
- Elisha instructs her to get vessels and pour her last container of oil into them.
- All the vessels are filled and she is able to sell the oil and pay her debt.

The Shunammite Woman

- A wealthy woman in Shunem provides a place for Elisha to stay as he travelled.
- Elisha seeks to do something good in return for her.
- God blesses her with a baby boy.





Shunammite Woman's Son

- We do not know how much time has passed and how old the son is.
- Many commentators believe the son suffers a heat stroke.
- Gehazi is powerless to raise the dead son.
- Elisha stretched himself twice on the son and he returns to life.

“Death in the Pot”

- The sons of the prophets have a “potluck” stew.
- One puts in a poisonous gourd (colocynth?).
- Elisha puts in some flour and the stew is made safe to eat.





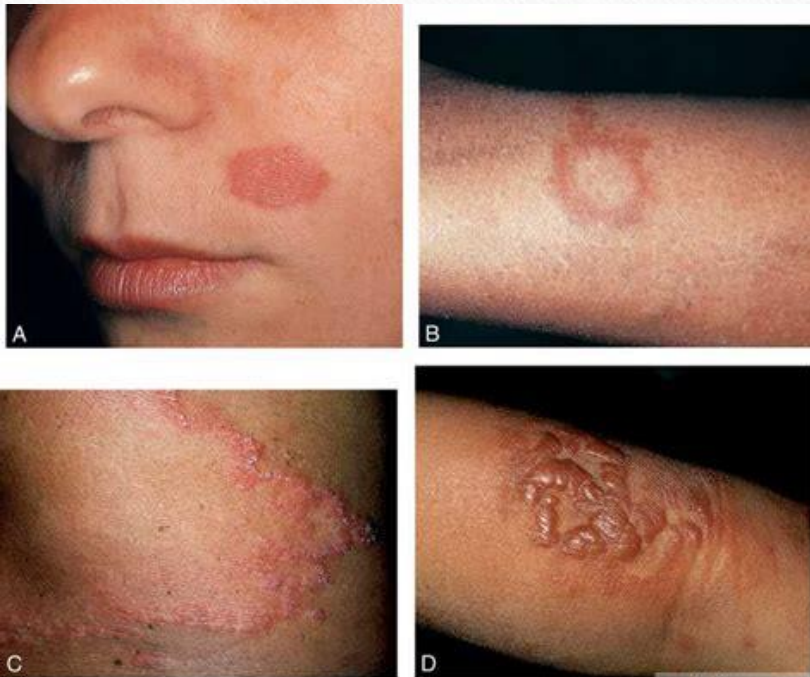
A Miraculous Meal

- A man brings some food to the sons of the prophets.
- The amount is inadequate to meet the need.
- Elisha tells them to eat anyway.
- They eat and there is enough to spare.

II Kings Chapter 5

Elisha and Naaman

Naaman



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- Naaman is an Assyrian general with leprosy.
- A Jewish serving girl points him to Elisha to find healing.
- Naaman goes to the King of Israel (Jehu?) who does not know Elisha.
- Naaman offers a huge reward for healing.
- Elisha does not see him, but sends a messenger to tell him to dip in the Jordan seven times.

Naaman's Healing



- Naaman balks at the command of Elisha, but his servants convince him to do it.
- After dipping seven times, he is healed of his leprosy.
- He returns to give a reward to Elisha.

Gehazi

- Elijah refused any reward.
- Naaman takes two mule loads of soil back with him.
- Gehazi runs after Naaman and claims Elijah changed his mind about the reward.
- Gehazi is struck with Naaman's leprosy.



II Kings Chapter 6

Elisha's Ministry

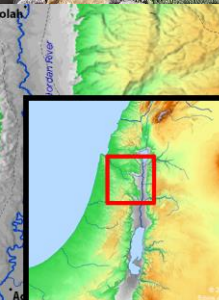
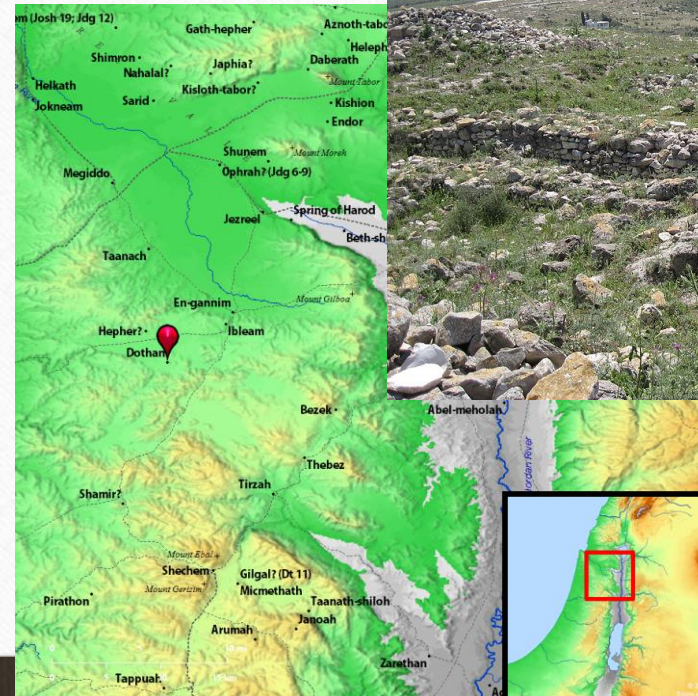
The Swimming Axe Head

