




ELIJAH & ELISHA

Lessons In Faith



LESSON 13

The background is a stained glass window with a central yellow band. The yellow band contains the text "II KINGS 6:24 - 7:20; 13:14 - 21" in green, bold, sans-serif font. The rest of the window is composed of diamond-shaped panes with a light wood-grain pattern, separated by dark leaded glass lines. A horizontal green band runs through the center, intersecting the yellow band.

**II KINGS 6:24 - 7:20;
13:14 - 21**

Previously, Benhadad the Syrian King failed in his attempt to stop Elisha from revealing the movements of his bands of soldiers through out Israel. The miraculous and cleaver turn of events regarding the King's attempt to capture the prophet made Elisha look like a hero and humiliated the Syrian troops who were blinded and lead like children into danger.



Elisha's attempt to turn an enemy into a friend by giving sight back to the Syrians, feeding them and releasing them unharmed only hardened the heart of King Benhadad quite like that of Pharoah when Moses asked him to let God's people go.



Continuing the account in chapter 6 of II Kings we read about hardhearted Benhadad seeking revenge by sending not just a band of soldiers as he had been doing for some time, and not a host as he had sent to capture Elisha at Dothan, but he **“gathered all his host,** and went up, and besieged Samaria.” He surrounded the city. The people were trapped and there was a famine. The people were starving. It was unjust retaliation for Elisha’s ethical actions toward the captured Syrians.



OUR TEXT—

II Kings 6

“²⁴ And it came to pass after this, that Benhadad king of Syria gathered all his host, and went up, and besieged Samaria.

²⁵ And there was a great famine in Samaria: and, behold, they besieged it, until an ass’s head was sold for fourscore pieces of silver, and the fourth part of a cab of dove’s dung for five pieces of silver.”



The Syrians' plan was not to storm the city but to starve it. An ass's head (which had very little meat and was unclean) was sold for fourscore pieces of silver and a small portion of a coarse grain (then called dove's dung) for five pieces of silver. The city was suffering. There was no food and no way to get it with the gates of the city closed against the Syrian army which was camped nearby.



II Kings 6

“²⁶ And as the king of Israel was passing by upon the wall, there cried a woman unto him, saying, Help, my lord, O king. ²⁷ And he said, If the LORD do not help thee, whence shall I help thee? out of the barnfloor, or out of the winepress? ²⁸ And the king said unto her, What aileth thee?”



II Kings 6

“And she answered, This woman said unto me, Give thy son, that we may eat him to day, and we will eat my son to morrow. ²⁹ So we boiled my son, and did eat him: and I said unto her on the next day, Give thy son, that we may eat him: and she hath hid her son.”



II Kings 6

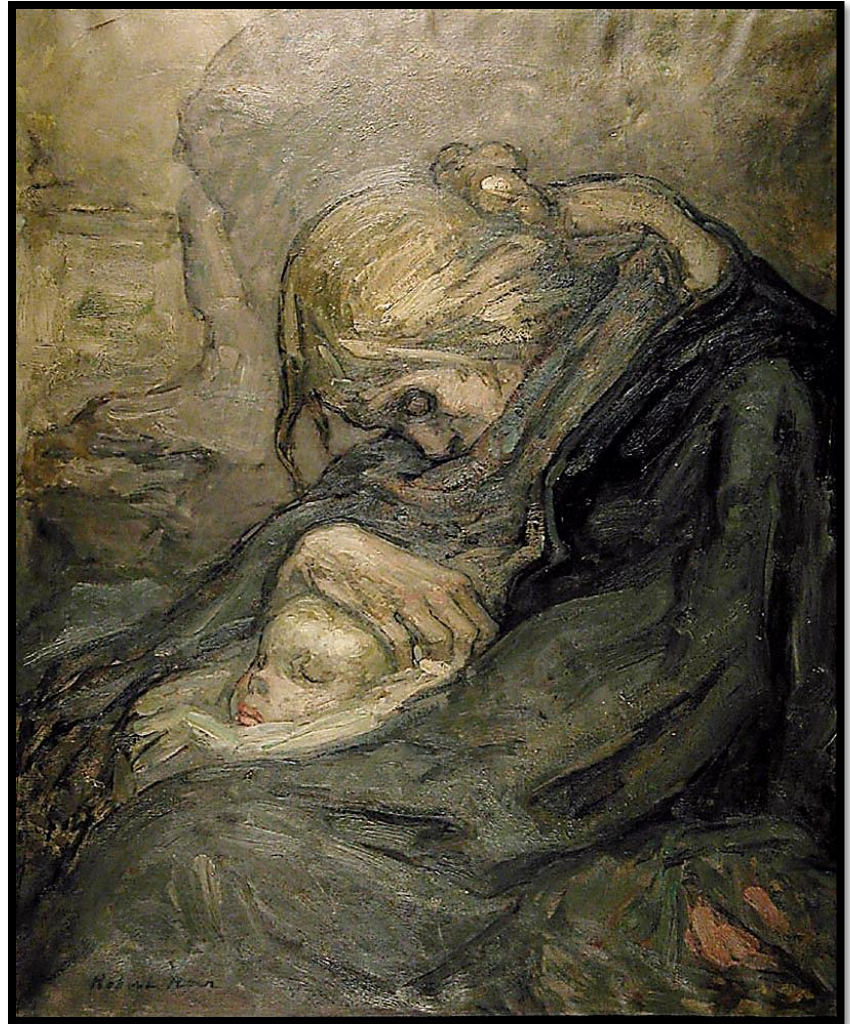
“³⁰ And it came to pass, when the king heard the words of the woman, that he rent his clothes; and he passed by upon the wall, and the people looked, and, behold, he had sackcloth within upon his flesh. ³¹ Then he said, God do so and more also to me, if the head of Elisha the son of Shaphat shall stand on him this day.”



