

INTRODUCTION:

The prophets Micaiah and Elisha were contemporaries to the prophet Elijah, living in the same time period (856 to 800 BC) and serving in the same area (the Northern Kingdom of Israel). Like Elijah, both spoke against the worship of Baal and against Ahab, the reigning king of Israel. Micaiah actually predicts Ahab's death, while Elisha succeeds Elijah as a great worker of miracles attesting to the Lord's presence with Him and validity of the messages he is speaking on behalf of the Lord. Consistent with the Spirit and presence of God witnessed through His Son, Jesus Christ, Elisha will demonstrate many miracles of compassion such as healings and raising people from the dead, and also miracles that defy the laws of nature such as floating an iron ax head on water. These miracles continue to bear witness of God's compassion and power.

MICAIAH:***(Foretells death of Ahab)***

The name Micaiah means “who is like Yahweh?” Micaiah was a prophet, the son of Imlah. Being desired by king Ahab to concur in the favorable prediction given by the prophets of Baal regarding Ahab's expedition against Ramoth-gilead, he did what was required of him, but with such transparent insincerity that he was adjured to speak the truth, on which, in the name of Yahweh, he predicted the death Ahab in the coming fight. The order was given to make him a prisoner until Ahab's expected victory should prove his unfavorable pronouncement to be untrue (1 Kings 22:8-28; 2 Chronicles 18:6-27). As it turned out, Ahab lost his life at Ramoth-gilead as Micaiah had foretold.

ELISHA:***(Successor of Elijah)***

The name Elisha means “God is salvation.” Elisha was the successor of Elijah in prophetic work in the Northern Kingdom. He was the son of Shaphat, dwelt at Abel-meholah in the Jordan Valley, and belonged to a family of means; 12 yoke of oxen plowed his father's fields. God appointed him to succeed Elijah (1 Kings 19:16, 19). Elijah found Elisha plowing and cast his mantle over him. Elisha understood the significance of the act; he went home, gave a farewell feast to the people, and returned to be the follower and assistant of Elijah (1 Kings 19:19-21). When Elijah went beyond the Jordan to be translated to heaven, Elisha kept by him and, when told to ask a parting gift,

he had the wisdom to petition for a double portion of Elijah’s spirit. He saw the fiery chariot bear his master away and, taking the mantle which had fallen from Elijah, he struck the Jordan with it, and the water divided and permitted him to cross to its west side (2 Kings 2:1-18), which demonstrated his receipt of the spirit of Elijah.

(Miracle Worker)

His subsequent life was marked by a series of miracles, some of knowledge, others of power, expressly wrought in the name of the Lord. They belong to the second group of miracles in redemptive history. They occurred at a time when the religion of Yahweh was engaged in a desperate struggle for existence against Baal worship, and, like the miracles wrought by Elijah, were intended to accredit the prophet and to attest Yahweh to be the living God. The miraculous power was so much under Elisha’s control that apparently he could exercise it at discretion; and he used it largely, as did Christ, in simple deeds of kindness.

(He Healed)

In the name of the Lord he healed with salt the waters of the spring at Jericho (2 Kings 2:19-22). He told Naaman to wash in the Jordan and he would be healed of his leprosy and he was healed (2 Kings 5:1-14). Finally, after his death, a man hastily cast into the same sepulcher (tomb or grave) was at once restored to life on touching the prophet’s bones (2 Kings 13:20-21).

(He Cursed)

He pronounced Yahweh’s curse on lads who mocked him the prophet of the Lord and two bears presently tore 42 of them (2 Kings 2:23-25).

(He Prophesied future events)

He foretold the success of the expedition against Moab (2 Kings 3:11-27), secured the increase of a widow’s oil (2 Kings 4:1-7), predicted to a Shunammite woman the birth of a son, and at his prayer, that son was restored to life when he had died (2 Kings 4:8-12). He named an antidote to a poisonous plant in the pot in which food was being cooked for the prophets (2 Kings 4:38-41), and foretold the transference to Gehazi as a punishment for lying and covetousness (2 Kings 5:20-27). He informed the king of Israel of the movements and intentions of his Syrian rival (2 Kings 6:8-12). He predicted great plenty and consequent cheapness of food in Samaria, while it was at famine prices during a

siege, adding, however, that an unbelieving lord who discredited the prediction should not participate in the boom, and he did not, for he was trampled to death in a crowd (2 Kings 7). In an interview with Hazael, who had been sent by Behadad, king of Israel, he told him that the king would die (2 Kings 8:7-15). He declared the destruction of Ahab and his whole house, and sent a young prophet to anoint Jehu to execute the threatened judgment (2 Kings 9:1—10:28). He predicted three victories over the Syrians (2 Kings 13:14-19).