- The ranks of the sons of the prophet are growing and they work to build a new building.
- While cutting wood near Jordan, one of them loses an axe head in the river.
- Elijah casts a stick in the water and the axe head swims to the surface.



War with Syria

- Jehoram is miraculously delivered multiple times from Syrian attacks because of Elisha's warnings.
- The Syrian king sends a force to capture Elisha at Dothan.
- His servant panics, but Elisha prays that he would see that God was in control – angelic forces all around.



Jehoram and the Prisoners

- God “blinds” the Syrian soldiers.
- Elijah leads them to Samaria.
- Jehoram wants to kill them.
- Elijah says to be kind to them and release them.
- The Syrians stop sending raids and now come in force.



Siege of Samaria

- Benhadad II besieges Samaria
- There is a famine and a siege – a catastrophic combination!
 - Donkey's head – 80 shekels - \$700
 - Dove's dung – 5 shekels - \$40
 - There is talk of cannibalism.



Jehoram and Elijah – II Kings 6:31-32

- 31 Then he [Jehoram] said, God do so and more also to me, if the head of Elisha the son of Shaphat shall stand on him this day.
- 32 But Elisha sat in his house, and the elders sat with him; and the king sent a man from before him: but ere the messenger came to him, he [Elijah] said to the elders, See ye how this son of a murderer hath sent to take away mine head? look, when the messenger cometh, shut the door, and hold him fast at the door: is not the sound of his master's feet behind him?
- 33 And while he [Elijah] yet talked with them [elders], behold, the messenger came down unto him [Elijah?]: and he [Jehoram] said, Behold, this evil is of the LORD; what should I wait for the LORD any longer?
- This passage is a little tricky to follow, especially who is speaking in the last verse.
- Jehoram sends a messenger but follows after him.
- It is Jehoram that speaks the last words of vs. 33.
 - Elijah responds in the next chapter.

II Kings Chapter 7

Deliverance of Samaria

Promised Deliverance

- Elisha promises that the siege/famine will break, and food will be abundant.
 - One shekel would buy one *seah* of wheat or two of barley.
- One leader mocks this Elisha says he will see it happen but not eat of it.



The Lepers

- Four lepers go at twilight out to seek mercy from the Syrians.
- God makes the Syrians hear and advancing army and they flee.
- The lepers start to spoil the camp then go and tell the city about what had happened.



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The Stampede

- The lepers report back to the city.
- The king sends scouts to verify.
- The city rushes out to spoil the camp.
- The doubting ruler is crushed in the stampede.



