

calvary chapel

portsmouth



2nd Book of Kings

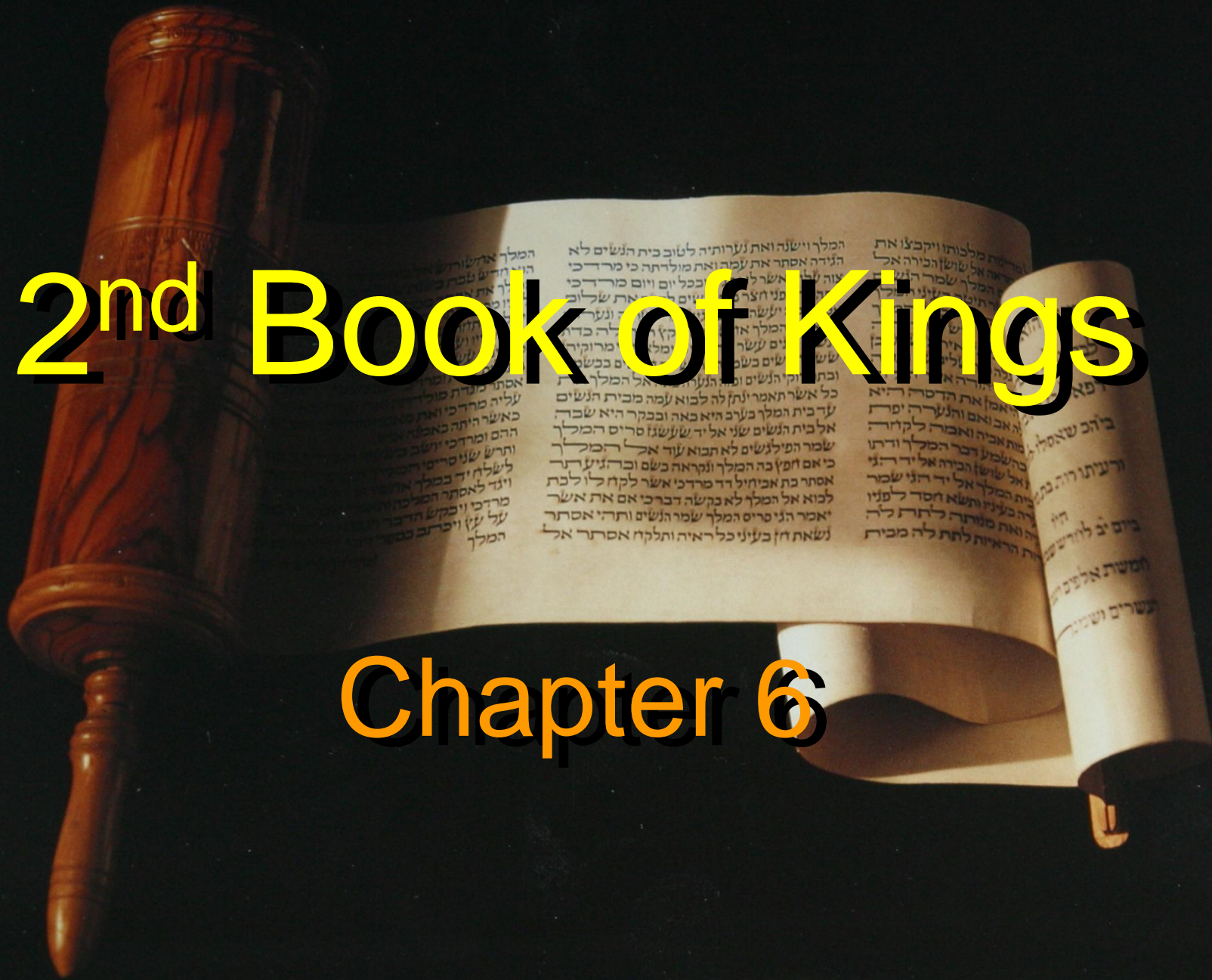
Simply teaching the Word simply

The Miracles of Elisha

- We have noted 5 miracles of Elisha depicting God's grace
 - Provision (all your needs) 4:1-7
 - Posterity (a lasting name) 4:8-17
 - Healing (life from death) 4:18-37
 - Peace (secure amidst any trial) 4:38-44
 - Cleansing (of the un-cleansable) 5:1-19
- Now we are given a strange picture that needs to be explored:

2nd Book of Kings

Chapter 6



¹ And the sons of the prophets said unto Elisha, Behold now, the place where we dwell with thee is too strait for us.

