

The Dangers of Prophecy 2 Kings 8:7-15

- I. **THE KING'S CONCERN** (7-8; Ecc 8:8)—*Will I recover?*
 - A. **The Perspective of a Dying Man**—Ben-hadad, King of Assyria
 1. The **Helplessness** of Mortality (Ps 49:10-13, 16-19)—death comes for all
 2. The **Worthlessness** of Idols (2 Kg 1:2; 1 Chron 16:26; Isa 44:9)—they can't help
 3. The **Value** of a true Man of God (2 Kg 3:11)
 - a. His **God is real**.
 - b. He **speaks the truth**.
 - B. **The Benefit of an Honest Answer** (Ecc 7:2, 4)—denied to Ben-hadad by Hazael
 1. **Hear the questions behind the question**.
 - a. Am I going to **die**? ()—YES. Prepare for it. *Death puts life into perspective.*
 - b. **How** am I going to die?—*encourages a false sense of control*
 - c. **How long** do I have until I die? (Ps 90:12; Mat 25:13; Heb 3:7, 15)—*order your priorities*
 2. A **half-truth** is misleading (Mat 28:20)
 3. A **false sense of security** is deadly. You can't count on time in the future.
- II. **HAZAEI'S AMBITION** (13-15)—*Am I a dog?*
 - A. **His Opinion of Himself** (Jer 17:9; Ps 36:2)—conflicted and unrealistic
 1. I'm a **Nobody**.—I couldn't do that if I wanted to!
 2. I'm not that **Bad**! ()—I would never do such a thing!

B. **His Response to the Word** (Isa 55:11; Heb 4:12)—

1. The prophecy **reveals** the worst in his character.
2. He **uses it to justify** his treachery.

III. **THE PROPHET'S PROFESSION**—not easy, not hard-hearted

A. **His Journey** (7; 1 Kin 19:5-6, 15; Mat 15:24; Lk 4:25-27)—capital of foreign enemy

B. **His Gaze** (Heb 4:12-13)—

1. The **Eyes of the LORD** see everything.—nothing is hidden from Him
2. The **Word of God** discerns the heart.—reveals its thoughts and intents
How you respond to the word of the Lord reveals your character.
3. The **Knowledge of the Prophet** unnerves the guilty.—Hazael was ashamed

C. **His Tears** (Ecc 1:18)—*express the heart of God*

1. God **does not delight** in the death of the wicked. (Ezek 18:23, 31-32)
2. The message of judgment is **delivered with tears**. (Isa 22:4; Jer 13:17; 17:16; Lk 19:41; 23:27)
3. The **cross of Jesus** answers both the justice and the mercy of God.

Listen to "We All Bow Down," by Lenny LeBlanc.

<https://youtu.be/U9BNzoC938M>