

Elijah is Translated

2 Kings 1-4

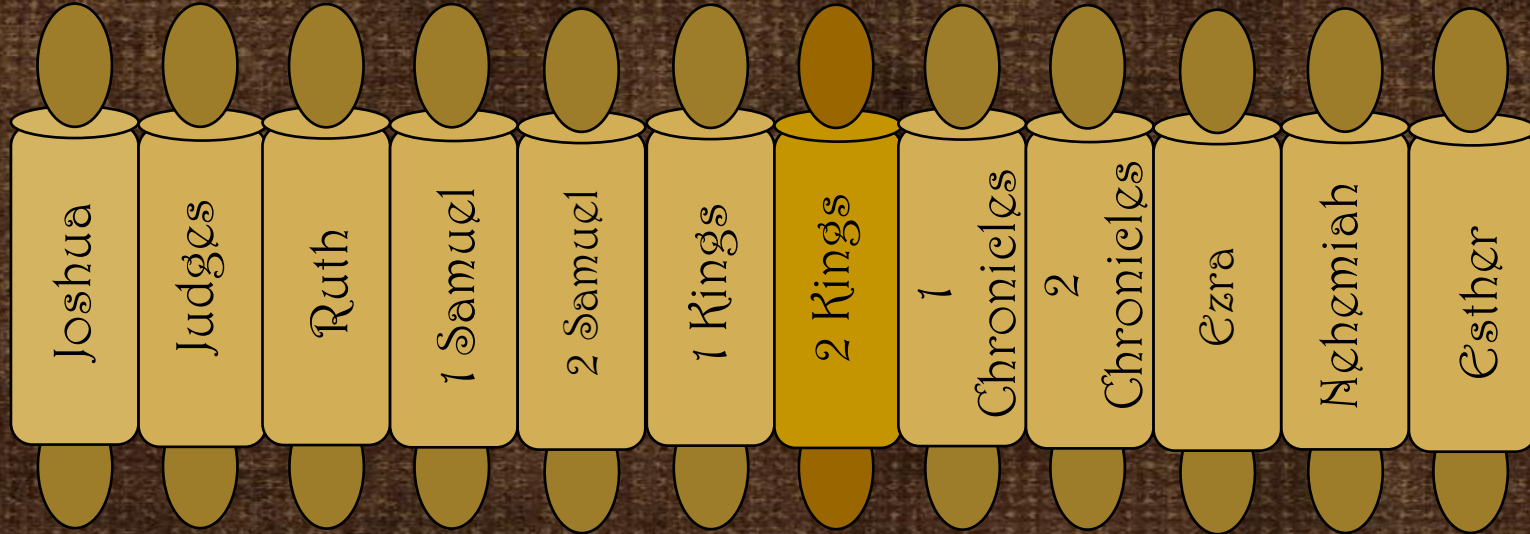


*As also through your administration the keys of the school of the prophets, which I have commanded to be organized;
D&C 90:7*



2 Kings

2 Kings is commonly called the Fourth Book of the Kings



The kingdom divided in 1 Kings becomes the kingdom dissolved in 2 Kings

2 Kings is a continuation of the two kingdoms—Israel (to the north) and Judah (to the south)

The division leads to decline and ultimately ends in double deportation.

Israel is captured and dispersed by the Assyrian, while Judah is led off to exile in Babylonia.

Kings and Prophets

The books of Kings show that judgment come to the kingdoms of Israel and Judah because of their idolatry, immorality, and disunity.

Judah lasts 136 years longer than Israel because of the relative goodness of 8 of its 20 kings.

The Righteous Kings—only in Judah

Asa
Jehosephat
Jehoash
Amaziah
Uzziah
Jotham
Hezekiah
Josiah



The last chapter of 2 Kings records the utter destruction of the city of Jerusalem and its glorious temple. Only the poor of Israel are left, and even some of them flee for their lives to Egypt.

Israel Kings

Of Israel's 19 kings, not one is righteous in God's sight. All but one of its nine dynasties are created by murdering the previous king.



The Source of Power and Authority

Where does someone's authority come from?



Medical doctors get their authority to practice by obtaining a state-issued license, which is granted after they have met educational and training requirements, passed licensing exams, and passed a background check by a state medical board.