² Let us go, we pray thee, unto Jordan, and take thence every man a beam, and let us make us a place there, where we may dwell. And he answered, Go ye.

³ And one said, Be content, I pray thee, and go with thy servants. And he answered, I will go.

2 Kings 6:1-3

Setting the Scene

- The ministry is expanding
- There is not enough room on campus!
- It is suggested to build a new facility down near the Jordan
- Elisha approves and gives his blessing
- But they ask Elisha to come with them
 - To oversee the work?
 - To encourage the young prophets?

4 So he went with them. And when they came to Jordan, they cut down wood.

2 Kings 6:4

- Jordan represents a place of decision
 - The Children of Israel under Joshua
 - Those who came to be baptised by John
- The decisions made here will chart your future course

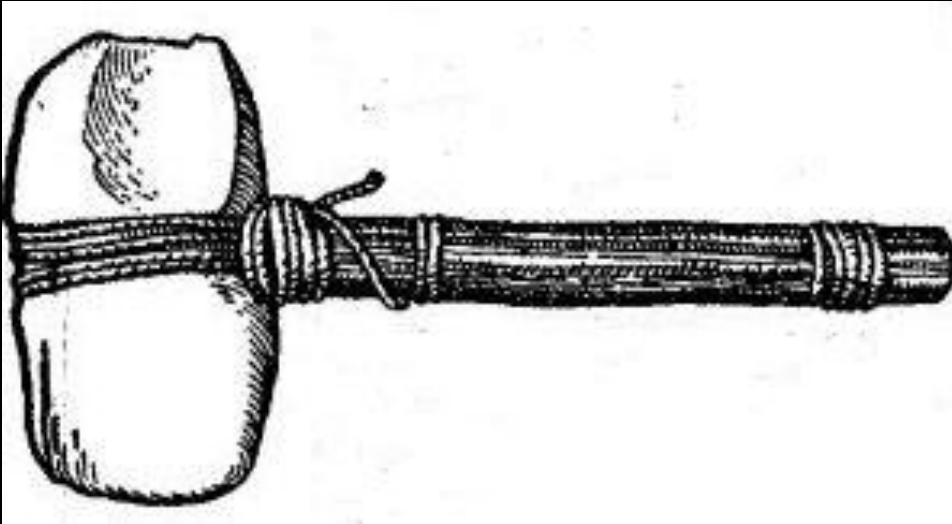
5 But as one was felling a beam, the axe head fell into the water: and he cried, and said, Alas, master! for it was borrowed.

2 Kings 6:5

- This individual had been entrusted with something of significant value
- It was a tool given to him to equip him to fulfil his ministry
- However...
- He had not given it the care required
 - He had allowed it to get loose

The Prophets Axe

- Iron was scarce in Israel at that time
- The axe head would have been tied on to the handle
- If the binding worked its way loose the head could come off



6 And the man of God said, Where fell it? And he shewed him the place. And he cut down a stick, and cast it in thither; and the iron did swim.

7 Therefore said he, Take it up to thee. And he put out his hand, and took it.

2 Kings 6:6-7

- Two 'remiz' here! (hint of something deeper)
- Why ask the question "where did it fall"?
- Why go to the trouble of cutting down another 'stick' ... and not use the handle??

The Miracle of The Axe Head

- Elisha takes this man back to the place where he lost his 'cutting edge'
- This is a lesson on getting something back.
- The first step in getting your cutting edge back to is to return to the place you lost it
- We have seen God do this with Elijah
 - “What are you doing here Elijah?”

