

Miracles of Elisha and Their Significance

Miracle	Reference	Spiritual Lesson / Possible Typological Significance
1. The Jordan River Parted	2 Kings 2:1-14	Elisha receives the mantle of Elijah and then passes through the river. The miracle, like baptism, has been seen as a picture of death to self and alive to God and His service.
2. Jericho Spring Purified	2 Kings 2:19-22	The miracle, accomplished by pouring in a bowl of salt at the water's source, might be seen as God's healing of man's polluted heart at its source. The picture includes both man's duty to obey the terms, and the covenant by which it is accomplished. (A trustworthy covenant or promise was called a covenant of salt — Num. 18:19; 2 Chr. 13:5).
3. Widow's Oil Multiplied	2 Kings 4:1-7	A widow of one of the sons of the prophets is being harassed by a creditor who threatens to take her sons as payment. The creditor represents lost mankind's adversary. Elisha asks for empty vessels (fetching the vessels pictures human responsibility) and fills them with oil, enabling her to pay her debt, just as God's filling with His Spirit enables us to pay our sin debt in full.
4. Shunamite woman's Son Raised to Life	2 Kings 4:18-37	Elisha, showing gratitude towards a Shunamite woman who has opened her home to him in his travels, intercedes with God on her behalf and she bears a son. When the child dies after an accident with the reapers, Elisha restores her son to life, indicating not only God's remembrance towards those who minister to His servants, but His power even to raise the dead.
5. Poison in the Stew Purified	2 Kings 4:38-41	Elisha, among his disciples, the sons of the prophets, heals a pot of poisoned stew with a handful of flour. Another indication that God has the power, using any means He desires, to purify that which is polluted.

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6. Prophets' Food Multiplied	2 Kings 4:42-44	A man of Baal-Shalisha comes with knapsack containing a small offering for Elisha, who commands to "Give it to the people that they may eat." When the man asks how such a small amount can feed a hundred men, Elisha multiplies the offering, showing God's ability to provide for His people. and foreshadowing Jesus' feeding of the 4,000 and the 5,000.
7. Namaan Healed of Leprosy	2 Kings 5:1-14	Namaan's leprosy, a picture of sin, is healed as he obeys the prophet by dipping himself seven times in the Jordan River. The miracle is a picture of salvation, which also requires of the sinner's faith and obedience to the stated terms.
8. Gehazi Becomes Leprous	2 Kings 5:15-27	Elisha's servant Gehazi, upon deceitfully using his ministerial position for his own gain, becomes leprous — a picture of the hypocrite among professing saints, whose sinful heart is ultimately revealed.
9. Ax-Head Floated	2 Kings 6:1-7	When an ax-head falls into the water while cutting trees to build larger accommodations for the sons of the prophets, Elisha cuts off a stick and casts it into the water, causing the ax-head to float. The miracle has been seen as a picture of Christ and His work: the ax-head as the dying sinner, the "cutting off" as the Savior's death, and the stick (Heb. "tree") as the cross.
10. Confusion & blinding of the Syrian Army	2 Kings 6:8-23	With divine help, Elisha repeatedly warns the king of Israel of his impending capture by the Syrian king. When the enemy king surrounds the city with his entire army, the Lord opens Elisha's servant's eyes to see a heavenly host of horses and chariots of fire that have come on Israel's behalf, and Elisha calls on the Lord to strike the Syrian army with blindness. The Syrian king and army are an apt picture of Satan and his host, confounded by the divine intelligence and aid God gives on behalf of His people.

Cf. A.W. Pink, *Gleanings from Elisha* for further development of many of these themes.