

23 GODLY MIRACLES – ELISHA



Elisha was the prophet Elijah's successor. During the time of Elisha's activity there were many miracles through which God revealed his help in times of small and great need.



NAAMAN

2 Kings 5:1–18

The Syrian captain, Naaman, was stricken with leprosy. Through his wife's Israelite maid he found out that the prophet Elisha would be able to heal him.

Naaman asked his king for permission to go with his servants to Elisha. The king gave him a letter addressed to the king of Israel in which he asked him to rid Naaman of his leprosy. When the king of Israel read the letter, he was at a loss. He said, "Am I God that I should be able to heal people? The king of Syria knows very well that I am not able to do something like that. He is certainly looking for a reason to start a war with me."

When Elisha heard about all of this, he asked the king of Israel to send the Syrian captain to him. Naaman was to find out that a prophet was active in Israel.

Elisha did not invite Naaman into his house, but told him through a messenger to wash himself seven times in the river Jordan. Naaman did not like that. He had assumed that Elisha would pray with him and then heal him by laying his hands on him. Filled with rage, he wanted to return home. His servants, however, recommended that he follow the prophet's advice.

Naaman submerged himself seven times in the river Jordan and became well. He then returned to Elisha, praised God, and wanted to richly reward Elisha with the treasures he had brought along from Syria. Elisha, however, refused the treasures. Naaman vowed to no longer bring sacrifices to his gods, but to pray to the living God in the future.



THE FLOATING IRON

2 Kings 6:1–7

Elisha's disciples wanted to build a bigger dwelling for themselves.

They went to the river Jordan to fell trees. Elisha accompanied them. While they were at work, the head of one of the men's axes flew off and fell into the Jordan. Filled with consternation, the man cried out because he had only borrowed this tool.

Elisha asked where the iron had fallen into the river. He was shown the spot. Elisha cut a stick and threw it into the water where the iron had gone under. The iron floated to the surface and the man was able to take it out of the water.

THE SYRIANS ARE STRUCK WITH BLINDNESS

2 Kings 6:8–20



Once the king of Syria waged war against Israel. The army commanders were told to lie in wait at a certain place in order to outwit the army of the Israelites. Elisha, however, sent a messenger to the king of Israel to warn him because God had revealed the intentions of the Syrians to him. This repeated itself several times.

It made the Syrian king very angry and he asked his servants, “Can you tell me, who among us is a traitor?” The servants answered, “No one, but Elisha, the prophet in Israel, is even able to tell his king what you talk about in your bedroom.”

After that, the Syrian king decided to take Elisha prisoner. During the night, he sent a large company of horses and chariots to surround the city in which Elisha and his servant were staying.

When the servant got up the following morning, he was very shocked to see the enemies surrounding the city. He said to Elisha, “What are we going to do now?” Elisha answered, “Do not be afraid!” Then Elisha prayed, “Lord, open his eyes!” God opened the servant’s eyes and he saw that the mountain on which Elisha was, was full of horses and chariots of fire which surrounded Elisha.

Elisha prayed again.

After that God struck the hostile Syrians with blindness. Without recognising him, Elisha led them to Samaria and the king of Israel. Elisha prayed yet again and God opened the Syrians’ eyes. On Elisha’s advice, the king of Israel gave them to eat and then let them go to their king.

This event proved to be a lesson for the Syrian king. In the time that followed, his warriors no longer forced their way into the land of Israel.

EXERCISE 1



Before and after being healed, Naaman, the Syrian captain had several conversations. In the middle and right columns below indicate who said each of the sentences to whom! Use the Bible text for this (2 Kings 5).

Go and wash in the Jordan seven times (verse 10).	said _____	to _____
Indeed, I said to myself, "He will surely come out to me" (verse 11).	said _____	to _____
Are not the Abanah and the Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? (verse 12).	said _____	to _____
My father, if the prophet had told you to do something great, would you not have done it? (verse 13).	said _____	to _____
Indeed, now I know that there is no God in all the earth; except in Israel (verse 15).	said _____	to _____
Your servant will no longer offer either burnt offering or sacrifice to other gods, but to the Lord (verse 17).	said _____	to _____

Bible text to exercise 1
From 2 Kings 5:

9. Then Naaman went with his horses and chariot, and he stood at the door of Elisha's house.

10. And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored to you, and you shall be clean."

11. But Naaman became furious, and went away and said, "Indeed, I said to myself, 'He will surely come out to me, and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, and wave his hand over the place, and heal the leprosy.'

12. "Are not the Abanah and the Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?" So he turned and went away in a rage.

13. And his servants came near and spoke to him, and said, "My father, if the prophet had told you to do something great, would you not have done it? How much more then, when he says to you, 'Wash, and be clean'?"

14. So he went down and dipped seven times in the Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God; and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.

15. And he returned to the man of God, he and all his aides, and came and stood before him; and he said, "Indeed, now I know that there is no God in all the earth, except in Israel; now therefore, please take a gift from your servant."

16. But he said, "As the Lord lives, before whom I stand, I will receive nothing." And he urged him to take it, but he refused.

17. So Naaman said, "Then, if not, please let your servant be given two mule-loads of earth; for your servant will no longer offer either burnt offering or sacrifice to other gods, but to the Lord.

EXERCISE 2



The sentences below describe miracles, but unfortunately are a little mixed up. Connect the corresponding sentence fragments with arrows one after the other, and transfer the letters in bold type in the newly established order to the boxes below!
If you order everything properly, you will obtain the text of Psalm 77:14.

1. GOD MAKES

THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL THROUGH
THE RED **SEA**.

2. ELIJAH

AN IRON AXE TO FLO**AT** BECAUSE
GOD SUSP**ENDED** THE LAWS OF
NATURE **E** FOR A MOMENT.

3. JESUS WILL TAKE

PEOPLE INTO CHILDREN OF GOD
THROUGH THE LAYING ON OF HANDS
OF A LIVING APOSTLE.

4. GOD TOOK

WENT UP TO **H**EAVEN IN A FIERY
CHARI**O**T.

5. ELIJAH CAUSED

ENOCH FROM **T**HIS EARTH BECAUSE
OF HIS GOD-FEARING **W**AYS.

6. MOSES LED

US TO HIMSELF ON THE **D**AY **O**F HIS
RETURN.

You are the God

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