THE WOMAN ATE HER OWN CHILD

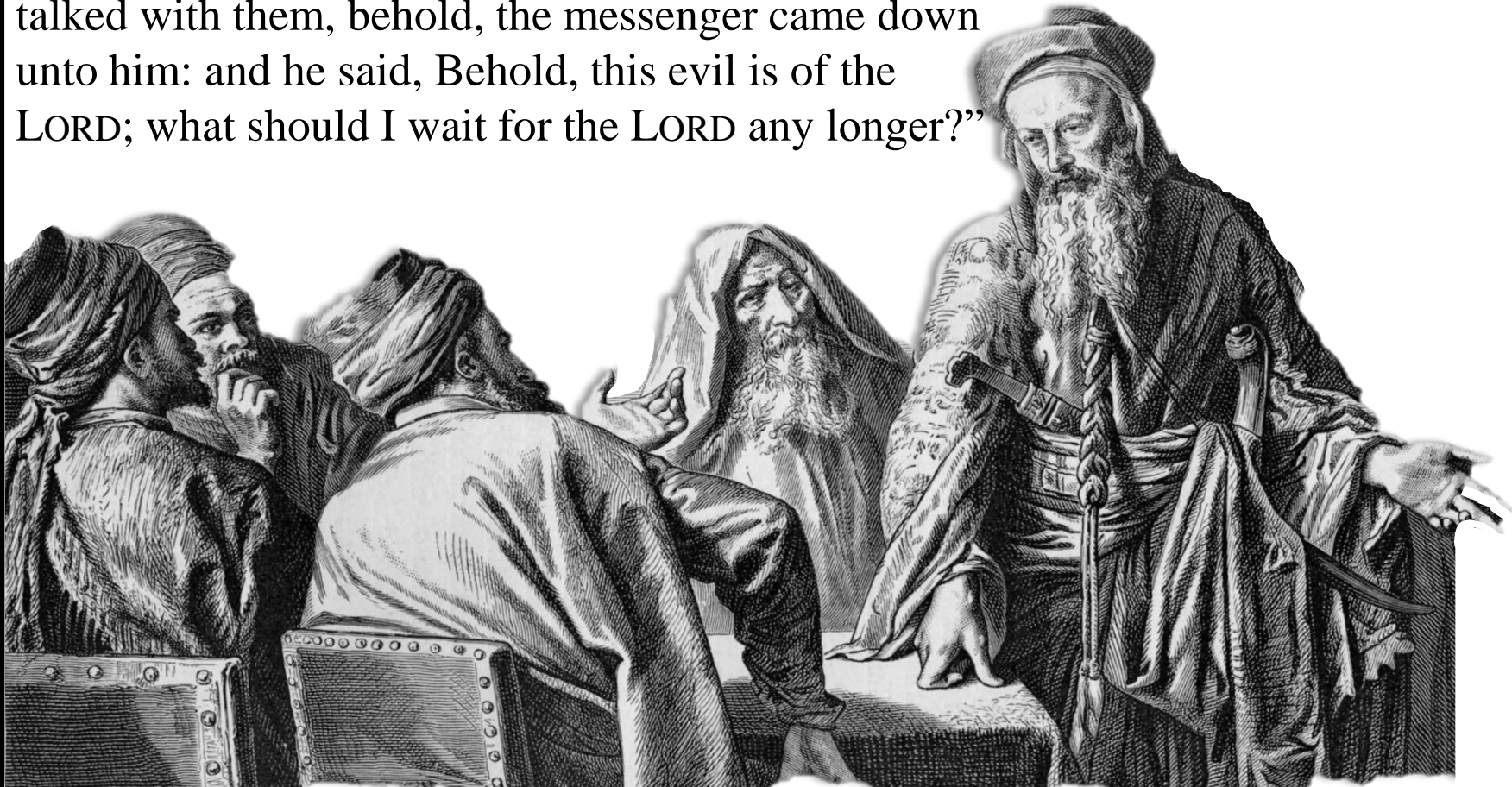
The woman's complaint was outrageous! She told the king of Israel that she had agreed to cook her child and share it with her friend, and the next day they would eat her friend's child. They boiled and ate her child, but the next day her friend had hidden her son.

After hearing her grievance the king rent his clothes and put on sackcloth. Then he said, "God do so and more also to me, if the head of Elisha the son of Shaphat shall stand on him this day." He unjustly blamed Elisha for the Syrian army's oppression.



II Kings 6

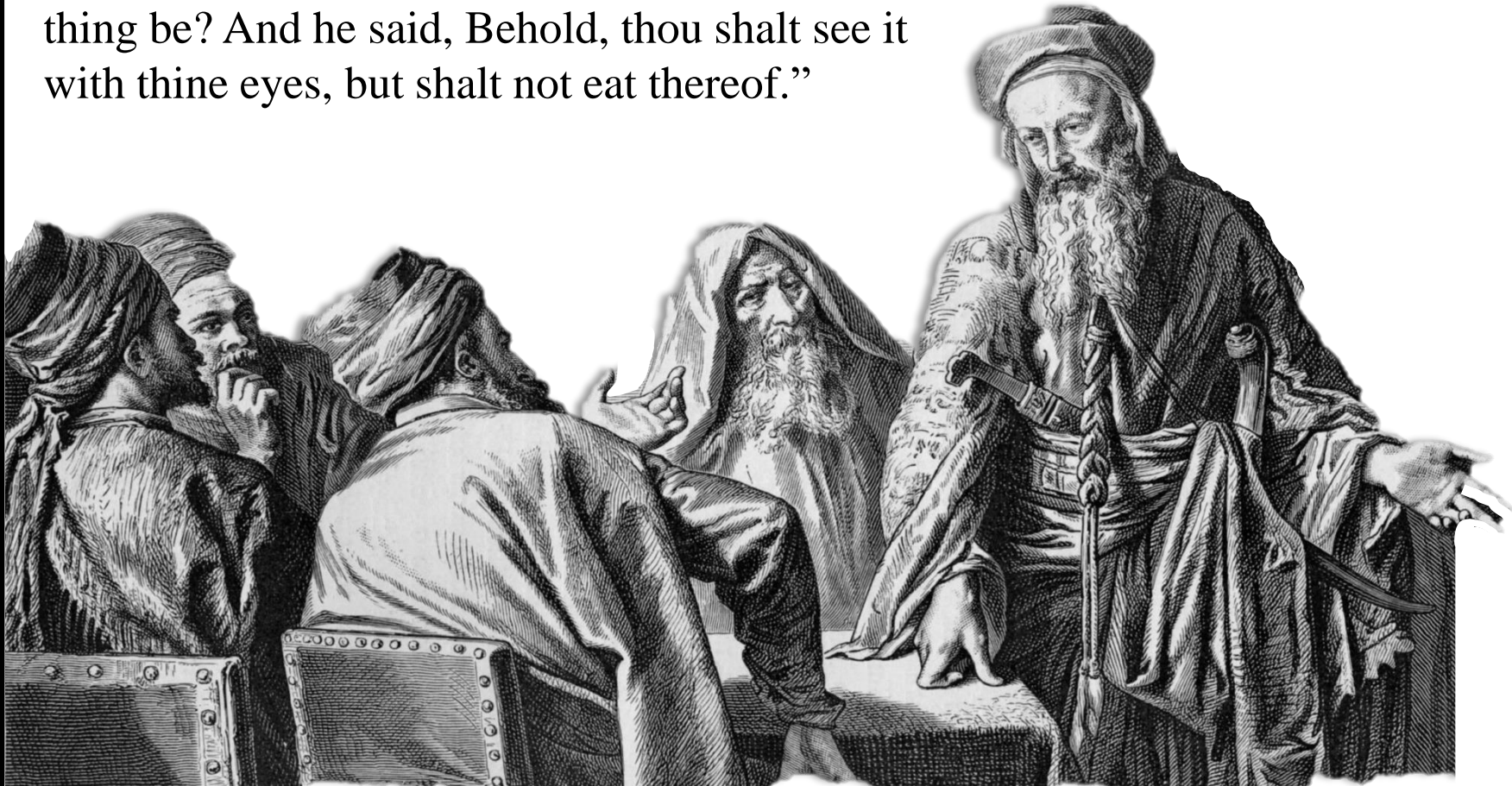
“³² But Elisha sat in his house, and the elders sat with him; and the king sent a man from before him: but ere the messenger came to him, he said to the elders, See ye how this son of a murderer hath sent to take away mine head? look, when the messenger cometh, shut the door, and hold him fast at the door: is not the sound of his master’s feet behind him? ³³ And while he yet talked with them, behold, the messenger came down unto him: and he said, Behold, this evil is of the LORD; what should I wait for the LORD any longer?”



