

**BOOK OF 2 KINGS**  
**WHEN THE MAN OF GOD WEPT**  
**2 KINGS 8:7-15**

**Introduction**

Here in 2 Kings, we've been following the ministry of the Prophet Elisha. Everything that we've seen from Elisha has been about **the LORD revealing Himself to Israel in some mighty ways through Elisha's ministry!** The LORD did the wonders and Elisha was just the LORD's yielded vessel!

We have seen that for those who were already seeking the LORD or already were trusting the LORD, the LORD used Elisha to bless them in various ways that can only be explained by His intervention and blessing! (*Shunammite*)

But for those who were not trusting or seeking the LORD, He has been using Elisha to open their eyes and call them to repentance and faith in Him! We have seen that, by-and-large, the nation of Israel and her King continued to reject the LORD and their rejection of Him brought suffering to them!

With the hand of the LORD being on Elisha the way we have seen, we might expect that at some point that we would see him be able to rejoice over Israel's repentance, but that has not happened and it will not happen during his ministry! In fact, tonight we will see him weeping because of Israel's coming judgment that has been revealed to him by the LORD.

Let's look at our text and notice three main things here:

**I. WE SEE THE REVELATION! (2 Kings 8:7-10)**

In our text, Elisha had left Israel and was visiting Damascus, which was the capital of Syria. (*Vs 7*)

It was uncommon for Israel's prophets to do this, but not unheard of. (*e.g. The Prophet Jonah visited the Assyrian city of Nineveh*)

We are not told if Elisha knew the purpose of his trip, but the LORD used him here to specifically deliver this prophecy from the LORD regarding King Benhadad of Syria and his successor, Hazael!

Once again we see the PROVIDENCE OF GOD at work here for this DIVINE APPOINTMENT!

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Elisha did not have to find Hazael, Hazael found Elisha. (*Vs 7*)

We see that Ben-hadad sent Hazael to enquire of Elisha if he would recover from some unnamed sickness that he suffered from. (*Vs 8*)

It appears that Ben-hadad was convinced that Elisha was legitimate! We know that He had seen some fulfillment of prophecies and miracles from this man of God!

*(e.g. Namaan, his captain, was healed of leprosy - Ch 5; Elisha gave Israel insight into the movement of his troops - Ch 6; and Elisha called the end of the famine in Samaria and the LORD brought it to pass by making the Syrian troops flee their siege against Samaria - Ch 7.)*

So Ben-hadad knew from experience that Elisha had great insight and obviously knew how to get in touch with the LORD his God!

Understand that Ben-hadad had to humble himself to even enquire of Elisha! And we see that he sent him an enormous gift along with his enquiry! So, he wasn't just looking for free advice! (*Vs 9*)

Elisha's response was an interesting one from what we read here. (*Vs 10*)

It seems to me that the message to Ben-hadad was that the sickness he had was one that he could recover from, BUT he was going to die from another cause!

And so that was the initial revelation from Elisha to both Hazael and Ben-hadad.

But the LORD had an additional revelation to make to Hazael about this and about Hazael himself, which we will see him give here in these next few verses.

*WE SEE THE REVELATION...*

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**II. WE SEE THE REMORSE! (2 Kings 8:11-13)**

And this is really the heart of this passage.

After the revelation of the king's recoverable sickness but his imminent death, Elisha had a stare down with Hazael. (*Vs 11*)

God had revealed to Elisha the conspiracy of murder that was in Hazael's heart! And so Elisha was staring him down!

Hazael planned to use this sickness to murder the king and to take the throne to himself! No doubt he already had his plan concocted!

It may have only been conceived in Hazael's heart, but Elisha knew it.

Many think that no one else ever knew of Hazael's act, since he was indeed made king, and that the only place this incident was ever revealed was under the inspiration of Scripture. (*No CSI's.*)

But none the less, because of his wickedness, Elisha stared him down!

Don't you imagine that Elisha's gaze pierced Hazael's heart, and just as it is with the Word of God, there was nowhere for Hazael to hide.

But as soon as Hazael reached a point of shame, Elisha instantly changed the mood. It was not him, but rather Elisha who broke into tears and began to weep! (*No Perry Mason moment by Hazael*)

So, that posed a legitimate question there in *Vs 12*.

Now of course Hazael denied that it would happen with a false humility. (*Vs 13*) I wonder what Hazael thought of what Elijah said?

