

2 KINGS 6-11

WEEK IN REVIEW + FAMILY GUIDE

WEEK IN REVIEW

In 2 Kings 6-7, we see the prophet Elisha display God's **sovereignty** through acts of miracles and deliverance. Miracles serve the purpose of being evidential, empathetic, and evangelistic. They show evidence of God's power, meet physical needs of people, and lead people to the One True God. The acts of miracles in these chapters include making an axe head float, blinding an Aramean army that had planned to capture him, and **prophesying** that a large amount of food would be sold in Samaria the next day. Prophecy is proclaiming God's Word for both the present and the future. God fulfills this prophecy by causing the Aramean army to flee their camp, leaving behind all of their resources and food.

In 2 Kings 8-10, Elisha prophesies that Hazael would become king of Aram and bring much harm and suffering to Israel. In Israel, God chose Jehu as the new king to bring justice against Ahab's family. Jehu defeated King Joram of Israel and King Ahaziah of Judah. He also defeated Jezebel, who is known as the most wicked queen, which was just as God had promised. Jehu also destroyed the temple of Baal and ended **Baal worship**. Baal worship was the worship of false gods and God's people would turn from Him to worship these false gods. However, he continued to allow Israel to worship the golden calves (idols), which showed his obedience to God was incomplete.

In 2 Kings 11, there is a focus on the southern kingdom of Judah, where a woman named Athaliah tries to gain control and authority by removing the royal family. However, God protects a young boy named Joash, who was part of the royal family. Jehosheba, Athaliah's sister, secretly hides Joash in the temple for six years. When the time is right, Joash is crowned king and Athaliah is captured and removed. After Joash was crowned king, the people destroyed the temple of Baal, broke its altar and idols, and got rid of the priest of Baal. Then Joash was placed on the royal throne and the people celebrated. Ultimately, the city remained at peace, worshiping the Lord. Through the entirety of 2 Kings 6-11, God shows that He is in full control, He fulfills His promises, and He always protects His people.

FAMILY GUIDE

BIG IDEA:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God is always in control
KEY STORIES:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God's miracles through Elisha • Elisha's famine prophecy • Jehu takes the throne • Joash crowned king
KEY VERSES:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Kings 6:16–17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ “Don’t be afraid,” the prophet answered. “Those who are with us are more than those who are with them.” And Elisha prayed, “Open his eyes, Lord, so that he may see.” Then the Lord opened the servant’s eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha. • 2 Kings 7:16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Then the people went out and plundered the camp of the Arameans. So a seah of the finest flour sold for a shekel, and two seahs of barley sold for a shekel, as the Lord had said.
WORDS TO KNOW:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sovereignty <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Supreme power or authority • Prophecy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Proclaiming God’s Word for both the present and the future • Baal worship <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The worship of false gods

Reflection Questions

1.	When the famine in Samaria seemed impossible to fix, God showed up and fulfilled Elisha’s prophecy in an unexpected way. In what ways has the Lord showed up unexpectedly in your life?
2.	What are some examples of “idols” today that can take people’s focus and devotion away from God?
3.	Athaliah tried to get rid of the royal family, but God shielded Joash from harm. What does this show us about God’s control, even during dark circumstances?