Ancient kings derived authority from a combination of divine justification, hereditary succession, and military or economic power.

A judge's authority comes from the U.S. Constitution.



Power and Authority From God



There is a difference between the authority of the priesthood and the power of the priesthood.

Priesthood authority comes through ordination to the priesthood or through Church callings and assignments given by Church leaders who hold priesthood keys.

Power comes from personal righteousness.



Elisha Receives God's Power and Authority

The Lord revealed to Elijah that Elisha would become a prophet

And Jehu the son of Nimshi shalt thou anoint to be king over Israel: and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah shalt thou anoint to be prophet in thy room. (1 Kings 19:16)



So he departed thence, and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen before him, and he with the twelfth: and Elijah passed by him, and cast his mantle upon him. (1 Kings 19:16)



Elisha knew that the Lord would soon take Elijah away. On Elijah's final day, Elisha followed Elijah from city to city until the two arrived at the Jordan River.

Elisha

He was the son of Shaphat

His name means *God of salvation* or *God shall save*

Elisha lived among the people in the cities while Elijah lived apart from the people

He was the student and companion of Elijah for several years

He was a prophet of the Northern kingdom of Israel

His calling came by divine command to Elijah at the same time the prophet was directed to anoint Jehu as king

He divided the waters of the Jordan River, and performed mighty miracle, including raising the dead

His ministry lasted more than half a century during the reigns of Jehoram, Jehu, Jehoahaz, and Joash



Ahaziah

He was the son of Ahab and Jezebel and successor as the king of Israel

He continued the depraved practices of Ahab and furthered the idolatrous culture of his mother

He fell through the roof of his palace

The Lord sent Elijah to tell Ahaziah that he would not recover from his injury and that he would die. This event occurred near the end of Elijah's ministry

Ahaziah sent his messengers to go to the oracle or chief priest of Baalzebub to see if he would recover

Elijah intercepted the messengers, told them what an angel had said about Ahaziah dying

The messengers returned to Ahaziah and told them about the man and instantly he knew that it was 'Elijah, the Tishbite'

He sent 50 men to find the prophet, fire fell upon the captain and his guard and killed them...Ahaziah attempted again and sent 50 men, but the same thing happened. Ahaziah could not touch Elijah

He died as a result of the injury. He reigned only 2 years.



Jephoshapat

He was the son of Asa and Azubah, who ruled jointly with his father for 3 years before becoming king for Judah

He strengthened the military fortification and promoted further religious reform

He established instructional programs directed by the priesthood

He received tribute from the Philistines and Arabians as a guarantee of peace

He joined alliance with King Ahab of Israel against the Syrian

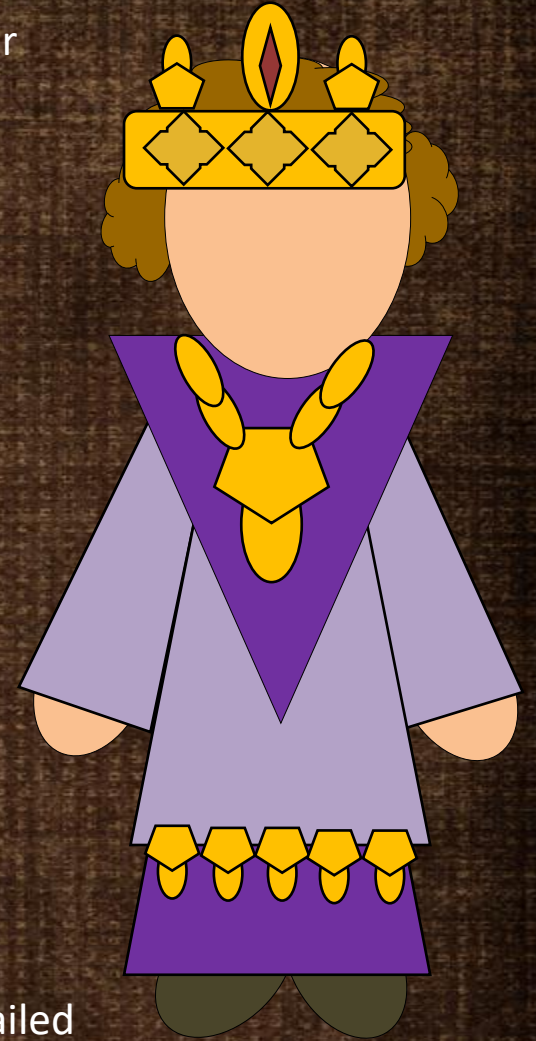
His son, Jehoram married Athaliah, the daughter of Ahab and Jezebel in which Athaliah promoted idolatrous worship