(He Multiplied Food)

As prophet of the Lord, he fed 100 men with 20 barley loaves and a few ears of grain (2 Kings 4:42-44).

(He Defied Natural Law)

He made an iron ax head, which had fallen into the river, float to the surface (2 Kings 6:1-7).

(He Revealed God’s Protection)

At his prayer, the Lord revealed to the prophet’s servant horses and chariots of fire surrounding them for their protection (2 Kings 6:13-17), and caused blindness to fall on the Syrian emissaries sent to arrest them (2 Kings 6:18-23). He intimated, without being told it, that a messenger from the king of Israel was at the door to take his life (2 Kings 6:32-33).

Elisha’s Focus:

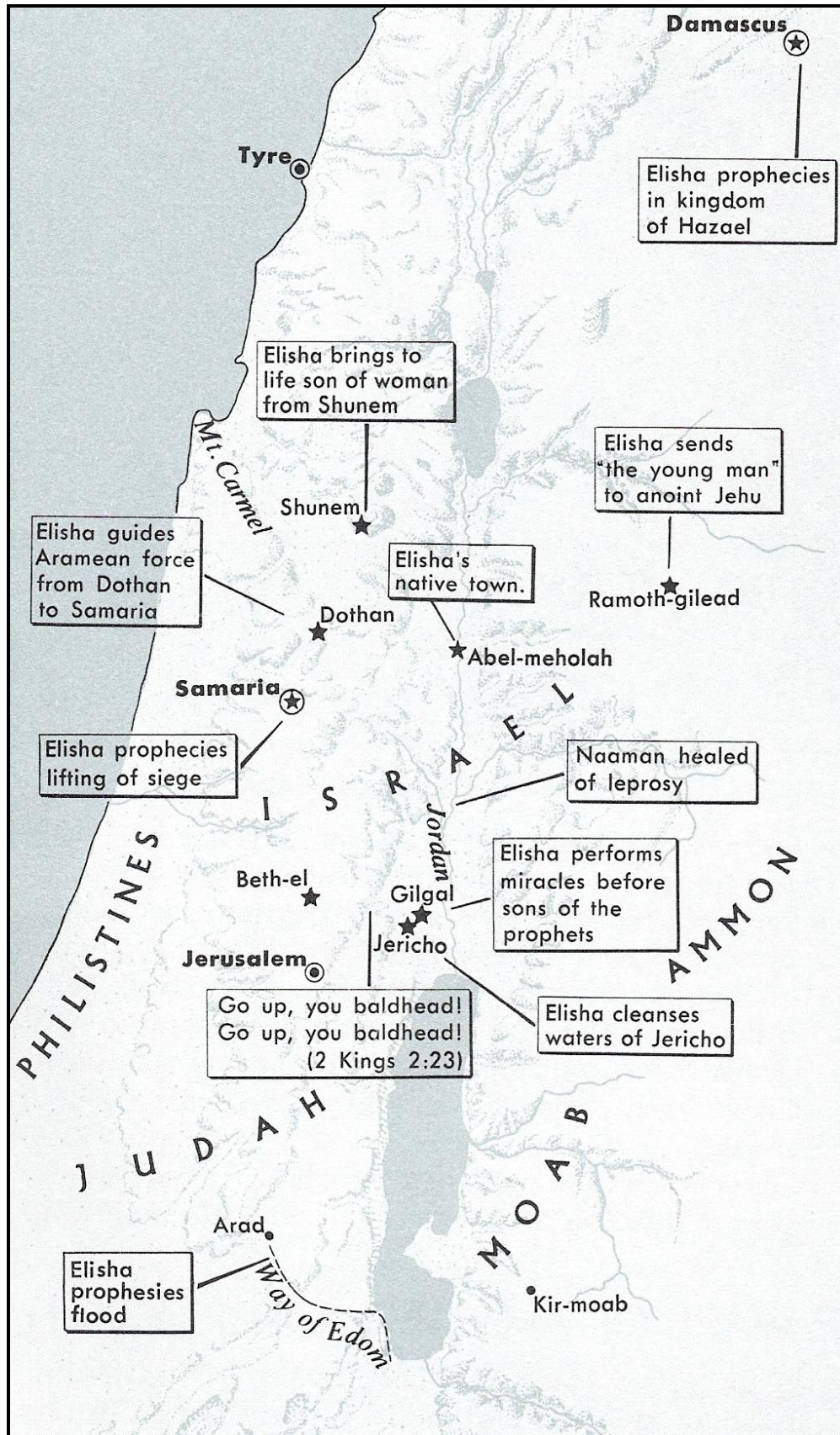
Like Elijah, the ministry of Elisha belongs to the period of the life-and-death struggle between the religion of Yahweh and Baal worship. Elisha’s central teaching was a demonstration of God’s miraculous power. Key verse is 2 Kings 5:15.

