

ELISHA AND GEHAZI

Introduction

- 1) **Elisha** served as a prophet of God after Elijah was taken to heaven (2 Kgs. 2:11-13)
- 2) Previous lessons noted his encounters with a Shunammite woman and Naaman the Syrian
- 3) This lesson will study **Elisha** as he deals with a regrettable situation with his servant, **Gehazi**

I) **The Greed of Gehazi (2 Kgs. 5:15-27)**

- A) Elisha refused the generous gift Naaman offered him (vv. 15-16; cf. v. 5)
 - 1) Naaman then asks for two mule-loads of earth for use in sacrificing to the LORD (v. 17)
 - 2) Also asks for (pre)forgiveness when accompanying king into idolatrous temple (vv. 18-19)
- B) **Gehazi** – the servant of Elisha (2 Kgs. 4:12-15, 28-31, 36; 8:4-5)
 - 1) He determined that he would take some of the gift of Naaman (2 Kgs. 5:20)
 - a) Swore selfishly by the name of the LORD (contrast Elisha, v. 16)
 - 2) Gave himself over to lust/greediness/covetousness/love of money
 - a) Root of all evil – fall into temptations, snares, lusts of this world (1 Tim. 6:9-10)
 - b) Causes one to stray from the faith – led away into idolatry (Col. 3:5; Lk. 16:13-15)
 - c) Sets up a false standard of successful living (Lk. 12:15)
 - d) Results in painful sorrows (1 Tim. 6:10; Josh. 7:21-26)
 - e) Cure – *spiritual contentment* (1 Tim. 6:6-8, 11, 17; Heb. 10:34; 13:5; Phil. 4:11-13)
 - 3) One sin leads to others – the lies of Gehazi (vv. 21-25)
 - a) Lies to Naaman that Elisha sent him with a request for some gifts for two young men of the sons of the prophets – given two talents of silver and two changes of clothes
 - b) Lies to Elisha that he had not gone anywhere, but Elisha knows what he has done
 - 4) Rebuked and condemned by Elisha (vv. 26-27)
 - a) Not appropriate to be coveting money and material wealth (cf. 1 Thess. 2:3-5)
 - i) Should not put selfish desires before the Lord's will and work
 - b) Struck with the same leprosy from which Naaman was healed
 - i) Leprosy would afflict him and his descendants forever (cf. Ex. 20:5; Josh. 7:24)
 - c) Naaman came to faith (healed) and Gehazi fell from faithful living (diseased)

II) **The Concluding Work of Elisha**

- A) Made an iron ax head float in water (2 Kgs. 6:1-7)
- B) Had God strike the Syrian army with blindness (2 Kgs. 6:8-23)
- C) Prophesied the end of a Syrian siege and famine in Samaria (2 Kgs. 6:24-7:20)
- D) Prophesied death of Syrian king Ben-Hadad and reign of Hazael (2 Kgs. 8:7-15)
- E) Has Jehu anointed as king over Israel (2 Kgs. 9:1-13)
- F) Assisted king Joash in preparing to strike Syria (2 Kgs. 13:14-19)
- G) Death of Elisha (2 Kgs. 13:20)

III) **From Death Comes Life**

- A) A final miracle comes after Elisha's death and burial (2 Kgs. 13:21)
 - 1) A man being buried is placed in Elisha's tomb to avoid a band of raiders
 - 2) When the dead man touches the bones of Elisha he revived and stood on his feet
- B) From death comes life
 - 1) The nation of Israel would die [exile] but would be raised to life [remnant]
 - 2) We are made alive now from sin through the death of the Son of God

Conclusion

Gehazi's actions illustrate the danger of loving this world and the things of this world (1 Jn. 2:15-17). Like Elisha, remain faithful to God as you look to the reward (Heb. 11:32-12:2).