

## *ELISHA*

1. Elisha's ministry extended through the reigns of Ahab, Ahaziah, Jehoram, Jehu, Jehoahaz and Jehoash, a period of more than 50 years.
2. The narratives of Elisha's ministry are recorded in 1 Ki 19 and 2 Ki 2-9; 13, and comprise a series of 18 episodes.
3. Elisha was a faithful, available, and teaching (FAT) disciple of Elijah (1 Ki 19:19-20). He was young farmer when called and served Elijah for many years (2 Ki 3:11). He left his parents permanently to serve Elijah full time (1 Ki 19:20-21), like Timothy (Ac 16:3).
  - a. The relationship between Elijah and Elisha mirrors that of Moses and Joshua.
  - b. Elisha wasn't the only other prophet besides Elijah. There were a number of "sons of the prophets" (1 Ki 20:35). The prophet Micaiah was also well known (1 Ki 22:8). There were also very many false prophets of Yahweh (1 Ki 22:6-7, 10-12, 22-24). Yet it was Elisha whom God chose to replace Elijah as the leader of the prophets (1 Ki 19:16).
  - c. Elisha watched Elijah confront Ahab about Naboth's murder (1 Ki 21:17) and Ahab humble of himself (1 Ki 21:27-29). He watched Elijah called down fire on two sets of fifty men (2 Ki 1:9-12) and boldly predict Ahaziah's death (1 Ki 1:3-6, 15-16).
4. At Elijah's departure, Elisha became the leader of the sons of the prophets (2 Ki 2:15). He settled in Samaria (2 Ki 2:25).
  - a. Elijah was the forerunner of Elisha as John the Baptist was the forerunner of Jesus (Mt 11:14). His miracles foreshadow Jesus' miracles.

## *Bibliography*

Smith, B. L. “Elisha.” *New Bible Dictionary*. Ed. D. R. W. Wood et al. InterVarsity Press, 1996.