He established a system of religious and civil courts

He miraculously withstood an attack from the Ammonites and their allies

He continued the alliance with Israel in an attempt to jointly establish ships for trade, but the venture failed

He reigned for 25 years



Elijah and Elisha



Elijah generally lived apart from the people and stresses law, judgment, and repentance.

Elisha lives among the people and emphasized grace, life, and hope



What did Elijah request of Elisha three times?

Tarry here, I pray thee

What did Elisha say to Elijah three times?

As the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee.

What can Elisha's responses teach us about following the prophet?

School of the Prophets

The name given to bands of prophets or “sons of prophets” living together for instruction and worship under Samuel, Elijah, and Elisha.

Little is known about these schools, but they seem to have been important religious institutions in Israel and references to them are frequent.

Not all the “sons of the prophets” claimed to have a supernatural gift; they were simply trained religious teachers, while some inspired prophets had received no training in the schools.

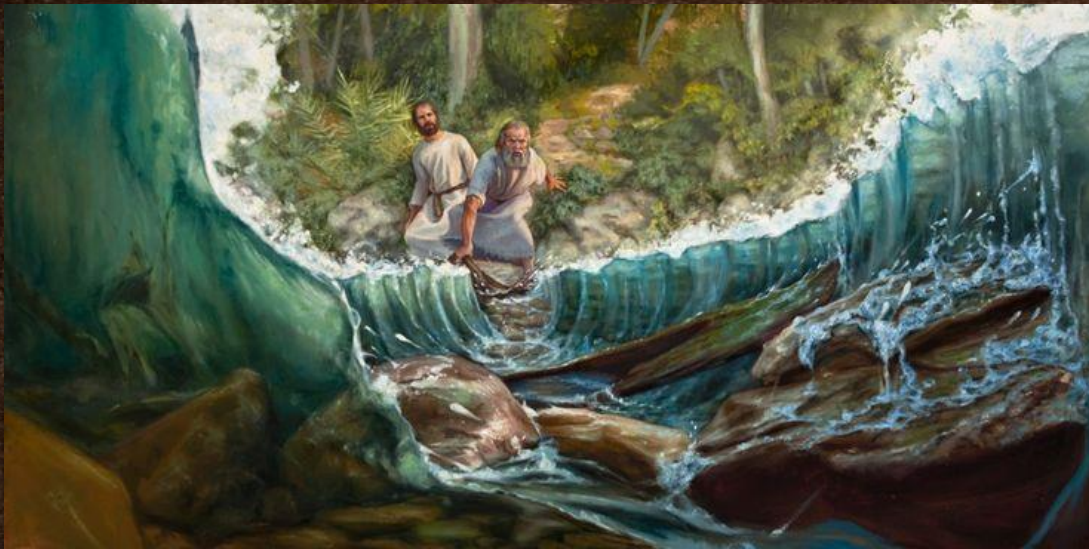


Dividing the Waters

Mantle-- a covering such as a cloak or other article of clothing. In biblical times, a mantle was typically a large, loosely fitting garment made of animal skin, probably sheepskin.

Elisha, Ask what I shall do for thee, before I be taken away from thee.

Elisha requested a double portion of Elijah's spirit was essentially a request to inherit Elijah's spiritual gifts, which would help Elisha to carry on the prophetic ministry.



Elisha is Translated

Elijah was taken from the earth as a translated being.

Elisha called upon God to part the waters in the same way that Elijah had done earlier.



