

Elijah and Elisha

#13, Elijah's replacement – II Kings 2:15-25

Elisha saw Elijah taken up heaven. He was now the new prophet of God in Israel.

15 Now when the sons of the prophets who were at Jericho opposite him saw him, they said, "The spirit of Elijah rests on Elisha." And they came to meet him and bowed themselves to the ground before him.

16 They said to him, "Behold now, there are with your servants fifty strong men, please let them go and search for your master; perhaps the Spirit of the Lord has taken him up and cast him on some mountain or into some valley." And he said, "You shall not send."

[1.] v:15, The spirit of Elijah, We read that when asked (II Ki 2:9), Elisha asked Elijah for a double portion of his spirit. As men of God, why might they really be referring to the Spirit of God?

[2.] v:16, We have previously read that these sons of the prophets knew of the change, in prophets, that would soon happen. Reviewing II Ki 2:3 & 5, write down the question they had asked Elisha.

[3.] v:16 again, In their minds, what did they think the Lord might have done with Elijah?

[4.] v:16 again, They said to him, What did these men feel needed to be done?

[5.] v:16 again, What did Elisha initially think of their plan?

[6.] v:17, Send, Even though he Oked their search, why do you think Elisha knew that Elijah was gone for good?

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17 But when they urged him until he was ashamed, he said, "Send." They sent therefore fifty men; and they searched three days but did not find him. 18 They returned to him while he was staying at Jericho; and he said to them, "Did I not say to you, 'Do not go'?"

19 Then the men of the city (Jericho) said to Elisha, "Behold now, the situation of this city is pleasant, as my lord sees; but the water is bad and the land is unfruitful."

20 He said, "Bring me a new jar, and put salt in it." So they brought it to him. 21 He went out to the spring of water and threw salt in it and said, "Thus says the Lord, 'I have purified these waters; there shall not be from there death or unfruitfulness any longer.'"

22 So the waters have been purified to this day, according to the word of Elisha, which he spoke.

[7.] v:17-18, They returned, So On their return, what did the searchers report?

[8.] v:19, the men, From the possibilities below choose the one that is closest to the reason they came to Elisha with their problem.

- a) They contacted the king but he was no help.
- b) In idolatrous Israel, the only way to seek the Lord's wisdom was through the prophet.
- c) Elisha was trained in this area.

[9.] v:19 again, the situation, Why didn't the citizens of the city just pickup and relocate somewhere else?

[10.] v:20-23, Bring me a new jar, In your opinion, was the Elisha successful because of the salt jar or, so the people would know there was a God in Israel?

[11.] v:21, Thus says the Lord, Here Elisha shows his complete submission to the Lord. What did he do?

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23 Then he went up from there to Bethel; and as he was going up by the way, young lads came out from the city and mocked him and said to him, "Go up, you baldhead; go up, you baldhead!" 24 When he looked behind him and saw them, he cursed them in the name of the Lord. Then two female bears came out of the woods and tore up forty-two lads of their number. 25 He went from there to Mount Carmel, and from there he returned to Samaria.

[12.] v:23, go up, In their caustic way, what miracle did these young lads probably want to see repeated with Elisha?

[13.] v:24, in the name of the Lord, How did Elisha respond to any one who, not only questioned God's miracle but showed derision to God's prophet?

[14.] Question [10.], When a person becomes a follower of Christ, they become target for all kinds of abuse, from words to death. How do you feel the Lord will reward those who have abused his children?

[15.] On the map (pg 4) draw a line showing Elisha's route from Bethel to Mt. Carmel to Samaria.

