

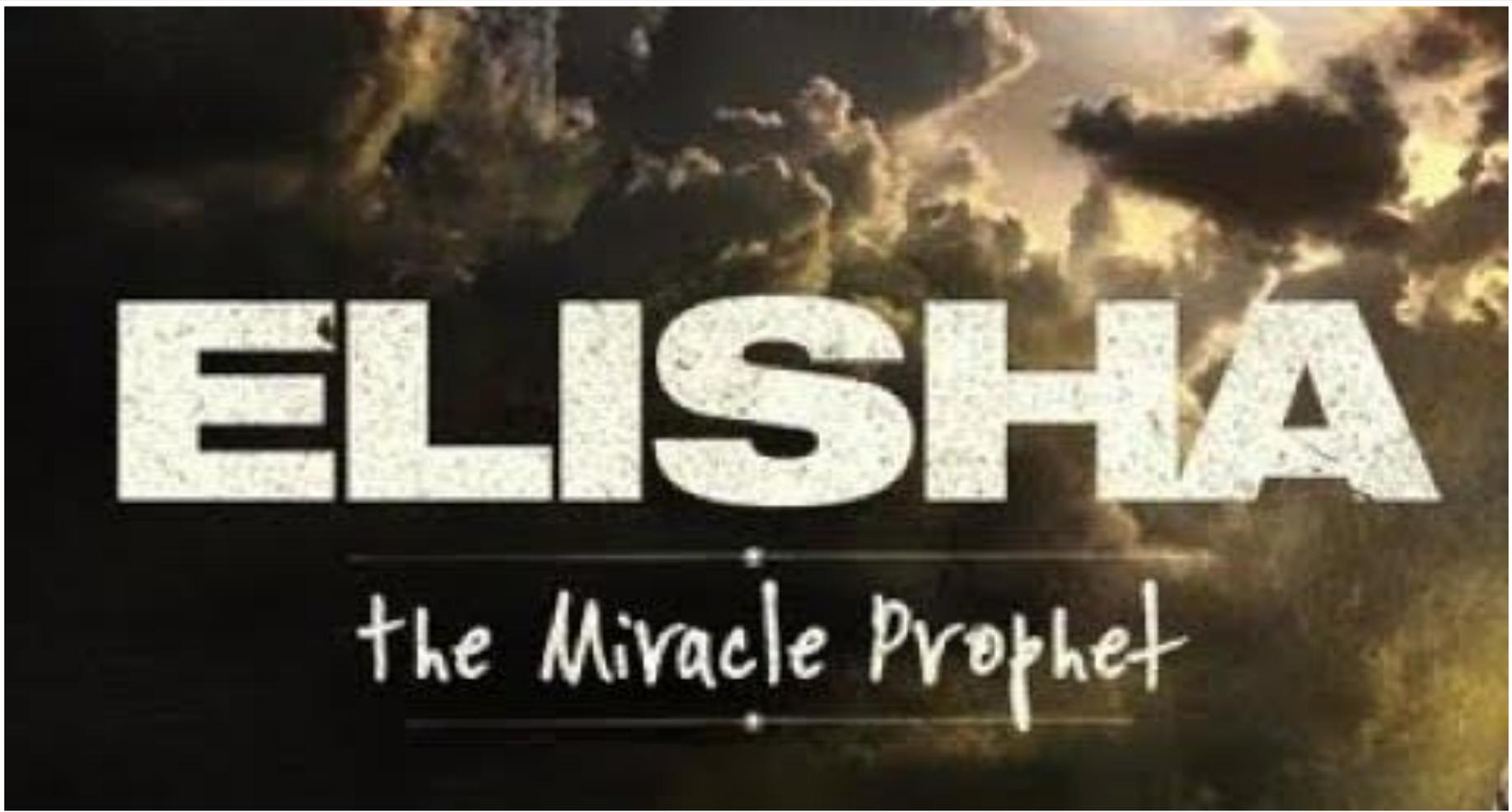
An aerial view of Prague, Czech Republic, during sunset. The Vltava River flows through the city, with the Charles Bridge in the foreground. The city is filled with historic buildings, including a prominent church with a green dome. The sky is filled with soft, golden light from the setting sun.