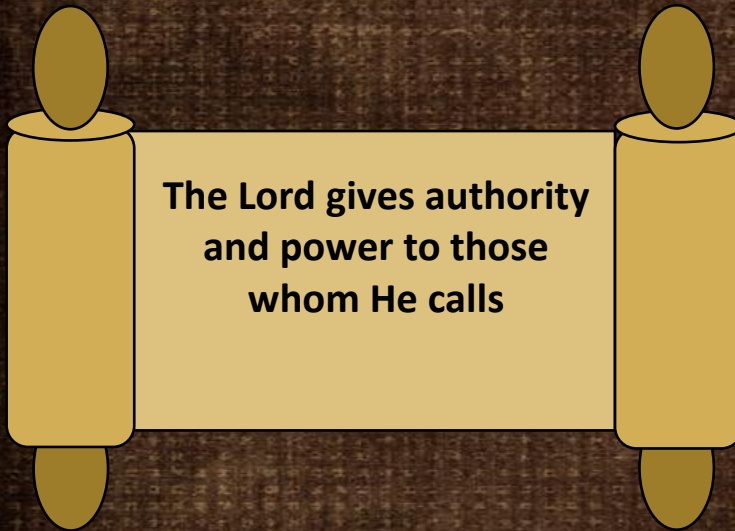
A Chariot of Fire

And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, *there appeared* a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.



Taking Elijah's Mantel

Elisha called upon God to part the waters in the same way that Elijah had done earlier.



The authority and power of a leader being transferred to the new leader.

In the Church today we sometimes refer to a leader's calling, authority, and duties as his or her "mantle."

Son's of the Prophets

These “sons of the prophets” formed a peculiar group. Possibly they assisted the prophets in their duties, and in time succeeded them.

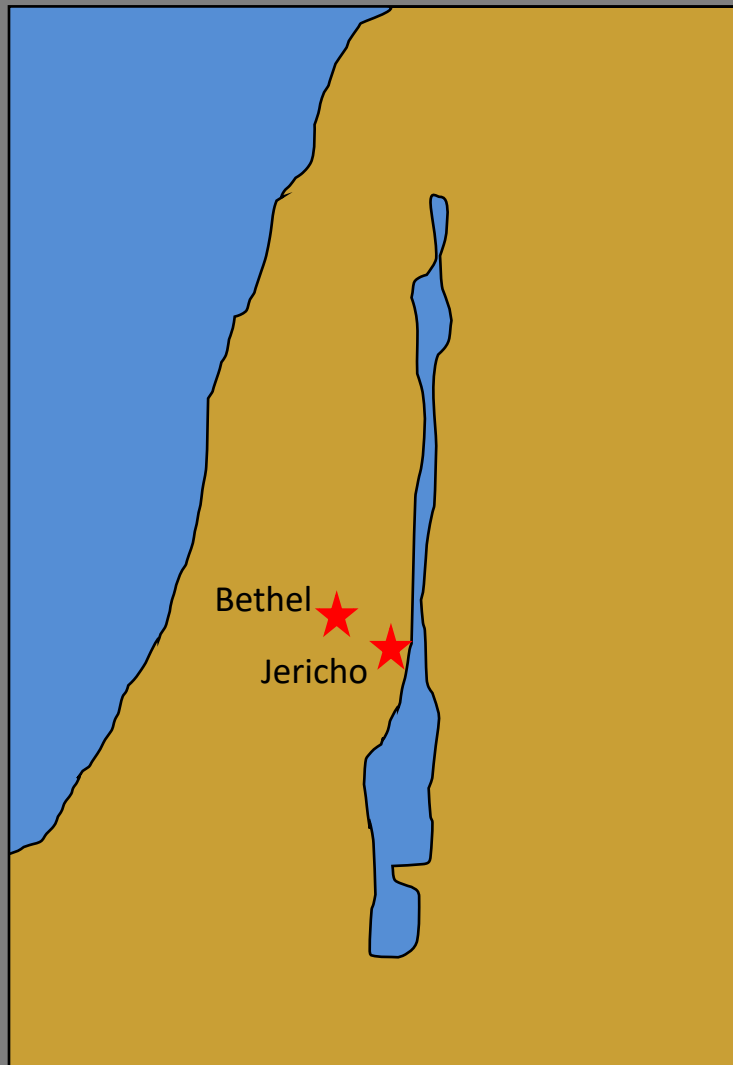
These “sons of the prophets” were trained teachers of religion. Some of them were married and probably lived in houses of their own. Others were unmarried and occupied a building in common, eating at a common table.