The main point is that when Elisha was given a glimpse from God as to what this man would do to God's people, he began to weep! And the answer is to why he is weeping is very clear here. ***"Because I know the evil..."***

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**Elisha was weeping because in Israel it had finally come to this!** God both is and had been longsuffering with his errant people Israel! But, Israel was so stubborn, and so obstinate, and so defiant, and so hard of hearing when it came to the LORD and His prophets, that in order to get their attention it came to this!

It would have been nice if the 3 ½ year drought or even the 7-year famine would have changed their hearts, but neither did!

It would have been nice if the many bands of Syrians that the LORD allowed to raid them had accomplished His purpose, but it didn't!

It would have been nice if the preaching of Elijah and Elisha had brought repentance from them, but Israel had refused His Word!

And so now it had come down to this oppressive tyrant who would absolutely mutilate Israel.

And when the LORD allowed Elisha to see the coming judgment and all the prophet could do was weep!

And let me remind you that Elisha was God's representative on the earth, and so what we are seeing here are not just the tears of Elisha, but also the tears of Almighty God!

God was mourning, God was in remorse, for this was not God's intention. In fact, Scripture reminds that God does not favor judgment. *Ezekiel 33:11—"Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?"*

That was with the house of Israel, but the LORD still is that way! *2 Peter 3:9—"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."*

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God does not rejoice in judgment, nor does He take any pleasure in it. GOD has a desire to save sinners! This is seen most clearly in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ!

*John 3:16-17— “16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. 17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.”*

**Cf. Luke 9:51-56**

And the point is seen over and over again in Scripture that God does not rejoice in destroying men, but in saving men and he went to great length many times to try to save some of them!

He had gone to great lengths with Israel! But they failed to heed and so through the eyes of Elisha, the LORD God is weeping!

And I wish I could say that this was an isolated incident, but it is not!

When Jeremiah was God’s prophet, he was known as the weeping prophet! His words from the LORD were not heeded and He knew that the LORD would do what He said He would do if Judah would not repent! And they didn’t! And the LORD wept as He judged!

*Jeremiah 9:1—“Oh that my head were waters, and mine eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people!”*

*Jeremiah 13:16-17—“16 Give glory to the LORD your God, before he cause darkness, and before your feet stumble upon the dark mountains, and, while ye look for light, he turn it into the shadow of death, and make it gross darkness. 17 But if ye will not hear it, my soul shall weep in secret places for your pride; and mine eye shall weep sore, and run down with tears, because the LORD’S flock is carried away captive.”*

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*Jeremiah 14:17-18—“17 Therefore thou shalt say this word unto them; Let mine eyes run down with tears night and day, and let them not cease: for the virgin daughter of my people is broken with a great breach, with a very grievous blow. 18 If I go forth into the field, then behold the slain with the sword! and if I enter into the city, then behold them that are sick with famine! yea, both the prophet and the priest go about into a land that they know not.”*

It was even Jeremiah who wrote an entire book of weeping—  
*“The Lamentations Of Jeremiah.”*

In regard to Israel, even the Psalmist had this to say:  
*Psalm 119:136—“136 Rivers of waters run down mine eyes, because they keep not thy law.”*

Paul shared his grief as he wrote of their rejection by God.  
*Romans 9:1-3 — “1 I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost, 2 That I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart. 3 For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh.”*

But of course ultimately the weeping of God was seen through Jesus.  
**(Cf. Luke 19:41-44)**

Time and time again we see God weeping over the coming destruction of people. It is not the pleasure of God to send men into judgment. He gets no satisfaction from it.

**BUT WHY DOES IT UPSET GOD SO?**

Elisha answered that. **“Because I know the evil...” (Vs 12b)**  
The LORD showed Elisha what Hazeal would do! Elisha knew because the LORD knew!

Do you know why God is so moved over the judgment of men?

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Because God knows better than anyone what His judgment is like and what is coming in the future!

So *WE SEE THE REVELATION...THE REMORSE*  
**III. WE SEE THE REALIZATION! (2 Kings 8:14-15)**

The point is that what Elisha said would happen was beginning to be fulfilled right in these two verses.

Hazael suffocated the king! It would have been easy to blame the king's sickness for what happened to him! He then seized the throne as Elisha had said he would!

And then it was only a matter of time until the promised judgment would also be realized!

And that is something that this world desperately needs to understand! Judgment from God is not just a possibility, it is a reality!

Unbelievers (and I should add many Believers) live their lives like they will never have to give account before God, but judgment is coming!

Judgment is also coming for nations such as ours! Make no mistake, our country will answer for the murder of millions of unborn children! Oh, it's coming! Could what we see happening right now be the beginning of the end of our nation for her sins? That is for the LORD to answer! I just know that judgment is coming!