### 2 Kings

## Chapter 6

1Later, the sons of the prophets went to EliSha and said:  
  
 ‘Look, this place near you (where we’re living) is getting too small for us... 2So we’re going to the JorDan, and each man is going to carry along a timber that we can use to build a place for us there.’  
  
And EliSha said:  
  
 ‘Then go!’  
  
3But one of them said:  
  
 ‘We want you to come with us.’  
  
And he agreed to go.  
  
  
4So he traveled with them, and when they got to the JorDan, they started cutting trees. 5Then {Look!} when one of them was setting a rafter in place, an iron tool fell into the river.  
  
And he yelled:  
  
 ‘O Lord!’  
  
But it was gone.  
  
6Well, the man of God came to him and asked:  
  
 ‘Where did it fall?’  
  
And he showed him the place... Then EliSha picked up a piece of wood and threw it into the spot, and the iron tool floated to the surface.  
  
7And he said:  
  
 ‘Now, pick it up yourself.’  
  
So he reached out and grabbed the tool.  
  
  
8Well at the time, the king of Syria was at war with IsraEl.  
  
So he consulted with his servants and selected a certain concealed place to set up his camp. 9Then EliSha sent [a message] to the king of IsraEl, saying:  
  
 ‘Be careful not to get to close to (such and such) a place, because the Syrians are hiding there.’  
  
10So the king of IsraEl went to the place that EliSha had warned him about, but he was spotted watching the place not once, but twice! 11And when word of this reached the king of Syria, he was very upset.  
  
So he called his servants and said to them:  
  
 ‘Is anyone going to tell me who it is that betrayed me to the king of IsraEl?’  
  
12And his servants said:  
  
 ‘No one, our lord, O king; for it’s EliSha the prophet of IsraEl who tells the king of IsraEl the things that you say in your closet and in your bedroom.’  
  
13Then the king said:  
  
 ‘Go find him and bring him to me!’  
  
Therefore, they went, and before long they reported back to the king, saying:  
  
 ‘{Look!} He’s in [the area of] Dothan.’  
  
14As a result, the king sent horses and chariots there that night, along with many soldiers that surrounded the city... 15And when the servant that had been assigned to EliSha got up early in the morning and went outside, {Look!} he saw the army surrounding the city with all their horses and chariots!  
  
So he went back inside and said:  
  
 ‘O master, what should we do?’  
  
16But EliSha told him:  
  
 ‘Don’t be afraid, for there are many more with us than there are with them.’  
  
17Then EliSha prayed and said:  
  
 ‘O Jehovah, open wide the eyes of this servant.’  
  
So, Jehovah opened his eyes wide, and he saw {Look!} that the mountain was filled with horses and chariots of fire that were surrounding EliSha!  
  
18And when they came to get him, EliSha asked this of Jehovah:  
  
 ‘Now, strike this nation so they can’t see!’  
  
And suddenly they were all struck [mentally] blind, just as EliSha had asked!  
  
19So then, EliSha shouted at them:  
  
 ‘This is the wrong city… You took the wrong road!  
  
 ‘Follow me and I’ll lead you to the man you’re searching for.’  
  
Well from there, he led them to Samaria, 20and when they got there, EliSha prayed:  
  
 ‘O Jehovah, now open their eyes and let them see!’  
  
So at that, Jehovah opened their eyes wide, and they realized that {Look!} they were right in the middle of Samaria!  
  
21And when the king of IsraEl saw them, he asked EliSha:  
  
 ‘Shall I cut them down, O father?’  
  
22But he told him that he shouldn’t do that, for he said:  
  
 ‘Unless you’ve captured and beaten them with your swords and bows, you shouldn’t cut them down. Rather, set some food and water before them so they can eat and drink, then let them return to their lord.’  
  
23As a result, the king laid a great feast before them, which they ate and drank, and then he sent them back to their lord. However, the Syrians continued to send their armies into the land of IsraEl after that.  
  
  
24Then one day, King BenHader of Syria gathered all of his troops and laid siege to Samaria, 25which brought a great famine to the city. {Look!} At the time, a burro’s head came to be worth 50 silver coins, and a pint of dove droppings was worth 5 silver coins!  
  
26Well when the king of IsraEl was walking along the city wall one day, a woman yelled to him, saying:  
  
 ‘Save us, O lord our king!’  
  
27And he replied:  
  
 ‘What can I save you from… The threshing floor or the wine vat?  
  
 ‘Only Jehovah can save you!’  
  
28Then the king asked her:  
  
 ‘What’s wrong with you?’  
  
And she replied:  
  
 ‘A woman came and said to me:  
  
 ‘Give me your son so we can both eat him today and tomorrow!’  
  
 29‘So I gave her my son, and we boiled him and ate him. Then the next day, I told her to give me her son to eat, but she took him and hid him!’  
  
30Well when the king of IsraEl heard what the woman said, he started ripping his clothes! Then he traveled around the wall and he noticed that his people were wearing sackcloth as their underwear.  
  
31And he prayed:  
  
 ‘Curse me O God and add to it if I leave EliSha’s head on his [shoulders] today!’  
  
32At the time, EliSha was at his home and all the elders were sitting around him. So the king sent a man to get EliSha... But before the messenger got there, EliSha said this to the elders:  
  
 ‘Did you know that the king has sent an executioner to cut off my head today? When he gets here, I want you to lock the door and not let him in; for the feet of his lord will be following close behind him.’  
  
33And it was while he was still speaking to them {Look!} that the messenger arrived, who shouted at [EliSha]:  
  
 ‘{Look!} Since all this evil has come from Jehovah, is there any reason for us to keep on waiting for Jehovah to do something?’