The 50 did not know that Elijah had been translated and wanted to go look for him and Elisha encouraged them not to go...they did anyway and returned empty handed...

Did Elisha ever tell the sons of the Prophets where Elijah had gone?

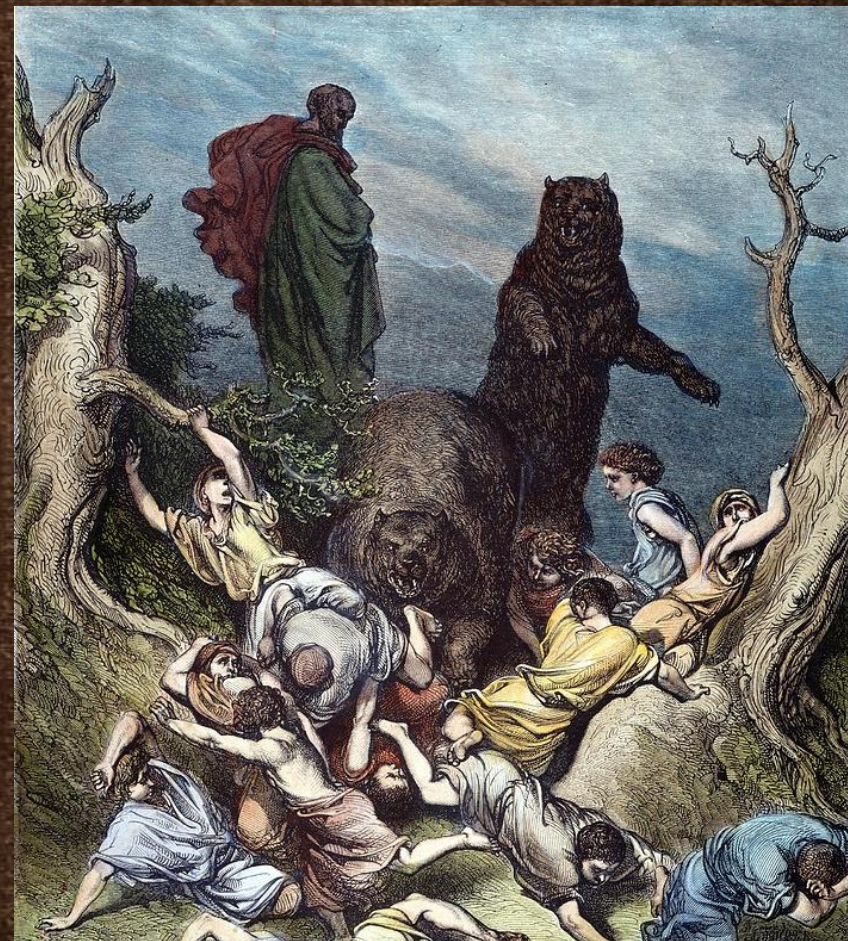
The Water in Jericho



Elisha learned that the water in Jericho was unusable. Elisha healed the waters for the people, saving them from death and famine.

On his way to Bethel from Jericho 'little children' (youth) mock him because he was bald.

Elisha cursed them and 2 she-bears came 'tare' 42 of them...whether any of them died, it is not known.



Jehoram

He was the son of Ahab and brother of Ahaziah and reigned 12 years

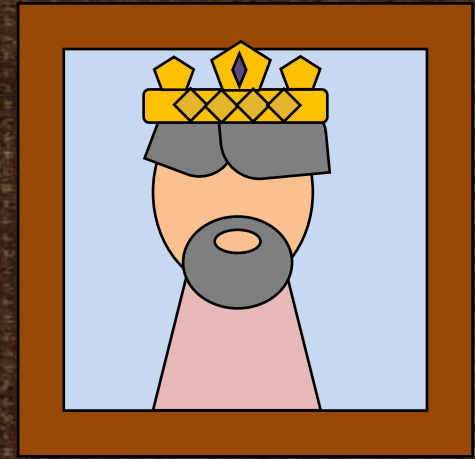
He forbade the worship of foreign gods but retained the idol worship instituted by Jeroboam

He joined in an alliance with Judah against Moab and wounded in battle

He was successful in holding off Syrian attacks on the people of Israel

Part of his reign was simultaneous with King Jehoram of Judah

He was killed by Jehu in a bloody purge of the Omri dynasty—a fulfilment of Elijah's prophecy (1 Kings 21:29)



King Turns to Elisha

But Jehoshaphat said, Is there not here a prophet of the LORD, that we may inquire of the LORD by him? And one of the king of Israel's servants answered and said, Here is Elisha the son of Shaphat, which poured water on the hands of Elijah.