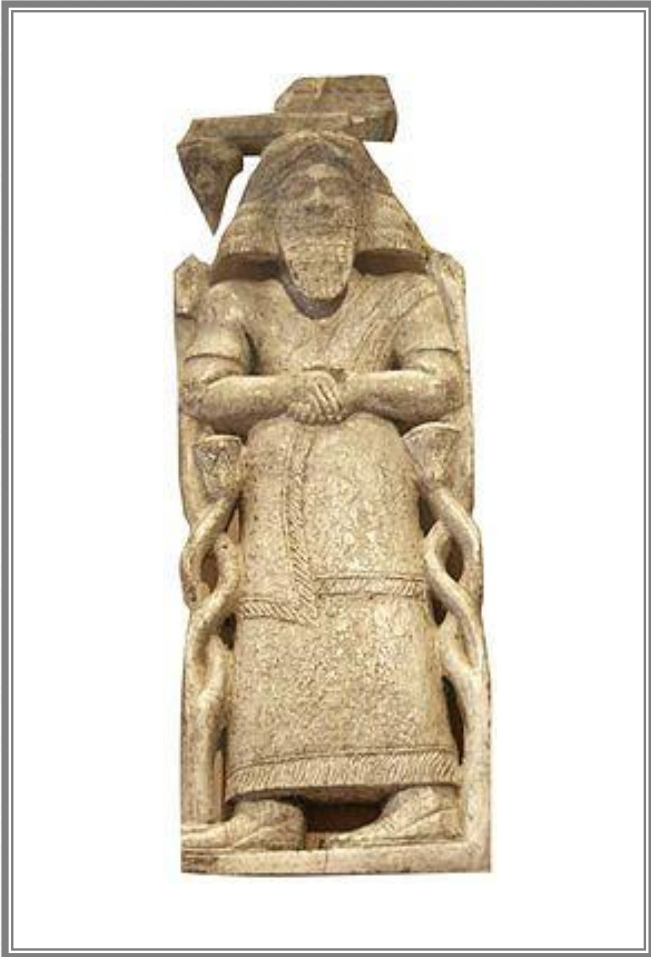
II Kings Chapter 8

Jehoram and Ahaziah

The Shunammite Woman's Land

- The Shunammite Woman and her family had fled to Philistia during a famine.
- They return and ask the king to restore their land.
- Gehazi is telling the king the story of the raising of her son.
- The king restores her lands.





Hazael

- Elisha is in Damascus.
- Benhadad II is sick and sends Hazael to inquire of Elisha if he would recover.
- Elisha tell Hazael that he will be king and commit great atrocities against Israel.
- Hazael assassinated Benhadad and takes the throne.

Jehoram

- Yes, there are two Jehorams...
- This one reigns over Judah for eight years.
- He is not a good king and weakens the kingdom.
 - Edom and Libnah revolt.
- One of his wives is Athaliah, daughter of Ahab.
- His son Ahaziah inherits the throne.



Ahaziah

- Ahaziah reigns for 1 year.
- He follows the ways of his mother Athaliah.
- His connection to Ahab is highlighted – vs. 27
- He and Jehoram of Israel are wounded in battle against the Syrians at Ramothgilead.

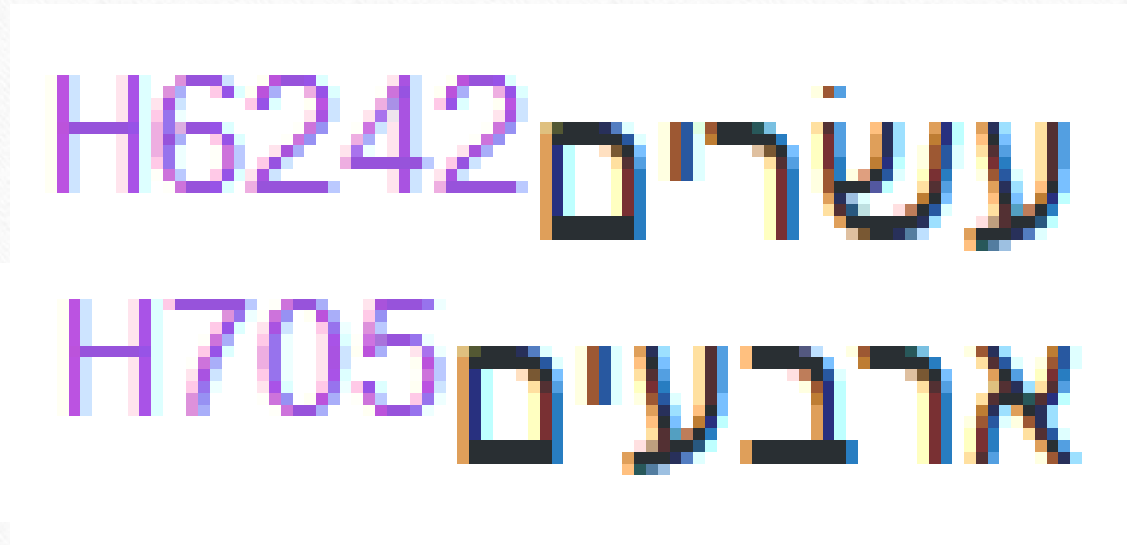


How Old Was Ahaziah???

- This is one of the most often cited evidences of corruption in the text.
- THIS IS NOT A KJV ISSUE – IT IS A HEBREW ISSUE.
 - KJV supporters are about the only ones that attempt to solve this issue without claiming an error.
- II Kings 8:26 – 22 years old
 - Two and twenty years old was Ahaziah when he began to reign;
- II Chronicles 22:2 – 42 years old
 - Forty and two years old was Ahaziah when he began to reign,

How Old Was Ahaziah???

- A simple “copyist’s error” is unlikely.
- The two words are not similar.
 - The top is “twenty”
 - The bottom is “forty”



How Old Was Ahaziah??? - 3

- Gageology ©:
 - Ahaziah was 22 years old when he became a prince/coregent, possibly with connections to the Northern Kingdom.
 - Ahaziah was 42 years old when he became king of Judah.
 - The writer of II Kings chose to include the time as prince/coregent, and the writer of II Chronicles did not.

Next Week...

The Fall of the Northern Kingdom