

# God's Deliverance in Crisis Times and Following Godly Examples

## 2 Kings 7 & 8

### Key Bible Texts

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### Key Bible Verse(s)

“And he walked in the way of the house of Ahab, and did evil in the sight of the Lord, as did the house of Ahab: for he was the son in law of the house of Ahab.” (2 Kings 8:27)

## Background to the Study

In 2 Kings 7, Elisha gave two prophecies: that Israel would soon be delivered and grain would be sold cheaply in Samaria, and that the king's officer who doubted his words would see the miracle but not live to enjoy it. Both came true—the city was supplied with food, and the officer was trampled to death at the gate. Meanwhile, four desperate lepers ventured to the Syrian camp and found it abandoned. God had caused the Syrians to hear the sound of a mighty army, and in panic they fled, leaving their supplies scattered for miles.

Chapter 8 records further accounts of Elisha's ministry. The Shunammite woman, who had once built a room for Elisha, was warned to leave her home because of a coming seven-year famine. She obeyed, but when she returned, her property had been taken. Providentially, she arrived before King Joram just as Gehazi was recounting Elisha's miracle of raising her son. The king restored her land and even the income it had produced during her absence.

Later, Elisha traveled to Damascus, where King Ben-hadad II lay sick. The king sent his trusted official, Hazael, to seek Elisha's help. Elisha declared that the king would recover, but also foretold his death. He wept as he revealed that Hazael would murder the king, seize the throne, and bring great suffering to Israel. True to the prophecy, Hazael killed Ben-hadad the next day and became king, later ravaging Israel's land (2 Kings 10:33).

The reigns of Jehoram and Ahaziah in Judah show the destructive results of Jehoshaphat's alliance with Ahab. Jehoram married Athaliah, Ahab and Jezebel's daughter, who brought Baal worship into Judah. Jehoram killed his brothers, encouraged idolatry, and lost control of Edom and Libnah. Eventually, Philistines and Arabians invaded, leaving only his youngest son, Ahaziah. Judah survived only because of God's covenant with David, preserving the Messianic line. Athaliah also influenced Ahaziah toward wickedness. He joined Joram of Israel in battle against Syria at Ramoth-Gilead, but his reign lasted only one year before he was killed by Jehu's army (2 Kings 9:27).

## TESTIMONIES FROM OUR DAY

*Have you noticed how children are natural imitators? Their first words echo what they hear –“bye-bye,” “no,” or whatever adults around them say. As they grow, imitation goes deeper than words; they copy behaviours, manners, and even attitudes. I once saw this clearly when teaching sixth grade—students mimicked my speech patterns, and in parent conferences I often heard the same excuses or discipline reflected in both parent and child.*

*This makes us think: what influence do we have over children in spiritual matters? We cannot make them Christians simply by teaching good morals or taking them to church, but the example we set can shape whether they see the Gospel as real and worth embracing. Many children raised in ungodly homes later come to faith, but often children follow the patterns of their parents. Daily habits formed in childhood shape attitudes that last a lifetime.*

*So what will our example teach? Will our children see church as important? Will they learn the value of self-sacrifice? Will prayer become vital to them? In today’s text, King Ahaziah chose evil, heavily influenced by his mother’s sinful example. His father’s marriage into Ahab’s wicked family had lasting consequences.*

*The lesson is clear: who we marry shapes our spiritual future, and how we raise our children influences theirs—for good or for evil. Let’s pray for wisdom to walk carefully and live in a way that points those watching us toward godliness. Our example matters more than we realize.*

## A Closer Look

### Question 1

What prompted the four lepers to go to the Syrian camp, and how does this connect to Elisha’s prophecy and the king’s officer’s unbelief? (2 Kings 7:1-4)

### Question 2

When situations look impossible, what can we do to encourage ourselves to believe God’s promises?

### Question 3

Why did Elisha weep when he confronted Hazael, and what does this reveal about his heart for God’s people? (2 Kings 8:11-12)

### Question 4

How is God’s wonderful timing for those who trust in Him seen in the case of the Shunammite woman whose dead son had been raised to life through Elisha? What does her story teach us about presenting our hardest situations to the Lord? (2 Kings 8:1-6)

### Question 5

Why didn't God destroy Judah during Jehoram's wicked reign, and what does this show about His covenant faithfulness? (2 Kings 8:19)

### Question 6

What influences led Jehoram and Ahaziah to become such evil kings, and how can we, by contrast, influence others toward good rather than evil? (2 Kings 8:27)

## Take Home

When life feels overwhelming, our first response should be to pray and trust the Lord to act. He already knows what lies ahead, and when we place our faith fully in Him, He brings peace and pours out blessings.

As we let God lead every part of our lives, those around us—our children, parents, friends, and community—will see the Gospel lived out in real ways. Let's commit to setting an example worth following, a pattern that points others toward Christ.