If we seek for guidance from the Lord's prophets, then we can receive His protection from those influences that would harm us

The armies of the three kings (Israel, Judah and Edom) were put to work digging ditches, canals, and reservoirs to catch the water which was to flow through the Arabah valley

A Widow's Oil

A widow woman from the community of the faithful was about to have her sons sold into bondage to pay for their dead father's debts.

When she appealed to Elisha, he asked her what resources she had. It turned out to be nothing more than a small vessel of oil.

Elisha had her obtain every empty jar, pot and vessel from the whole neighborhood and out of the one jar he poured out enough of this substance to fill everything she should set before him.

When all of them were filled, he told her to sell the oil, pay the debt, and live with her children.



Elisha's Miracles

Elisha promised a woman that she would bear a child. When that child later died, Elisha raised him from the dead



Elisha also purified a poisonous pot of pottage and multiplied food for the people to eat.

Sources:

Videos:

We Need Living Prophets (2:44)

Pure and Simple Faith (5:22)

“Jesus Calls Twelve Apostles to Preach and Bless Others” (1:38)



1. *Talk thru the Bible* by Bruce Wilkinson and Kenneth Boa p. 92-94

Presentation by ©<http://fashionsbylynda.com/blog/>

3. *Who's Who in the Old Testament* by Ed J. Pinegar and Richard J. Allen p. 13, 48-49, 88

4. *Old Testament Institute Manual* (The Divided Kingdoms)

5. *Priesthood Topics and Questions*



Prophets:

Elder John A. Widtsoe gave this important insight about prophets as men:

“Men are called to the prophetic office because of their humility and their willingness to be in the hands of the Lord as clay in the hands of the potter. Yet a man called to the prophetic office is almost without exception of high native endowment, often with large experience in life, and possessed of wisdom and sound judgment.

That is, the prophet, though but a man, is an able man, rising in ability above the multitude. An examination of sacred history from Adam to the present will show that able men, in the words of Jethro, men ‘such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness’ (Exodus 18:21), have been called to the prophetic office. The unofficial views and expressions of such a man with respect to any vital subject, should command respectful attention. Wise men seek the counsel of those wiser or abler than themselves. ...

“How may the rank and file of the Church recognize the prophetic voice, whether official or unofficial, when it speaks? The answer is simple enough. A person who is in harmony in his life, in thought and practice, with the gospel and its requirements, who loves truth so well that he is willing to surrender to it, will recognize a message from the Lord.” (*Evidences and Reconciliations*, pp. 237–38.)

A Prophet and a Seer:

Elder John A. Widtsoe summarized the role of prophets in these words:

“A prophet is a teacher of known truth; a seer is a perceiver of hidden truth, a revelator is a bearer of new truth. In the widest sense, the one most commonly used, the title, prophet, includes the other titles and makes of the prophet, a teacher, perceiver, and bearer of truth.

“One who bears the title of prophet, and they who sustain him as such, are first of all believers in God, and in a divine plan of salvation for the human family; and, secondly, they commit themselves to the task of bringing to pass the purposes of the Almighty. They believe that the children of men are capable of receiving and obeying truth. Were it not so, the title ‘prophet, seer, and revelator’ would be empty, hollow words. As it is, they are clarion calls of the Church of Christ to a world walking in the dim shadows of misunderstanding.” (*Evidences and Reconciliations*, pp. 258–59.)

Prophets and Teachers:

Elder Widtsoe also explained that “the teacher must learn before he can teach. Therefore, in ancient and modern times there have been schools of the prophets, in which the mysteries of the kingdom have been taught to men who would go out to teach the gospel and to fight the battles of the Lord.” (*Evidences and Reconciliations*, p. 257.)