WELCOME
to the
International Baptist Church
of Prague

SUNDAY 16 AUGUST 2020



SERMON



ELISHA

the Miracle Prophet

2 Kings 4:

“Three Miracles of Elisha”

2 Kings 4 – Three Miracles of Elisha

- ❖ **The miracle of the widow's oil**
 - ❖ **The raising of the Shunammite's Son from the dead**
 - ❖ **The purifying of the deadly stew**
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- **Why are they important for us?**
 - **What relevance do they have for us now?**
 - **What can we learn from them?**

2 Kings 4 – Three Miracles of Elisha

- **Why are they important for us?**
- **What relevance do they have for us?**
- **What can we learn from them?**
- **They can teach us about God's character**
- **Elisha means "My God saves"**
- **Jesus (Yeshua) = "Yahweh saves"**
- **They can show us how the Holy Spirit operated in the Old Testament**
- **We can see how Christ fulfilled Old Testament prophecy and how the Holy Spirit works in believers today**

2 Kings 4 – Three Miracles of Elisha

❖ GOD'S CHARACTER

▪ Psalm 103:6-8 (ESV)

“⁶The LORD works righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed.

⁷ He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel.

⁸ The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.” [quote from Exodus 34]

- He does miracles (and uses us to co-operate in His work) because He is loving and compassionate and desires to forgive us and for us to repent and be reconciled to Him

2 Kings 4 – Three Miracles of Elisha

- ❖ The LORD shows compassion of the prophet's widow through Elisha's prayer for the oil
- ❖ The LORD shows mercy on the Shunammite's son and raises him from the dead through Elisha's prayer
- ❖ In love the LORD saves the people of Gilgal during a famine

2 Kings 4 – Three Miracles of Elisha

❖ GOD'S CHARACTER

- The LORD responds to prayer
- **John 16:23 – “²³ In that day you will ask nothing of me. Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you.”**
- **John 15:7 – “⁷ If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.”**
- God is moved in response to prayer
- He will act if it is according to His will

GOD'S CHARACTER:

Prefiguring Christ's future ministry

Luke 4:16-21 - ¹⁶ And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read.

¹⁷ And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written, ¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, ¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." [quote from Isaiah 61:1-2a]

GOD'S CHARACTER:

Prefiguring Christ's future ministry

20 And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. 21 And he began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

2 Kings 4 – Three Miracles of Elisha

- ❖ **Elisha performs miracles similar to Elijah – he follows Elijah his anointing (miracle of oil, raising the dead)**
- ❖ **The LORD raises the dead similar to how Jesus will raise the dead (Lazarus) in the New Testament**
- ❖ **In love the LORD saves the people of Gilgal during a famine; prefigures Jesus' feeding of the five thousand – note in this miracle of Elisha, even with the poisoned food, there would not have been enough to feed everyone, but miraculously there was**

2 Kings 4 – Three Miracles of Elisha

- ❖ **HOW THE HOLY SPIRIT MOVED BEFORE PENTECOST**
 - **On particular people at particular times for a particular purpose**
 - **Holy Spirit particularly comes for empowerment of believers to do the work of ministry in the Old Testament**
 - **Foreshadows the miracles of Jesus**

Acts 2:14-18 (ESV)

14 But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. 15 For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. 16 But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel: 17 "And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young [men] shall see visions, and your old [men] shall dream dreams; 18 even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy."

2 Kings 4 – Three Miracles of Elisha

❖ HOW THE HOLY SPIRIT WORKS SINCE PENTCOST

- **The Holy Spirit indwells all true disciples of Jesus**
- **The LORD moves in response to prayer**
- **("No" or "not yet" is sometimes the answer)**
- **Empowerment for ministry**
- **Inner work of the Holy Spirit for sanctification & knowledge of God**

Biblical view of miracles

vs. the Prosperity Gospel

- **Biblical miracles are gifts of grace / unmerited**
- Prosperity gospel thinks they are deserved / earned
- **Biblical miracles are by faith (trust in Jesus' finished work on the cross) – biblical faith has power not by the amount ("faith size of a mustard seed") but on its object – the living Lord Jesus Christ**
- Prosperity gospel sees "faith" as a "power" or "energy" that a believer uses
- **Biblical miracles are according God's sovereign decision and plan (Elijah, Elisha, and even Jesus did not heal everyone and raise all the dead in Judea)**
- Prosperity gospel says miracles/healings should always happen if you have enough faith

2 Kings 4 – Three Miracles of Elisha

What can we learn from them?

- ❖ They can teach us about God's character – His love, compassion, and intense desire to know us and for us to be reconciled to Him – such that the Holy God sent His Son to die for us
- ❖ **They can show us how the Holy Spirit operated in the Old Testament – Holy Spirit only on specific people for specific tasks of ministry**
- ❖ Since Pentecost, the Holy Spirit indwells all Christian disciples and empowers them for ministry and transforms their character to conform with Christ

To
God
be the Glory!