

2 Kings 13:14-23

The Death of Elisha

Elisha, on his deathbed, blesses Joash, to parallel the impending death of Jacob in Genesis 48 and his blessing of Ephraim and Manasseh. But Joash's hesitancy reduces the blessing's power.

2 Kings 13:14 - "Now Elisha was fallen sick of his sickness whereof he died. And Joash the king of Israel came down unto him, and wept over his face, and said, O my father, my father, the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof."

The Targum says, "my master, my master, who was better to Israel by his prayers than chariots and horsemen."

2 Kings 13:16 - "And he said to the king of Israel, Put thine hand upon the bow. And he put his hand upon it: and Elisha put his hands upon the king's hands."

- signifying, that though the king would draw the bow in battle, the Lord, whom the prophet represented, would give the success. - Gill's Exposition

A miracle from Elisha's bones

2 Kings 13:20-21 - "And Elisha died, and they buried him. And the bands of the Moabites invaded the land at the coming in of the year. And it came to pass, as they were burying a man, that, behold, they spied a band of men; and they cast the man into the sepulchre of Elisha: and when the man was let down, and touched the bones of Elisha, he revived, and stood up on his feet."

i.e. they opened the sepulchre, or rather rolled away the stone from it, and threw the body in great haste.

The Jews say (s) this man was Shallum the son of Tikvah, and husband of Huldah the prophetess, and was a good man, much given to alms, for which he was rewarded; and they further say, he went to his own house, and lived many years, and begat children. Josephus (Antiqu. l. 9. c. 8. sect. 6.), says it was the band of robbers that left this man, whom they had murdered, in the grave of Elisha

This would serve to confirm the faith of Joash in the predictions of the prophet concerning his victories; and is a proof of the resurrection of the dead, and of eternal life. - Gill's Exposition

The covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob

2 Kings 13:22-23 - "But Hazael king of Syria oppressed Israel all the days of Jehoahaz. And the LORD was gracious unto them, and had compassion on them, and had respect

unto them, because of his covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and would not destroy them, neither cast he them from his presence as yet.”