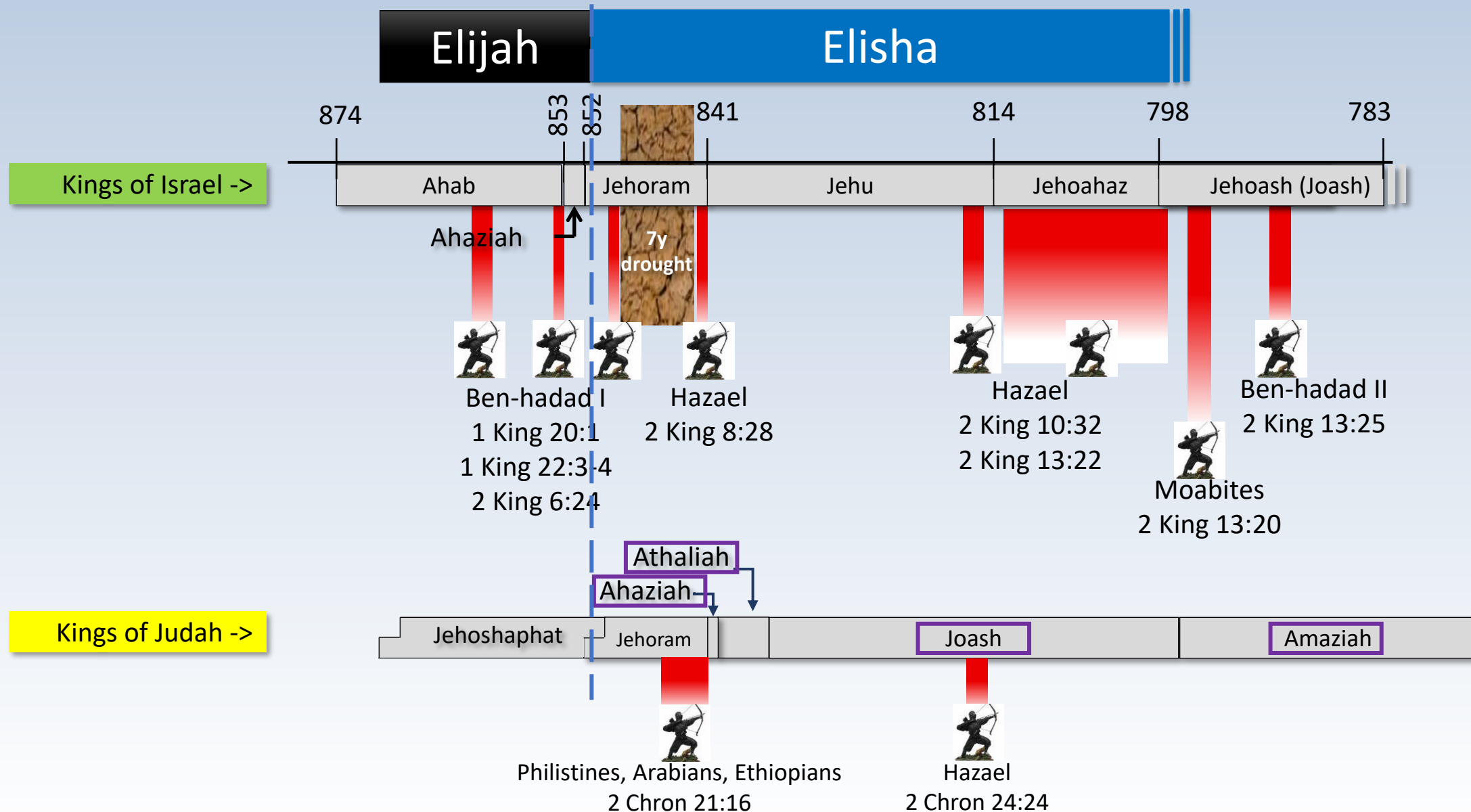




# He took up also the mantle

## Study 1

# I will send the sword and famine



# The combined ministry of Elijah and Elisha

1. Elisha was appointed in 'the room of Elijah'.
2. Elijah's mantle, a symbol of office, was literally passed to Elisha.
3. The 'spirit of Elijah rested upon Elisha'.
4. The same epithet is applied to both - 'the chariot of Israel and the horsemen thereof'.
5. Elijah is styled the 'head' and 'father' of Elisha.
6. They were inseparable until the end:
  - *They worked unitedly for over six years. Elisha became known as the one who washed the hands of Elijah.*
  - *On the day of Elijah's departing they went together (note 7 occurrences).*