1 Kings 19:13

The Miracle of The Axe Head

- Paul said to the Galatian believers ‘who hindered you?’ – Also Ephesus (Rev 2)
 - They had lost something that made them effective in ministry (cannot fake it!)

Personal application:

- Have you lost something given to you for the work of ministry?
 - Did you used to pray more?
 - Did you used to read or study more?
 - Did you used to prize the things of God

The Miracle of The Axe Head

- Then Elisha 'cut's down a stick'
- Hebrew עֵצָה 'ets
- First used in Genesis 1:11 'Fruit Tree'
- Used in Genesis 6:14 of the wood for Noah's Ark
- Used in Genesis 22:6 of the wood upon which Isaac was laid

The Miracle of The Axe Head

- Used in Genesis 40:19 of the **tree** the baker was hung on
- Used in Exodus 15:25

²⁵ And he [Moses] cried unto the LORD; and the LORD shewed him a **tree**, which when he had cast into the waters, the waters were made sweet

Exodus 15:25

- The tree had been there all along!

The Miracle of The Axe Head

- The same **tree** is spoken of in Deuteronomy 21:23 (Paul quotes)

¹³ *Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:* **Galatians 3:13**

- *This* is the tree that is cast in
- It is the only one that can bring life from the dead & restoration

Elisha's 6th Miracle of Grace

- If we have allowed something valuable to get too loose, and find we've lost our cutting edge in our ministry
- *Firstly*, cry out to your Master!
 - We're reminded it was paid for by someone else, it wasn't earned.
- Then we have to go back to the Tree...
- For that alone can bring back that which was buried
 - Imagine using this axe after this event!
 - It must have been fun every time!

8 Then the king of Syria warred against Israel...

2 Kings 6:8

- This enemy could have been destroyed by Ahab **1 Kings 20:32-43**
- Beware of making alliances with the world!
- God had appointed Syria for destruction
- Just like the things of the world in our lives
- If we allow them to live, they will be a snare to us

8 Then the king of Syria warred against Israel, and took counsel with his servants, saying, In such and such a place shall be my camp.

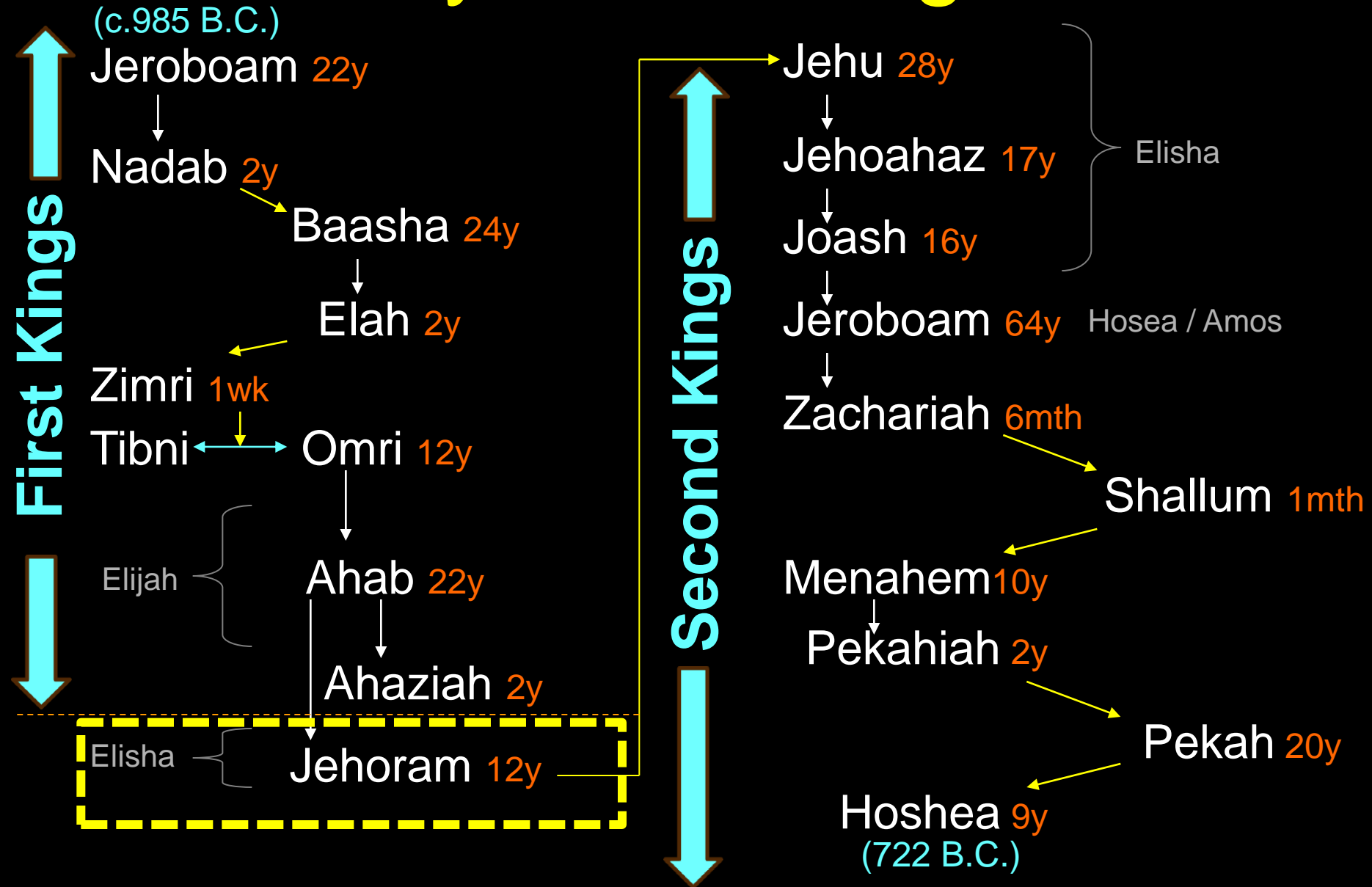
*9 And the **man of God** sent unto the king of Israel, saying, Beware that thou pass not such a place; for thither the Syrians are come down.*

