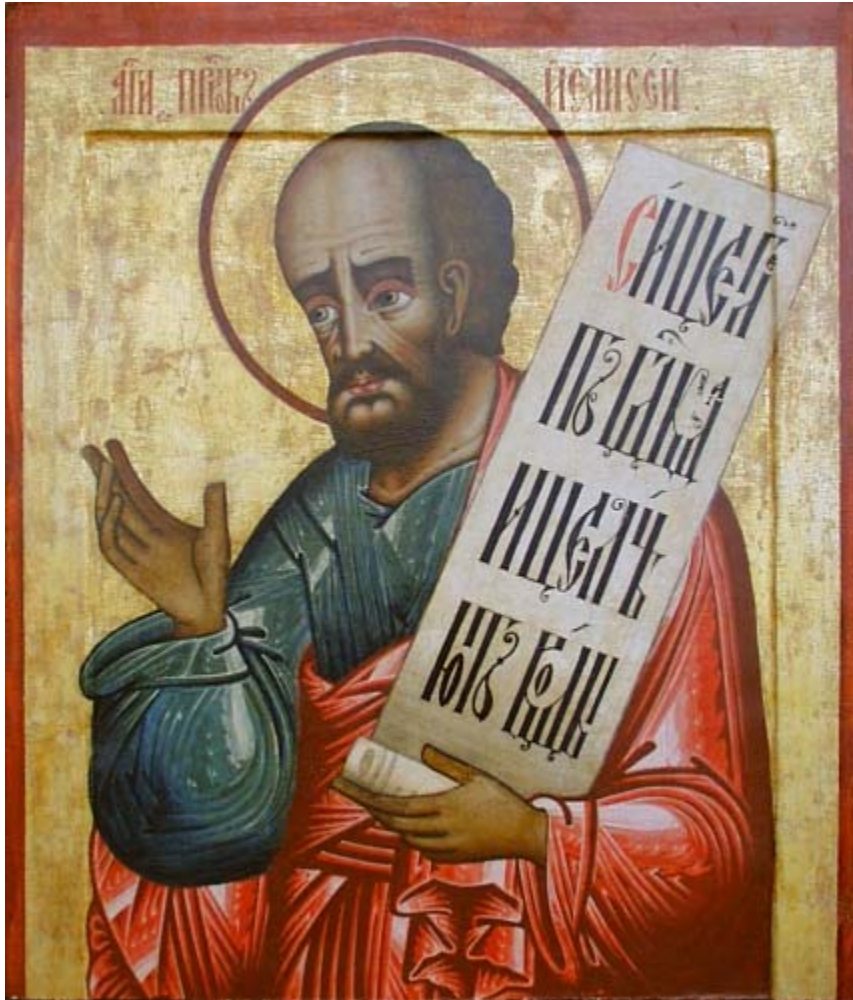


Lessons from the Prophets, Series 2

Lessons from Elisha the Prophet



Elisha the Prophet was the son of Shaphat, a wealthy landowner in Abelmeholah. Elisha grew up and worked on his father's lands until he was called by Prophet Elijah who went on to become his master and teacher in prophecy.

Upon Elijah's departure, Elisha became the head of the prophet's order which they both belonged to. Elisha's prophetic ministry dealt with political matters: he saved the Israelite army from slaughter by King Mesha of Moab during a Syrian war. Elisha

produced many miracles which can all be found in 2 Kings.

Jehoram the son of Ahab became King of Israel during the time Jehoshaphat was King of Judah. Mesha the King of Moab who was once loyal to Ahab rebelled against Jehoram. Jehoshaphat the King of Judah and the King of Edom joined Jehoram in his mission to conquer King Mesha. During the three Kings pursuit of Mesha they came upon dry lands with no water. Jehoshaphat inquires of Jehoram, whether a prophet is present who can help lead their way. Prophet Elisha was in the vicinity so the three Kings went to him for a word from God.

Upon seeing Jehoram the son of Ahab, Elisha becomes angry and speaks out of anger. Remember, that in former times Ahab had persecuted the prophets of God and all of this must have come back to Elisha causing him to speak harshly to Jehoram.

And Elisha said unto the king of Israel, What have I to do with thee? get thee to the prophets of thy father, and to the prophets of thy mother. And the king of Israel said unto him, Nay: for the LORD hath called these three kings together, to deliver them into the hand of Moab. And Elisha said, As the LORD of hosts

liveth, before whom I stand, surely, were it not that I regard the presence of Jehoshaphat the king of Judah, I would not look toward thee, nor see thee. 2 Kings 3:14,15

After speaking these words Elisha called for a minstrel to play for him which calmed him down and the hand of God moved upon him with a prophetic message for the three Kings. 2 Kings 3:15-18 But now bring me a minstrel. And it came to pass, when the minstrel played, that the hand of the LORD came upon him. And he said, Thus saith the LORD, Make this valley full of ditches. For thus saith the LORD, Ye shall not see wind, neither shall ye see rain; yet that valley shall be filled with water, that ye may drink, both ye, and your cattle, and your beasts. And this is but a light thing in the sight of the LORD: he will deliver the Moabites also into your hand.

Although there are numerous lessons we can learn from Prophet Elisha, one of the things that stands out to me most is that anger results in the loss of prophecy. Anger causes our wisdom to leave us and emotions take over. In the Jewish Talmud it states “Thus, after Elisha became angry at the King of Israel , his power of prophecy left him. But when he overcame anger, he found joy ‘in the playing of his instrument. It was only then that the hand of the L-rd (the power of prophecy) came back to him”

Elisha’s first words were not prophecy at all but came from his dislike of anything that had to do with Ahab. He

falsely tells them that God has brought the three Kings together in order to deliver them to Moab but afterwards when the true prophecy of God comes upon him, he delivers a strikingly different message of how God will deliver Moab to the three Kings.

In truth prophecy it is stressed that emotions, prejudices and personal opinions are kept free of prophecy and Elisha’s experience validates this point. If there is to be anger let it be from God not from the prophets themselves. One good way to ensure that your messages are from God is to ask yourself, where is the message coming from? Are you speaking because you don’t like something or someone or are you speaking because God has instructed you to?

We live in and emotional world in which passions sometimes run wild. Look at the opposing political parties, opposing religions and denominations; almost everything has an opposing side to it. Truth prophets must be careful that they do not become consumed in opposing sides but focus on the fact-based truth. We are not messengers of emotion but instead vessels of God’s truth.

Prophetess Sister Sharon Roach, is a devoted spiritual woman of God, author and speaker. She is the pioneer of Contemporary Truth Based Prophecy. She resides in Washington DC, tours the eastern seaboard with her dynamic messages and provides a variety of free publications on her website www.americanprophecy.org



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