II Kings 7

¹Then Elisha said, Hear ye the word of the LORD; Thus saith the LORD, To morrow about this time shall a measure of fine flour be sold for a shekel, and two measures of barley for a shekel, in the gate of Samaria.

²Then a lord on whose hand the king leaned answered the man of God, and said, Behold, if the LORD would make windows in heaven, might this thing be? And he said, Behold, thou shalt see it with thine eyes, but shalt not eat thereof.”



SUMMARY OF THE PREVIOUS VERSES:

Elisha was there in the besieged city of Samaria and starving with everyone else. He sat in his house, and the elders of the city were with him. He knew the king had sent a man to kill him, and he told the elders to close the door when he came and hold him there. Immediately the man arrived at Elisha's house and the elders held him as Elisha prophesied a message for the king of Israel. The prophecy meant that by the next day there would be plenty of food for the starving people. The king's man had a hard time believing it. He said the windows of heaven would have to open for that to be true! Elisha was not happy with his disbelief and said, "You will see it with your own eyes but not eat thereof." Unbelief is always punished.

CONTINUE WITH THE TEXT—

II Kings 7

“³ And there were four leprous men at the entering in of the gate: and they said one to another, Why sit we here until we die?

⁴ If we say, We will enter into the city, then the famine is in the city, and we shall die there: and if we sit still here, we die also. Now therefore come, and let us fall unto the host of the Syrians: if they save us alive, we shall live; and if they kill us, we shall but die.”



II Kings 7

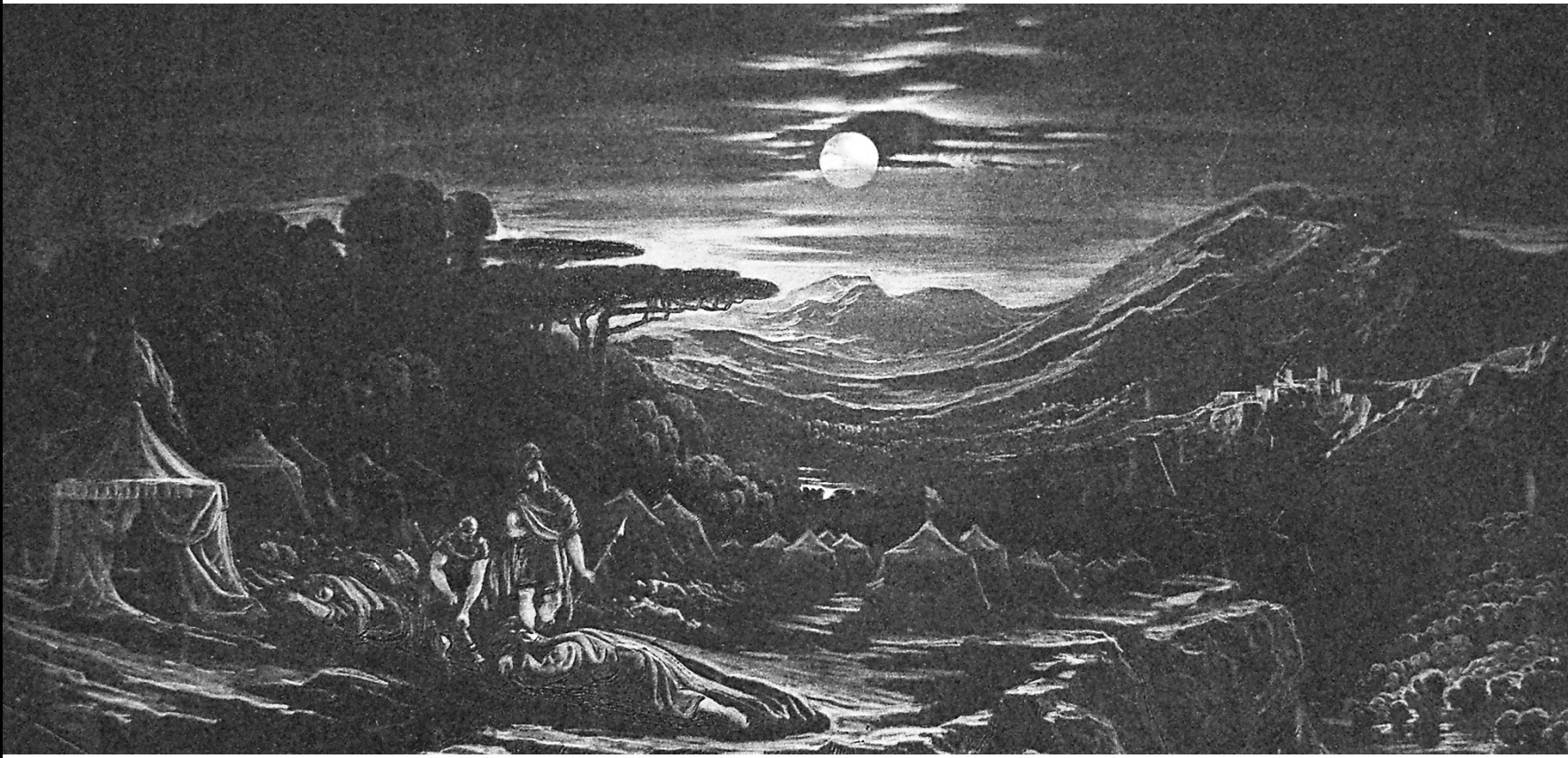
“⁵ And they rose up in the twilight, to go unto the camp of the Syrians: and when they were come to the uttermost part of the camp of Syria, behold, there was no man there.”



II Kings 7

“⁶For the LORD had made the host of the Syrians to hear a noise of chariots, and a noise of horses, even the noise of a great host: and they said one to another, Lo, the king of Israel hath hired against us the kings of the Hittites, and the kings of the Egyptians, to come upon us.

⁷Wherefore they arose and fled in the twilight, and left their tents, and their horses, and their asses, even the camp as it was, and fled for their life.”