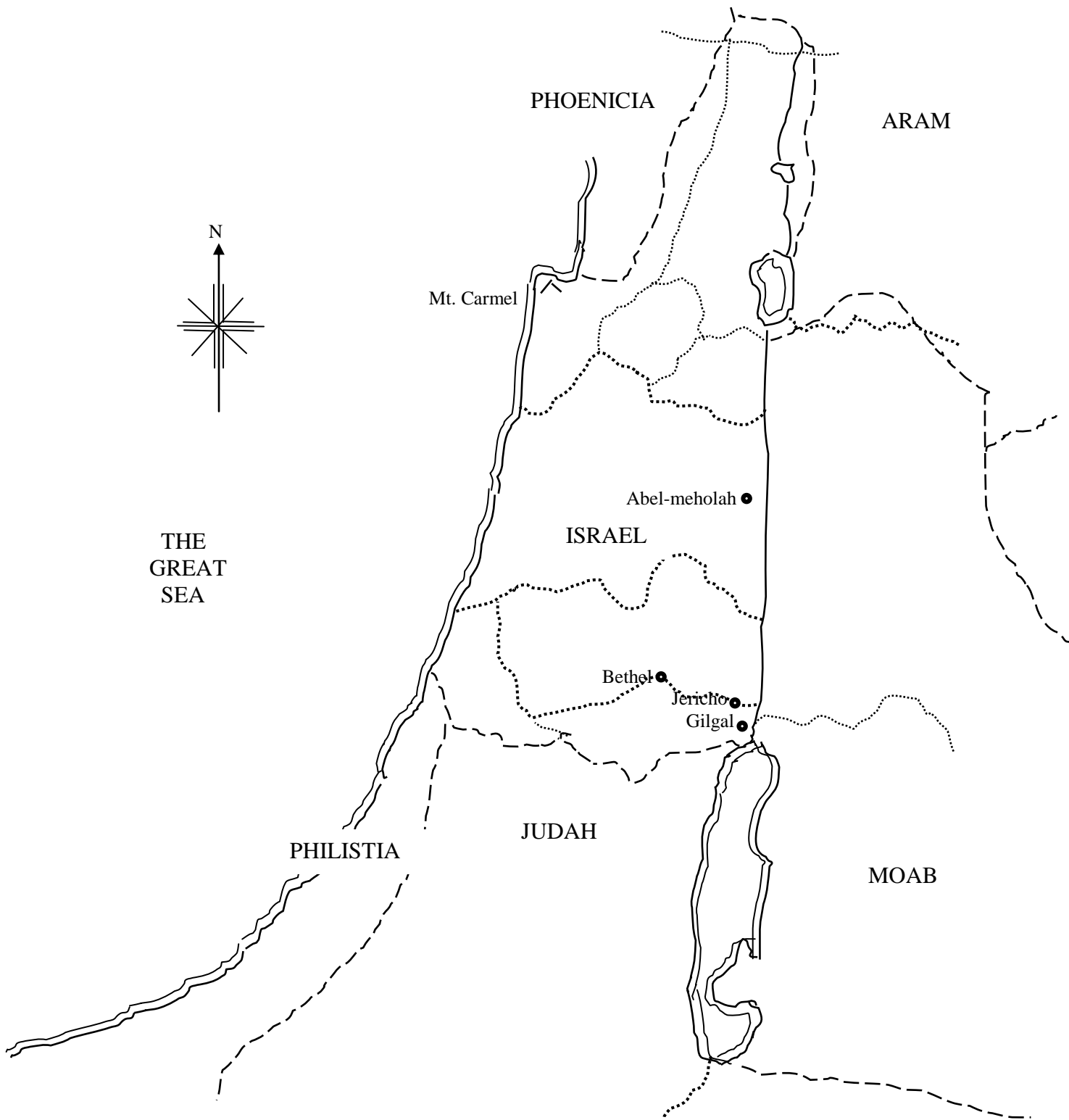
[16.] v:25, Mount Carmel, This verse denotes familiar locations. Why would Elisha journey through these locations and show himself to the people there?

[17.] Looking back at lesson 8, in what tribal area was Elisha's hometown located?

[18.] v:25 again, Like Elisha, is Elisha's ministry going to be in Israel or in Judah?

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[19.] Back to II Kings 2:13, He also took up the mantle of Elijah, How do you know when the Lord is directing you to take up some predecessors ministry?

[20.] Something to think about. If your new ministry replaces an historically popular and loved servant, what might you initially experience and why?

NOTES