

2 KINGS WEEK THREE – January 20, 2022

Questions for 2 Kings 7 - 9

Some of this week's batch of stories contain a *lot* of examples of Deuteronomic theology: If good things are happening in your life, it must be because you're doing things right, but if bad things are happening, you must be doing things wrong. Pay attention to how this plays out, and how it may or may not be the best lesson to communicate how God interacts with people.

1. Why were the four leprous men outside the city walls and why did they try to defect to the Aramean camp? What did they find?
2. Why were the leprous men afraid to report their findings to the king and what was their solution to the problem they faced?
3. Why was the officer who was assigned to the gate trampled to death and what do you suppose the lesson about his death was supposed to communicate?
4. In the first story of chapter continues the story of the Shunammite woman we met in chapter 4. Why did Elisha tell the woman to go settle in enemy territory? What happened to the property she left behind? What is the takeaway lesson of this story?
5. How well was Elisha known in Damascus? How did the King Ben-hadad receive Elisha?
6. Read 1 Kings 19:15. Why is Elisha doing something that was originally assigned to Elijah? What kind of a political conundrum did Elisha find himself in by taking on this assignment? How was it resolved? What is the lesson we're supposed to take away from this story?
7. How long did Ahaziah reign in Judah? Who was Ahaziah related to? What was Ahaziah's biggest fault?
8. Is there any indication that there is some cooperation between Israel and Judah? If so, why do they remain a nation divided?

9. What was Elisha's role in anointing Jehu? Is it clear why Elisha wanted this to be done in secret? Why do you suppose Elisha sent a young man from his company of prophets to accomplish this mission?

10. What seemed to be the primary purpose for anointing Jehu?

11. How big of a headache did you get trying to get your head wrapped around the hows and whys and over-the-top violence surrounding Jehu's ascent to Israel's throne? What does all of this have to say about the damage that Ahab and Jezebel did during their reign over Israel?

12. Why did Jehu try to kill Ahaziah?

13. Read 1 Kings 21:19-24. What did Jezebel's death accomplish?

The Genealogy of the Kings of Ancient Israel and Judah