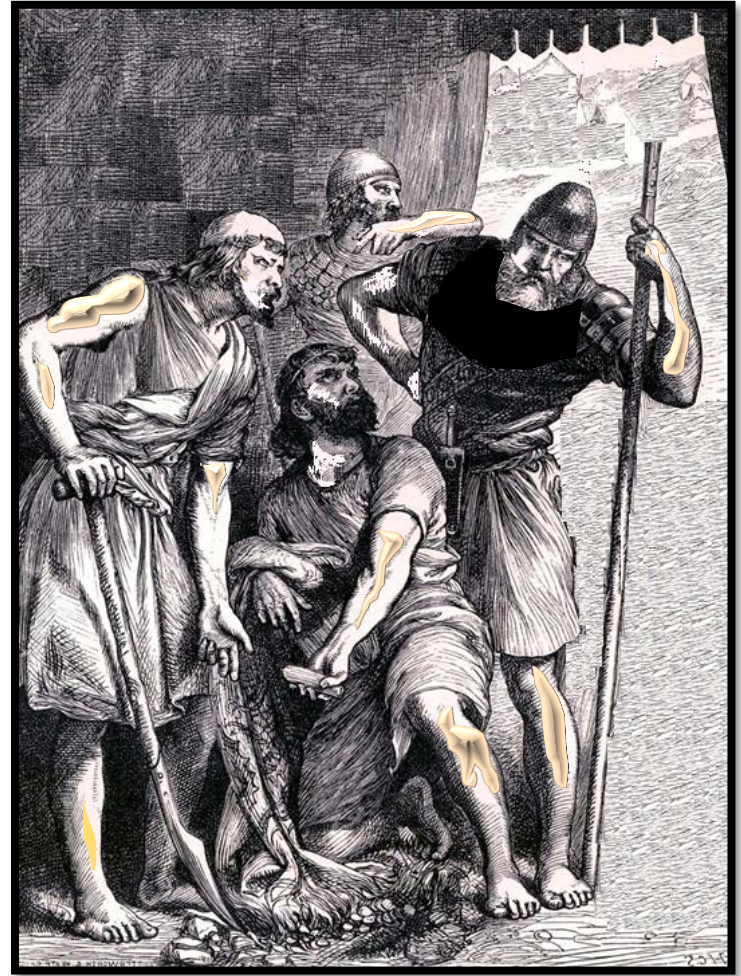
II Kings 7

“⁸ And when these lepers came to the uttermost part of the camp, they went into one tent, and did eat and drink, and carried thence silver, and gold, and raiment, and went and hid it; and came again, and entered into another tent, and carried thence also, and went and hid it.”



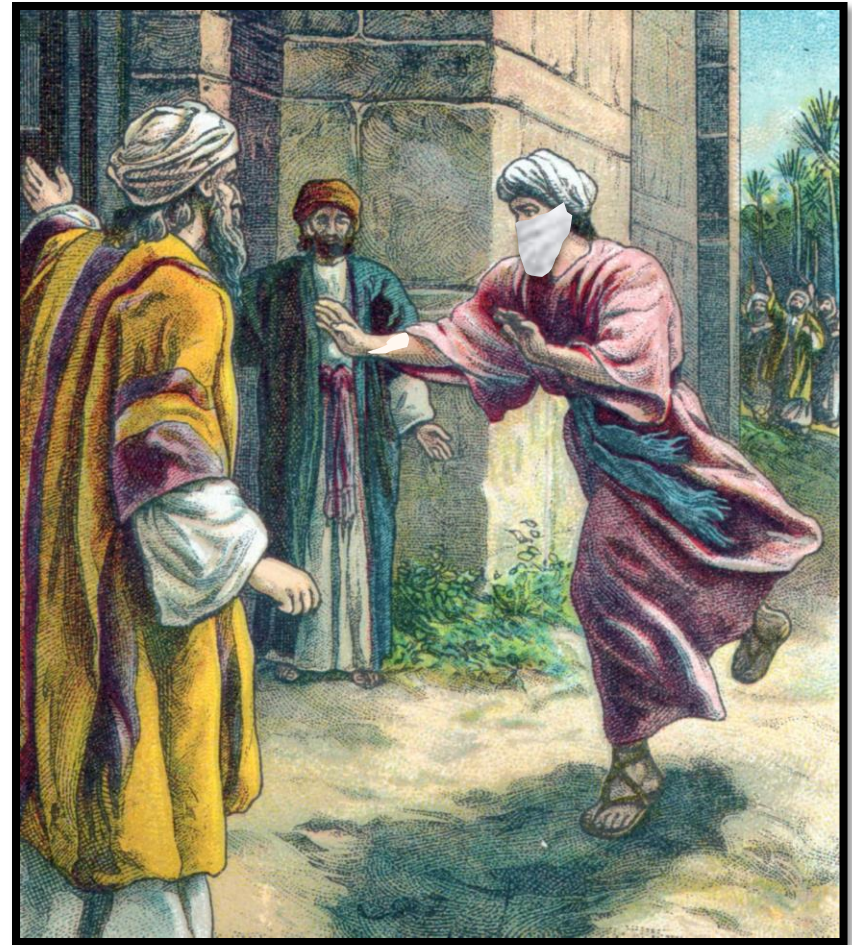
SUMMARY OF VERSES

That same day there were four leprous men at the gate of Samaria who decided to go to the camp of the Syrians for food even though they were the enemy and most likely would kill them. What did it matter? They were going to die anyway of starvation and illness. At twilight the lepers went in the camp of the Syrians and there was no man there; they had fled for their lives. God had made the Syrians hear a noise of horses and chariots and they thought Israel had hired other armies to fight them! Can you imagine the surprise of the lepers? They looted the camp and hid the possessions.