10 And the king of Israel sent to the place which the man of God told him and warned him of, and saved himself there, not once nor twice.

2 Kings 6:8-10

- **Elisha!**

The History of the Kings of Israel



11 Therefore the heart of the king of Syria was sore troubled for this thing; and he called his servants, and said unto them, Will ye not shew me which of us is for the king of Israel?

12 And one of his servants said, None, my lord, O king: but Elisha, the prophet that is in Israel, telleth the king of Israel the words that thou speakest in thy bedchamber.

2 Kings 6:11-12

- Naaman?

13 And he said, Go and spy where he is, that I may send and fetch him. And it was told him, saying, Behold, he is in Dothan.

14 Therefore sent he thither horses, and chariots, and a great host: and they came by night, and compassed the city about.

15 And when the servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, behold, an host compassed the city both with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! how shall we do?

2 Kings 6:13-15

¹⁶ And he answered, Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them.

2 Kings 6:16

¹⁷ And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.

2 Kings 6:17

- How will you feel when the curtains are pulled back?

18 And when they came down to him, Elisha prayed unto the LORD, and said, Smite this people, I pray thee, with blindness. And he smote them with blindness according to the word of Elisha.

19 And Elisha said unto them, This is not the way, neither is this the city: follow me, and I will bring you to the man whom ye seek. But he led them to Samaria.

2 Kings 6:18-19

20 And it came to pass, when they were come into Samaria, that Elisha said, LORD, open the eyes of these men, that they may see. And the LORD opened their eyes, and they saw; and, behold, they were in the midst of Samaria.

21 And the king of Israel said unto Elisha, when he saw them, My father, shall I smite them? shall I smite them?

2 Kings 6:20-21

22 And he answered, Thou shalt not smite them: wouldst thou smite those whom thou hast taken captive with thy sword and with thy bow? set bread and water before them, that they may eat and drink, and go to their master.

23 And he prepared great provision for them: and when they had eaten and drunk, he sent them away, and they went to their master. So the bands of Syria came no more into the land of Israel.

2 Kings 6:22-23



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