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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

**A1550 ~ Elisha and King Jehoash.**

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*Welcome to Bible Adventures. Help for today. Hope for tomorrow. Jesus is Lord of all.*

Elisha travelled in and out of the cities of the northern kingdom of Israel, the southern kingdom of Judah and even as far as Damascus in Syria during his 50 years of service for God between the years of 850 and 800 before the birth of Christ. These dates are only approximate as we don't know the exact dates Elisha's ministry started or when he died.

During this time, however, the kings of both countries changed - three times for Israel and four for Judah. To add to the complications of the era, each kingdom twice had a king with the same name as another king of the other kingdom.

In the northern kingdom of Israel, God's prophets foretold that the dynasty of wicked King Ahab and Queen Jezebel would end and this came about by the anointing of a new king to start a new dynasty. In the southern kingdom of Judah, God kept His promise of having a descendent of King David on the throne. The coming Messiah, Jesus Christ, would be a descendent of King David's.

Elisha continued in his role of prophet; rebuking kings that were disobedient to God and helping people where he could. He warned the Shunammite woman, now a widow and in poorer circumstances, that a seven-year famine was coming to Israel. He advised her to take her household and flee to another country to survive.

The Shunammite woman took her household and lived with the Philistines for the seven years of Israel's famine. Then she returned. She experienced three tragedies in her life: the death of her son, the uprooting of her household and the loss of her property. Yet she remained faithful to the Lord and had been kind to Elisha. When back in Israel, she asked the king for her house and her lands back and she received them. You may wonder why God permits some of the trials in your life, but just wait and see how He will use them in the future.

While Elisha was suffering with the same illness he died from, the youthful King Jehoash of Israel went to visit him. Jehoash was the grandson of Jehu, the founder of the fifth dynasty of the kings of Israel. Jehoash was extremely sad that Elisha was so close to death. The king didn't understand what Elisha then asked him to do and so he obeyed Elisha very reluctantly. This response, however, meant that Jehoash's reign as king was not very successful in his battles against the army of the Syrians.

After Elisha died, he was buried. In the spring of the next year, raiders from Moab came to the land. A funeral procession going out to bury a man saw a group of Moabites coming, so they hurriedly threw the dead man's body into the grave of Elisha. When the dead man touched the bones of Elisha, he revived and stood up alive! Some godly people are still a blessing to many even when they're dead!

The lives of Elijah and Elisha are often compared. Both these prophets were faithful servants of God but their lifestyles were very different. Neither prophet was afraid to take bad news of God's judgment to a disobedient king. Yet while Elijah was taken up into heaven in a chariot of fire, Elisha had a lingering sickness from which in time he died. Elijah had a successor to train but Elisha left no one to succeed him. The sons of the prophets were collectively given the duties as called upon by God. But these men were just called "a prophet" and no names were identified.

The life of Elisha is often compared with the Lord Jesus because Elisha did so many miracles. Elisha lived so faithfully for God that he never received any rebuke from God. The Lord Jesus also did His Father's will while here on earth and God was well pleased with Him. But Elisha and Jesus each had a different role. Elisha was born a sinner whereas the Lord Jesus, without an earthly father, didn't inherit a sin nature from an human being as the rest of us have. Mary's husband Joseph cared and provided for Jesus although he wasn't his real dad. This is so important to understand and is explained in Matthew's Gospel, Chapter 1, in detail. Only a perfect person could make amends for every sinner's rebellion against God. Every one of us is a rebel against God's righteous ways and needs Jesus' help to bring us into God's favour.

The Lord Jesus is willing to help all those who call on Him to do so. For not only was He fully human but he was also fully God! A well known preacher said: "Most people are notable for one obvious virtue or grace: Job for patience, John for love. But in Jesus Christ, you'll find everything." Jesus Christ is the central figure in Biblical revelation and His cross the central factor in Biblical redemption for rebels.

Of all the founders of the world's religions, Jesus Christ stands above the rest: Budda never claimed to be God. Moses never claimed to be Jehovah, Mohammed never claimed to be Allah. Yet Jesus Christ claimed to be the true and living God. Buddha simply said: I am a teacher in search of the truth."

Jesus said, "I am the Truth."

Confucius said, "I never claimed to be holy."

Jesus said, "Who convicts me of sin?"

Mohammed said, "Unless God throws his cloak of mercy over me, I have no hope."

Jesus said, "Unless you believe in me, you will die in your sins."

A famous writer in one of his books said:

"A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said wouldn't be a great moral teacher. He'd either be a lunatic on the level of a man who says he's a poached egg – or else he would be the devil of hell.

You must take your choice. Either this was, and is, the Son of God, or else a mad man or something worse. You can shut Him up for a demon, or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God.

But don't come up with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great moral teacher. He hasn't left that alternative open to us. He didn't intend to."

Call on Jesus today to be your Saviour from sin.

*The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.*

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