# The chariot of Israel and horsemen thereof

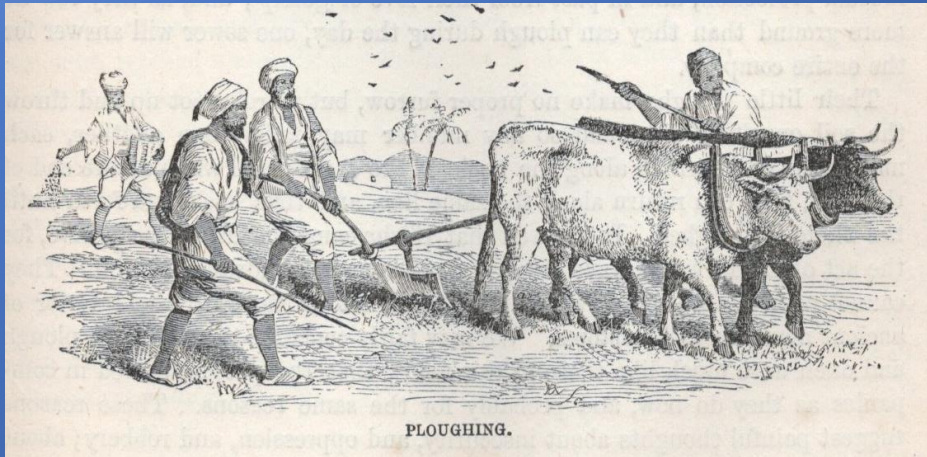
Elisha was the vehicle in and through whom  
Yahweh was manifested to Israel.

In Elisha was seen the character of God.

Through Elisha's miracles was seen God's  
mighty power to save.

'Lord open our eyes that we may see'

# Ploughing in ancient times



‘In 1 Kings 19, we read that Elijah found Elisha, the son of Shaphat, ploughing with twelve yoke of oxen before him, and he with the twelve. We are not to suppose that he had a team of twelve yoke of oxen before him. If you count these here at work, you find seven separate ploughs following one after another as closely as possible; and I have seen more than a dozen of them thus at work. To understand the reason of this, several things must be taken into account. First, that the arable lands of nearly all villages are cultivated in common; then, that Arab farmers delight to work together in companies, partly for mutual protection, and in part from their love of gossip; and, as they sow no more ground than they can plough during the day, one sower will answer for the entire company’

*The Land And The Book, Thomson p144*



# Commitment



- What takes our time and get's our attention?
- If the truth was our business would it be a success?
- Is our commitment only in aspects of the truth that provide personal satisfaction?
- Can we be committed if we are not involved?

Did you not know that I must be about my Father's business? Luke 2:49

# The apprenticeship of Elisha



# The typical ascension of Christ

## *Elijah*

V8 after he had **conquered Jordan** (flesh) he ascended.

V11 And it came to pass as they still went on .. a chariot of fire and horses **parted them** both asunder.

V11 and Elijah went up by a **whirlwind** into heaven

V17 they sought three days but **found him not**

## *Christ*

Heb 1:3 .. When he had by himself **purged our sins** (by conquering the flesh), sat down on the right hand of the majesty on high

Luke 24:51 And it came to pass while he blessed them, he was **parted from them** ...

Acts 1:9 and a **cloud** received him out of their sight

John 7:34 Ye shall seek me and shall **not find me**





# Chariot of fire and horses of fire

‘Who maketh his ANGELS spirits;  
his ministers a flaming **FIRE**’

**Psalm 104:4**

‘The **CHARIOTS** of God are twenty  
thousand, even thousands of  
ANGELS: the Lord is among them,  
as in Sinai, in the holy place.’

**Psalm 68:17**

The chariot and horses of fire was a manifestation of  
angelic power to save or destroy.

# The healing of the water



- Jesus Christ came in our nature that he might redeem himself and us from it. (Heb 2:14). He is the new cruse into which was put the salt, that which led to death.
- Though a possessor of our nature, Christ did not succumb to it, he was in that sense a new or un-contaminated vessel (2 Cor 5:21).
- The redemption of mankind through Christ was a work of God (Rom 8:3).

‘For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh’ Rom 8:3

# Bitterness has an end

In Christ, God achieved what was impossible with man, He conquered sin, the source of all bitter experiences in this life.

Soon all bitterness shall be past, and we shall delight ourselves in sweet waters that shall never fail.

Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.

# I will meet them as a bear bereaved



The slaying of the youths by the bears foretold the devouring of God's people by the gentile nations if they continued to *mock* his prophets.

And the LORD God of their fathers sent to them by his messengers, rising up betimes, and sending; because he had compassion on his people, and on his dwelling place:

But they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and misused his prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against his people, till there was no remedy. **2Ch 36:15-16**

Therefore I will be unto them as a lion: as a leopard by the way will I observe them: I will meet them as a bear that is bereaved of her whelps. **Hosea 13:7-8**



# A call to separation

‘And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, *Come out of her my people*, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues’. **Rev 18:4**

# Our preparation for a future work

Little did Elisha know that his hard life on the land was preparing him for a much greater work, a work of sowing and cultivating seeds in hearts and minds.

Likewise our experiences in this life, in calm and in storm, are preparing us for a greater and more enduring work.

# The mantle has passed to us

Our forerunner, the anti-typical Elijah, has ascended on high. We like Elisha have to take up the mantle, by faith overcome Jordan, and become vehicles for God's character and purpose.

Our hope is that we like our forerunner we may be incorporated into the immortalized host represented by the chariot and horses of fire.