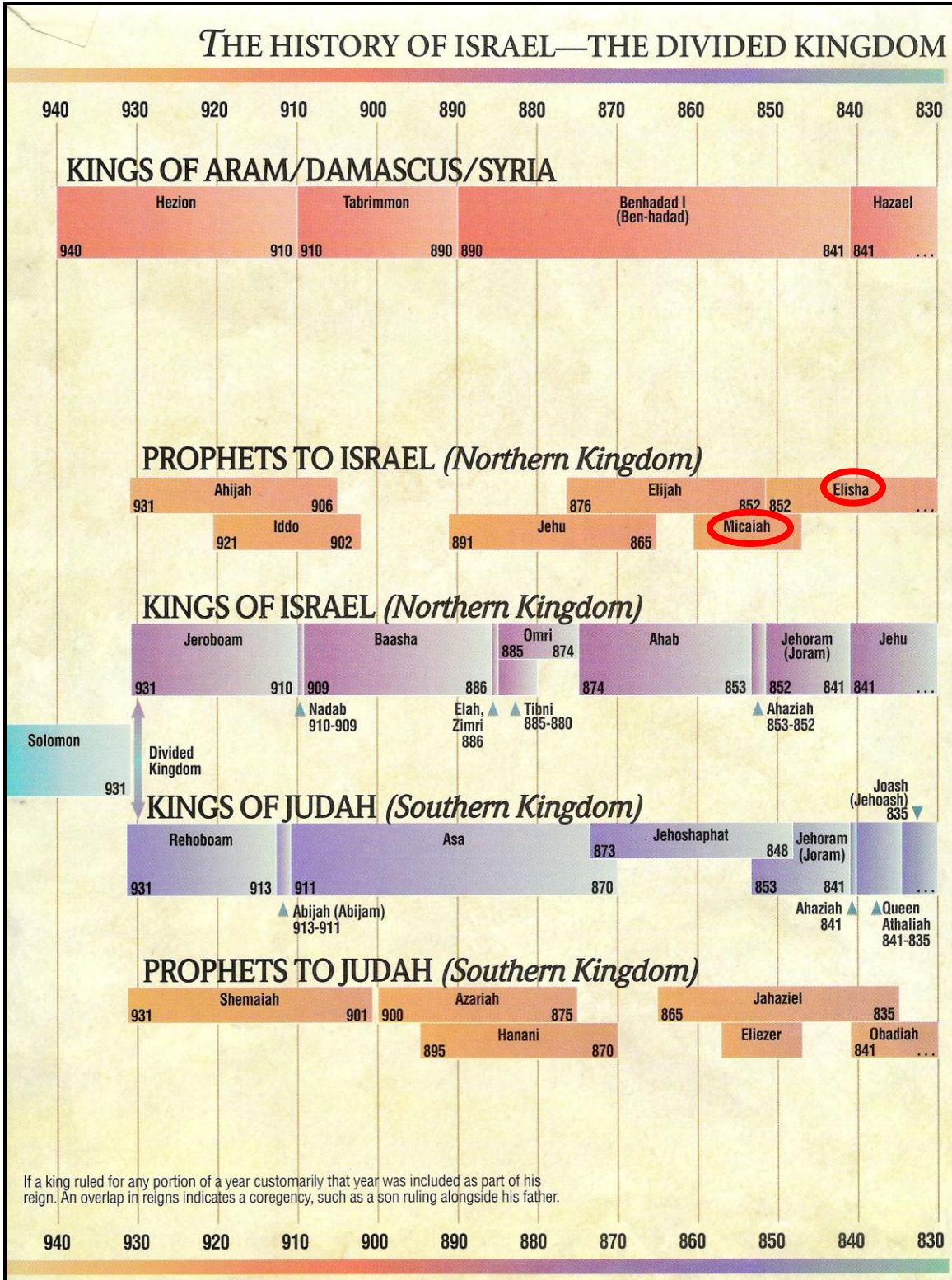
Places of Elisha:

The map on page 4 illustrates the locations of many of the places referenced above where Elisha prophesied or performed miracles.

Time of Elisha:

The chart on page 5 illustrates the time in which Elisha lived in reference to prevailing kings, kingdoms and other prophets. The time period was about 855 to 800 BC.





References:

Commentary from “The New Westminster Dictionary of the Bible.”

Map from “The Macmillan Bible Atlas.”

Chart from “The International Inductive Study Bible”