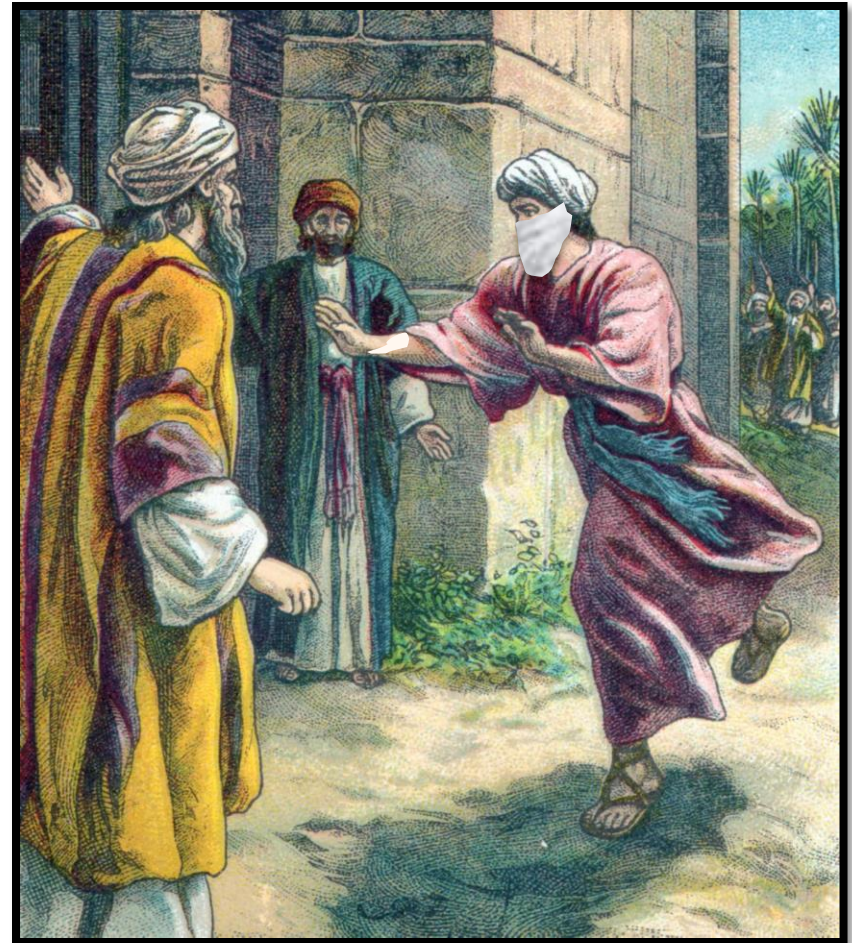


II Kings 7

“⁹ Then they said one to another, We do not well: this day is a day of good tidings, and we hold our peace: if we tarry till the morning light, some mischief will come upon us: now therefore come, that we may go and tell the king's household. ¹⁰ So they came and called unto the porter of the city: and they told them, saying, We came to the camp of the Syrians, and, behold, there was no man there, neither voice of man, but horses tied, and asses tied, and the tents as they were. ¹¹ And he called the porters; and they told it to the king's house within.”



At first the lepers helped themselves to the bounty left behind in the Syrian camp but soon they began to think of the starving Israelites, so they ran to the porter of the city of Samaria and told him about the deserted camp.



There were 5 horses left in the city, and the king sent men on 2 of them to see if the Syrian camp was really abandoned.

II Kings 7

“¹² And the king arose in the night, and said unto his servants, I will now shew you what the Syrians have done to us. They know that we be hungry; therefore are they gone out of the camp to hide themselves in the field, saying, When they come out of the city, we shall catch them alive, and get into the city. ¹³ And one of his servants answered and said, Let some take, I pray thee, five of the horses that remain, which are left in the city, (behold, they are as all the multitude of Israel that are left in it: behold, I say, they are even as all the multitude of the Israelites that are consumed:) and let us send and see. ¹⁴ They took therefore two chariot horses; and the king sent after the host of the Syrians, saying, Go and see. ¹⁵ And they went after them unto Jordan: and, lo, all the way was full of garments and vessels, which the Syrians had cast away in their haste. And the messengers returned, and told the king.”

II Kings 7

“¹⁶ And the people went out, and spoiled the tents of the Syrians. So a measure of fine flour was sold for a shekel, and two measures of barley for a shekel, according to the word of the LORD.”



Elijah's prophecy was fulfilled thanks to the miracle from God of the noise of an army which frightened the Syrians away.



II Kings 7

“¹⁷ And the king appointed the lord on whose hand he leaned to have the charge of the gate: and the people trode upon him in the gate, and he died, as the man of God had said, who spake when the king came down to him. ¹⁸ And it came to pass as the man of God had spoken to the king, saying, Two measures of barley for a shekel, and a measure of fine flour for a shekel, shall be to morrow about this time in the gate of Samaria: ¹⁹ And that lord answered the man of God, and said, Now, behold, if the LORD should make windows in heaven, might such a thing be? And he said, Behold, thou shalt see it with thine eyes, but shalt not eat thereof. ²⁰ And so it fell out unto him: for the people trode upon him in the gate, and he died.”

PAYMENT FOR UNBELIEF

When the king ordered the gates of Samaria to be opened he appointed the very man he had sent to assassinate Elisha and who had not believed Elisha's prophecy (7:2) to have the charge of the gate. The starving people trampled him to death when he opened the gate. This was payment for his unbelief.



The background of the slide is a stained glass pattern. It features a central horizontal band of yellow glass. Above and below this band are sections of light brown or tan glass, separated by dark, thick leaded glass lines. The pattern is symmetrical and geometric, with the central yellow band being the focal point for the text.

The Last Event of Elisha's Life
II KINGS 13:14 - 21

ELISHA'S

miracles, wonders, and deeds of mercy

Divided Jordan River

Healed spring of water

42 children killed by 2 bears

Miracle of water for 3 armies

The widow's oil was increased

The Shunammite's son was raised

Poisonous pottage was healed

Loaves of bread were multiplied

Naaman's leprosy was healed

Struck Gehazi with leprosy

The axe head was made to swim

Predicted military moves of the Syrians

Ring of fiery horses

Struck the Syrian army with blindness

Miracle of the arrows

His bones raised a man from the dead

Elisha had won the respect even of the evil kings of Israel. He had proven himself as a true prophet by many miracles.

Elisha began his ministry in the reign of Joram and continued through the reigns of Jehu, Jehoahaz, and finally Joash.

Elisha died in the reign of Joash.

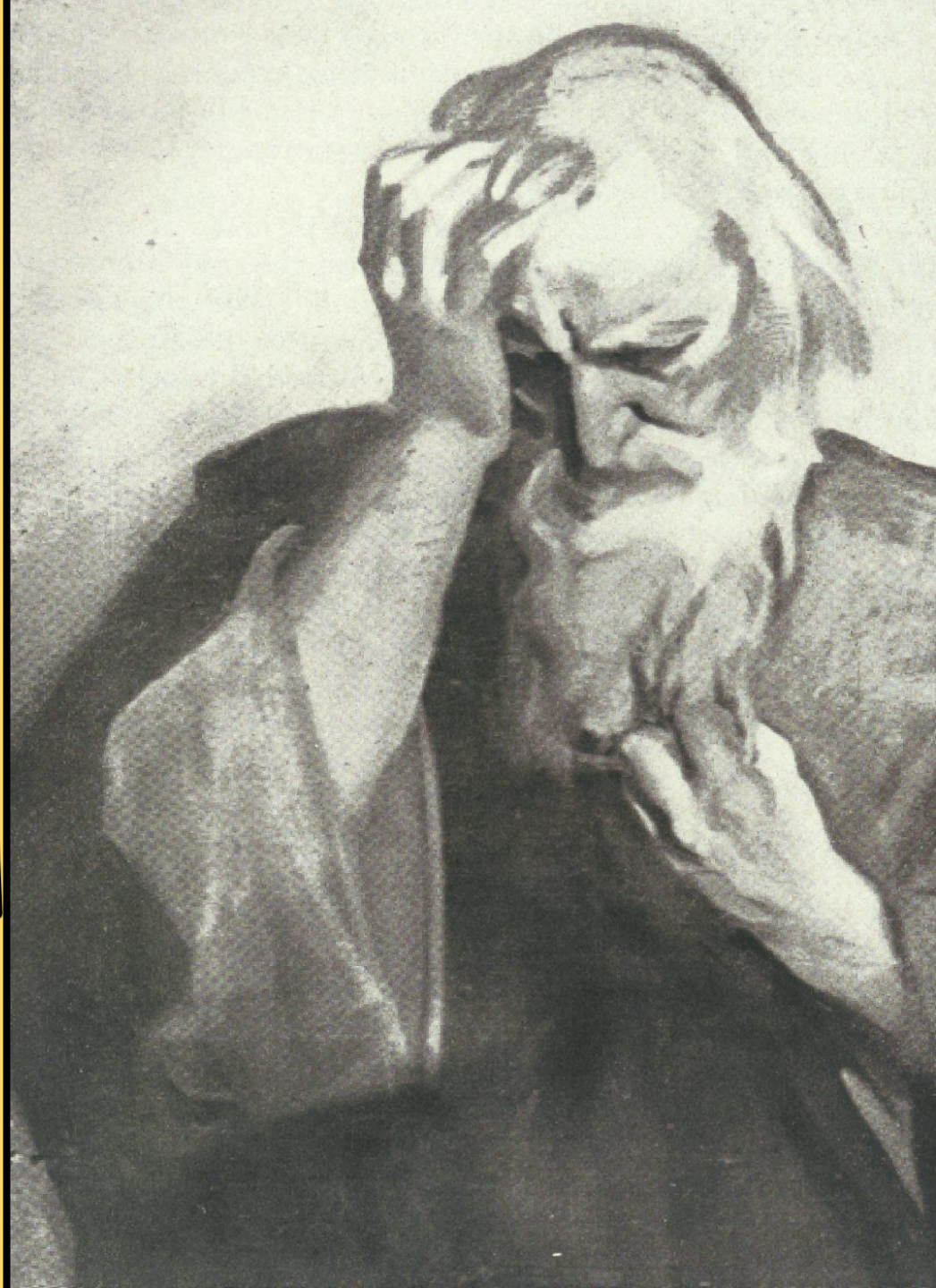
KINGS OF ISRAEL

Jeroboam	975-954
Nadab	954-953
Baasha	953-930
Elah	930-929
Zimri	929
Omri	929-918
Ahab	918-897
Ahaziah	897-896
Joram	896-884
Jehu	884-856
Jehoahaz	856-841
Joash	841-825
Jeroboam II	825-784
Zechariah	773
Shallum	772
Menahem	772-762
Pekahiah	762-760
Pekah	760-740
Hoshea	730-721

2 Kings 13

“¹⁴Now Elisha was fallen sick of his sickness whereof he died.

And Joash the king of Israel came down unto him, and wept over his face, and said, O my father, my father, the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof.”



2 Kings 13

“¹⁵And Elisha said unto him, Take bow and arrows. And he took unto him bow and arrows. ¹⁶And he said to the king of Israel, Put thine hand upon the bow. And he put his hand upon it: and Elisha put his hands upon the king’s hands.”



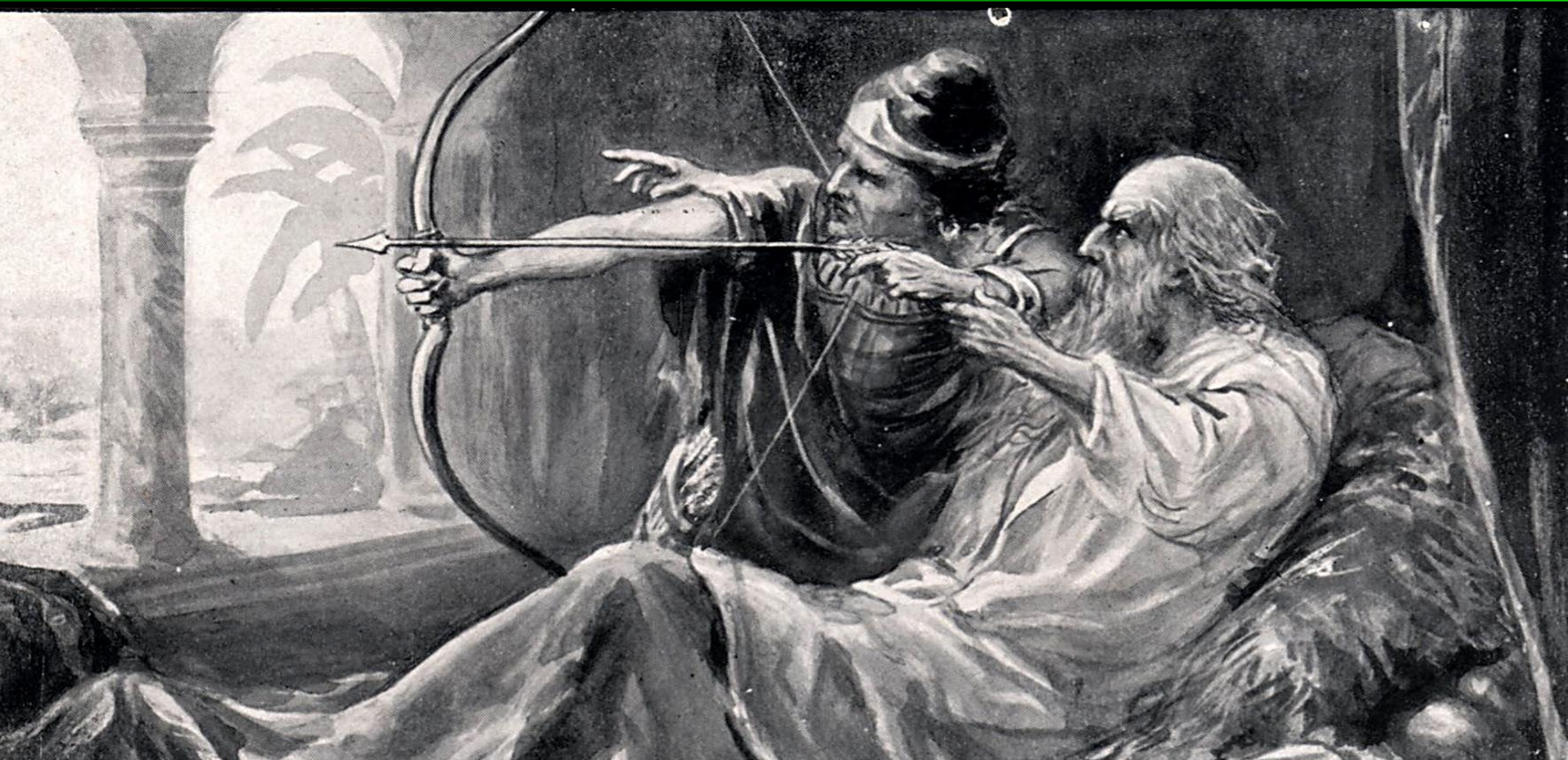
2 Kings 13

“¹⁷And he said, Open the window eastward. And he opened it. Then Elisha said, Shoot. And he shot. And he said, The arrow of the LORD’S deliverance, and the arrow of deliverance from Syria: for thou shalt smite the Syrians in Aphek, till thou have consumed them. ¹⁸And he said, Take the arrows. And he took them. And he said unto the king of Israel, Smite upon the ground. And he smote thrice, and stayed.”



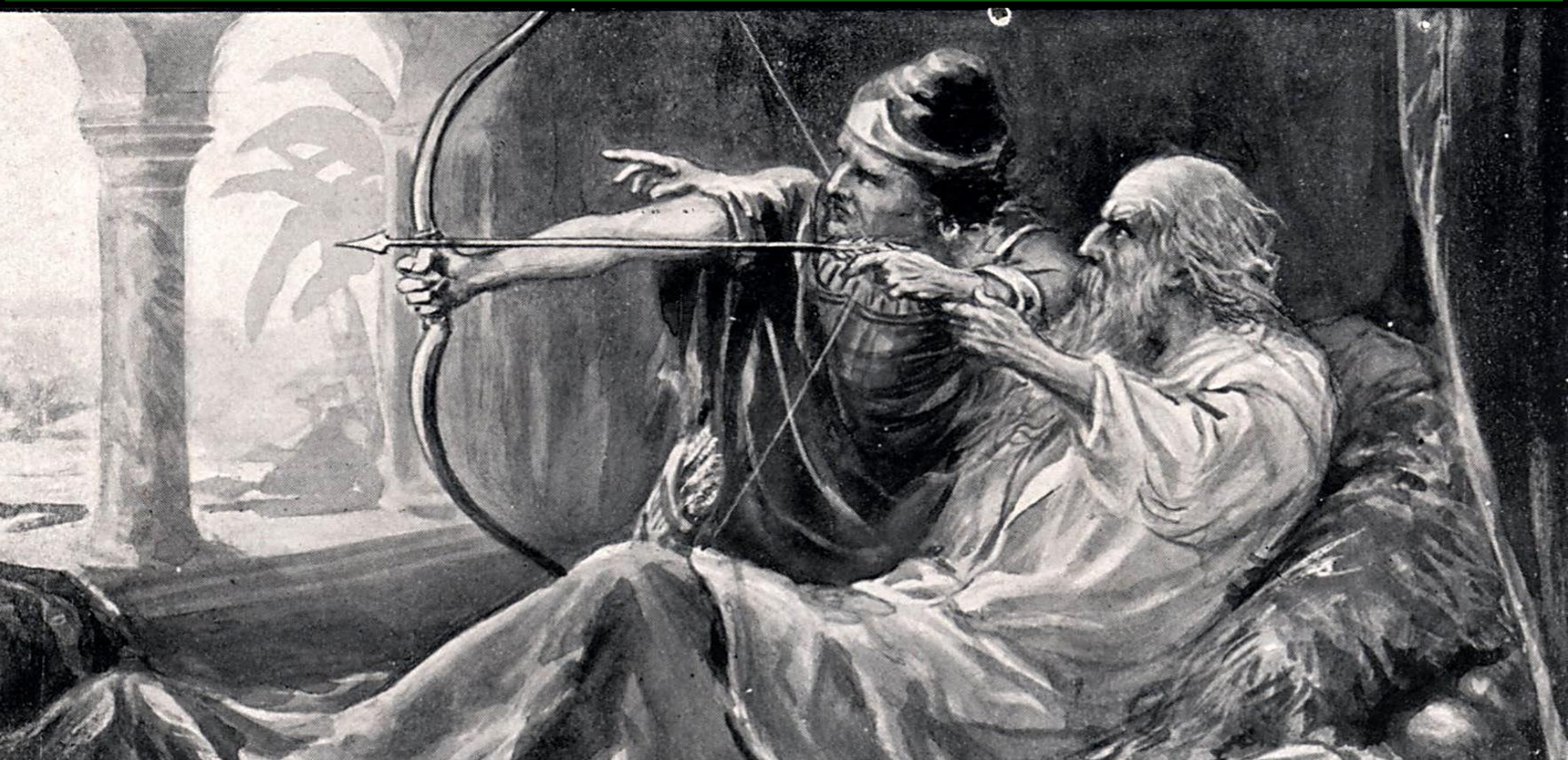
2 Kings 13

“¹⁹And the man of God was wroth with him, and said, Thou shouldest have smitten five or six times; then hadst thou smitten Syria till thou hadst consumed it: whereas now thou shalt smite Syria but thrice.”

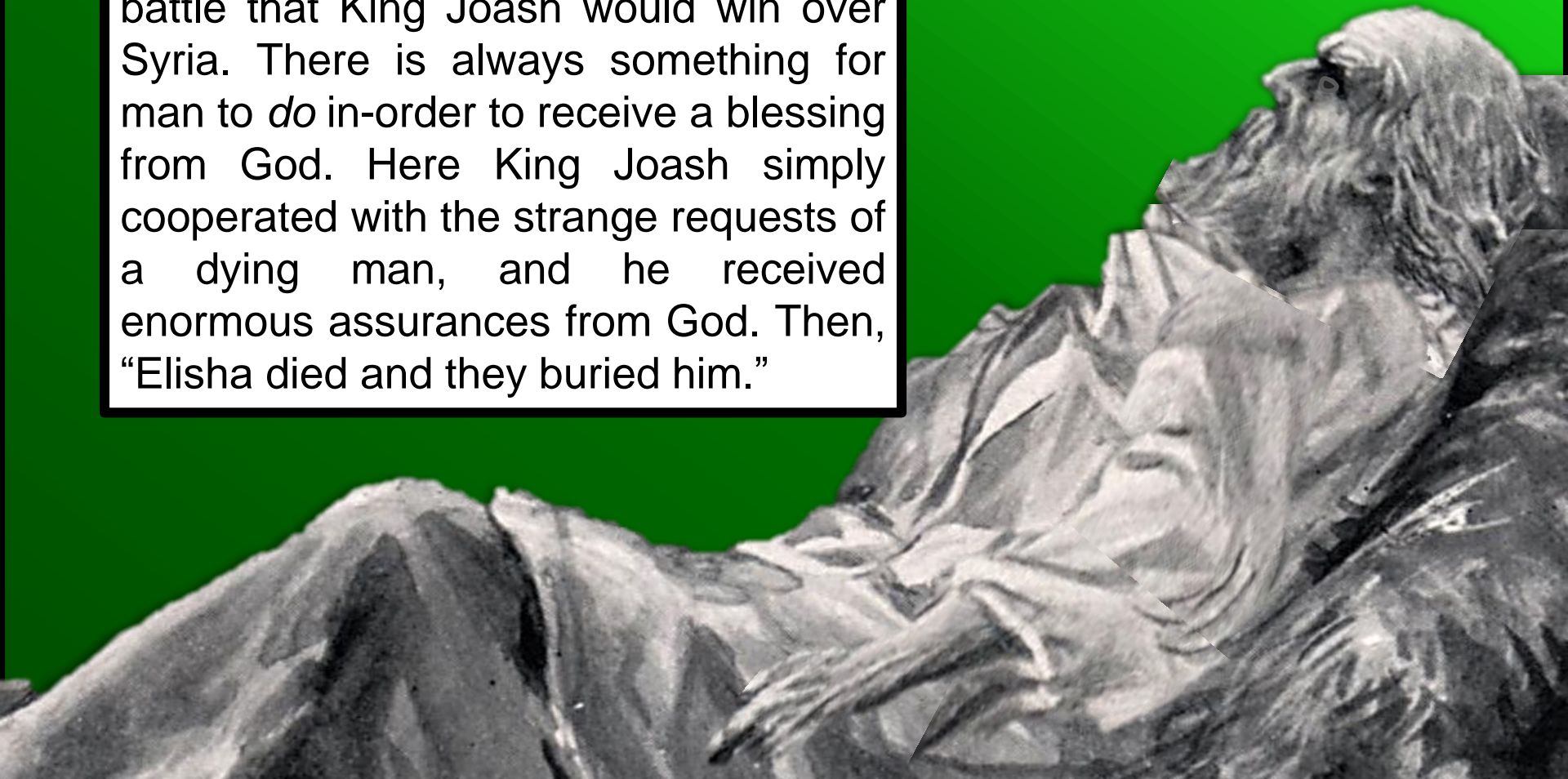


SUMMARY:

As Joash mourned over Elisha's sick bed Elisha told King Joash to shoot an arrow out of the window. After he complied Elisha prophesied that Israel would win against Syria in a battle at Aphek.



Then Elisha told Joash to smite his arrows on the ground, and Joash did so three times. Elisha was angry at King Joash because he only hit the ground three times, for each strike indicated a battle that King Joash would win over Syria. There is always something for man to *do* in-order to receive a blessing from God. Here King Joash simply cooperated with the strange requests of a dying man, and he received enormous assurances from God. Then, "Elisha died and they buried him."



ELISHA'S

miracles, wonders, and deeds of mercy

Divided Jordan River

Healed spring of water

42 children killed by 2 bears

Miracle of water for 3 armies

The widow's oil was increased

The Shunammite's son was raised

Poisonous pottage was healed

Loaves of bread were multiplied

Naaman's leprosy was healed

Struck Gehazi with leprosy

The axe head was made to swim

Predicted military moves of the Syrians

Ring of fiery horses

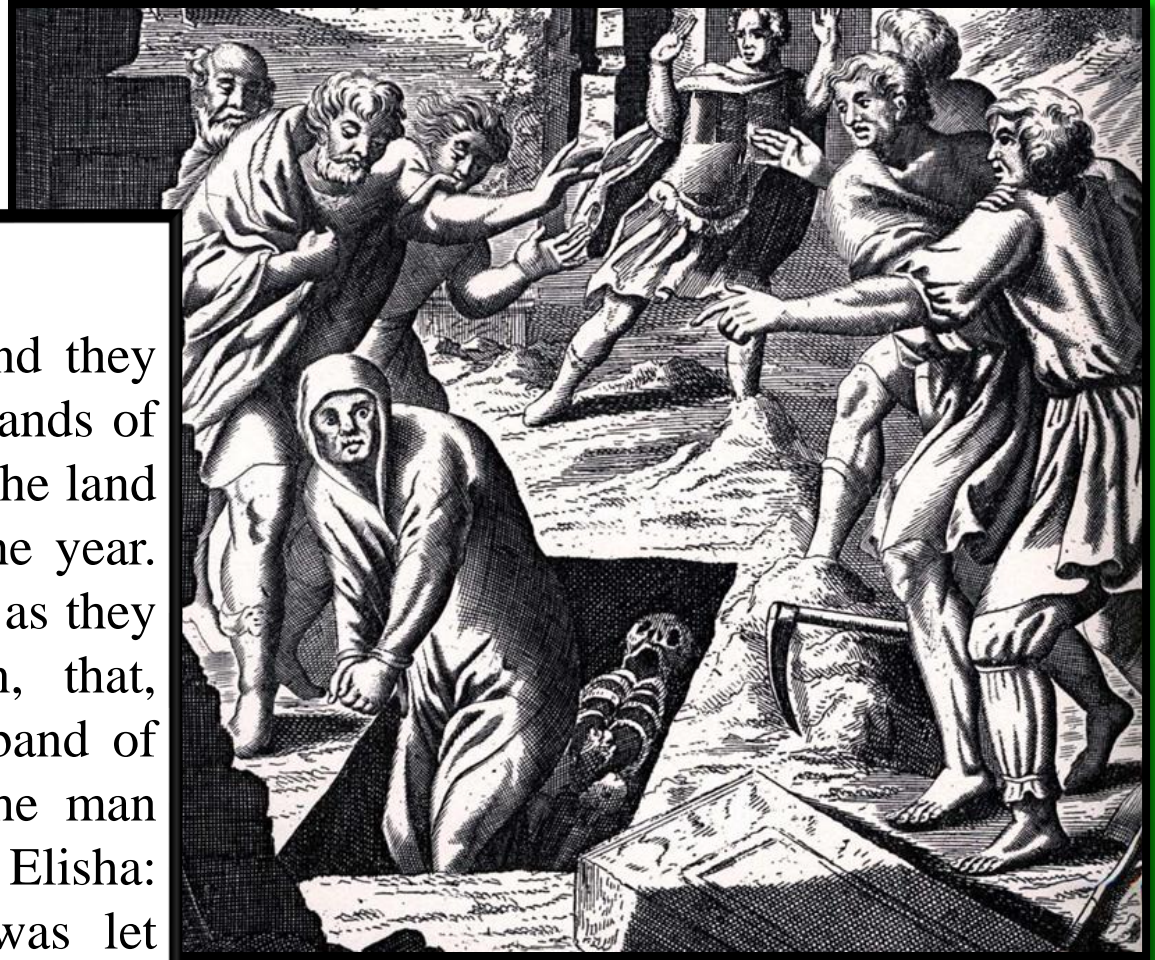
Struck the Syrian army with blindness

Miracle of the arrows

His bones raised a man from the dead

2 Kings 13

“²⁰And Elisha died, and they buried him. And the bands of the Moabites invaded the land at the coming in of the year.
²¹And it came to pass, as they were burying a man, that, behold, they spied a band of men; and they cast the man into the sepulchre of Elisha: and when the man was let down, and touched the bones of Elisha, he revived, and stood up on his feet.”



**ELISHA,
A POWERFUL
PROPHET OF GOD**





THE END