The disciples of the prophets were called sons, just as teachers were sometimes called fathers (see 2 Kings 2:12; 6:21). These “sons of the prophets” formed a peculiar group. Possibly they assisted the prophets in their duties, and in time succeeded them. These “sons of the prophets” were trained teachers of religion. Some of them were married and probably lived in houses of their own. Others were unmarried and occupied a building in common, eating at a common table.

It is supposed that the schools of the prophets were founded by the prophet Samuel. A description of him instructing them is found in 1 Samuel 19:19–20. But just how long the schools of the prophets lasted in Old Testament times is not known. They seem to have flourished in the times of Samuel, Elijah, and Elisha. Eventually they degenerated into an unscrupulous guild that divined for money and power. (See C. F. Keil and F. Delitzsch, *Commentary on the Old Testament*, 2:2:199–206.)

Little Children and Bears:

In 2 Kings 2:23, *footnote a* we learn that the people who mocked Elisha were “youths (not little children).” These youths were likely young men who were old enough to go into battle. The phrase “go up, thou bald head” was intentional mocking, scorning, or jeering that showed the youths’ contempt for God’s chosen prophet.

Additionally, the bears likely did not kill the youths: “When [Elisha] ‘cursed them in the name of the Lord’ [2 Kings 2:24], he called upon the Lord to punish them (compare the imprecation in Jude 1:9); it is the opposite of blessing someone in the name of the Lord. The bears did not kill the offenders, as some commentaries assume, but ‘tare,’ or lacerated, them” (Ellis T. Rasmussen, *A Latter-day Saint Commentary on the Old Testament*[1993], 301).

Judah—931 BC to 586 BC

Approximate dates

Israel—931 BC to 722 BC

Kings	Year	Years Reigned	Prophets	Kings	Year	Years Reigned	Prophets
Jeroboam	930-909 BC	22	Ahijah, man of God Iddo	Rehoboam	930-913 BC	17	Shemaiah, Iddo
Nadab	909-908 BC	2		Abijam/Abijah	913-910 BC	3	Iddo
Baasha	908-886 BC	24	Jehu	Asa	910-869 BC	41	Azariah, Hanani
Elah	886-895 BC	2		Jehoshaphat	872-848 BC	25	Jehaziel
Zimri, Tibni, Omri	885 BC	7 days, 12		Jehoran	848-841 BC	8	Obadiah ?
Ahab	874-853 BC	22	Elijah, Michaiah	Ahazaih	841 BC	1	
Ahaziah	853-852	2	Elijah	Athaliah	841-835 BC	6	
Jehoram/Joram	852-841 BC	12	Elisha	Jehoash/Joash	835-796 BC	40	Joel
Jehu	841-814 BC	28	Elisha	Amaziah	796-767 BC	29	Joel
Jehoahaz	814-798 BC	17	Elisha	Azariah/Uzziah	792-740 BC	52	Joel, Isaiah
Jehoash/Joash	798-782 BC	16	Elisha Jonah	Jotham	750-735 BC	16	Isaiah, Micah
Jeroboam II	793-753 BC	41	Jonah, Amos, Hosea	Ahaz	735-715 BC	16	Isaiah, Micah
Zechariah	753 BC	6 mon	Hosea	Hezekiah	715-686 BC	29	Isaiah, Micah
Shallum	752 BC	1 mon	Hosea	Manasseh	697-642 BC	55	Nahum
Menahem	752-742 BC	10	Hosea	Amon	642-640 BC	2	Nahum
Pekahiah	742-740 BC	2	Hosea	Josiah	640-609 BC	31	Naham, Zephaniah, Habakkuk, Jeremiah, Huldah
Pekah	752-732 BC	20	Hosea, Micha	Jehoahaz	609 BC	3 mon	Habakkuk, Jeremiah
Hoshea	732-722 BC	9	Hosea, Micha	Jehoiakim	609-598 BC	11	Habakkuk, Jeremiah, Daniel
				Jehoiachin	598 BC	3 mon	Jeremiah, Daniel
http://gen2revarg.com/gentorevkingsandprophets.html			Red indicates Righteous Kings	Zedekiah	597-586 BC	11	Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel