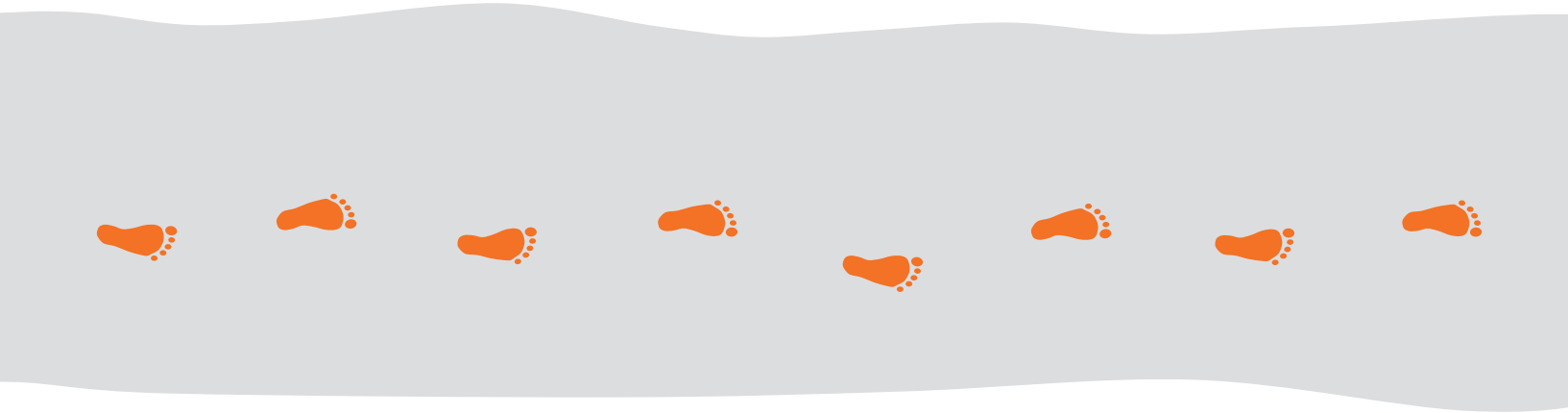


Elisha

Man of God





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Illustrator's note: There is not absolute certainty about the location of some of the places in the Old Testament.

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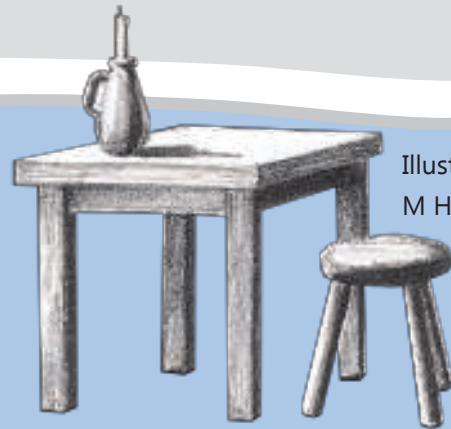
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B A Ramsbottom



Illustrated by
M H Philpott

Where?

Can you find where these stories took place?

? Look on the story pages for the question mark ... and then look for the places on this map.

The Great Sea
(Mediterranean Sea)

Map



The events in this book mostly took place in the kingdom of Israel, but some also occurred in Syria and Moab

Who was Elisha?

Elisha was from a family which lived in Israel near the River Jordan. He helped farm the land until God chose him to be a prophet, to continue Elijah's work.

He travelled around from place to place serving God and helping people. Elisha is called 'man of God' 29 times in 2 Kings.

Fact file

Elisha in the New Testament

Jesus talked about Elisha being used to heal Naaman the Syrian (Luke 4). When Paul wrote about women receiving their dead raised to life again, it is very likely he was including a miracle which God performed using Elisha (2 Kings 4, Hebrews 11).

DID YOU KNOW?

Elisha means 'My God is salvation'

Who was Naaman?

Naaman was a very brave soldier and head of the Syrian Army. He was a good friend of the Syrian king Ben-hadad. Although Syria was Israel's main enemy at this time, the Bible tells us that it was God that had given Naaman victories over Israel.

DID YOU KNOW?

In the New Testament, Elisha is called Eliseus

These stories happened here

History Timeline

Adam,
Noah,
Babel

Abraham,
Moses,
Joshua

Judges,
David,
Solomon

Kings of
Israel and
Judah

Daniel,
Esther,
Nehemiah

The Lord
Jesus
Christ

Elisha Called to be a Prophet

This young farmer is ploughing in a field. His name is Elisha. Suddenly he looks up, and who is this coming towards him – a rough, hairy man? Elisha recognises him. It is the prophet Elijah. But what does he want? Why has he come?

It doesn't seem that Elijah spoke a word, but he came near and threw his mantle, his cloak, over Elisha. And Elisha knew what it meant! God was calling him to leave his farm and go away with Elijah. He was to be God's prophet too.

DID YOU KNOW?
Elisha lived in Abel-meholah. He was ploughing with 24 oxen!

Immediately he asked if he could go and say goodbye to his family. He knew he must leave everything. But it must have been sad for him and his family too.

No more was he to be a farmer. So he offered a sacrifice to God—two oxen he had been ploughing with, and the wood of the plough for the fire. He would not need them any more. Then he left.



*On the map, can you find: **ABEL-MEHOLAH***



Don't you think the old prophet Elijah must have been happy? Not only had God called another prophet, but now he would have a servant and a friend.

You can read about this in the first Book of Kings, chapter 19, verses 19 to 21.

Elijah Goes up to Heaven

How long Elisha went about with his master and friend Elijah we just do not know. But today is different. Elisha knows something is going to happen.

On they go together, from place to place. Elijah kept saying, "Stop here. I will go on." But Elisha said, "No." He was going to keep with him.

At last they came to the River Jordan. How ever would they get across? But Elijah smites the river with his mantle, and the water stops flowing so they can get over. God has performed a miracle.

Suddenly a chariot of fire appears from the sky, picks up Elijah, and carries him up to heaven. But as Elisha looks up in amazement, Elijah's mantle falls down right where he is. And Elisha knew what that meant. Now he is to be God's prophet in Elijah's place.

But will God be with him as He was with Elijah? Soon he knew the answer. As he walked back, alone, he had to cross the River Jordan once more. But how? He must have been asking God to help him.



**DID YOU
KNOW?**
Elijah was
taken up into
heaven by a
whirlwind

And when he reached the river, the same thing happened as before. He took Elijah's mantle, smote the river, and just as before the water divided for him to go safely across.

So he knew that Elijah's God was with him—and that He would still be with him as He was with Elijah.

You can read about this in the second Book of Kings, chapter 2, verses 1 to 14.

The Healing of the Waters

In the Bible we read a lot about a city called Jericho. This is where Elisha came to stay. The people must have been pleased to have him there with them. It was a lovely city, with palm trees, but something was wrong. Nothing would grow properly in the fields or in the fruit orchards. What was it that was wrong? The water in the river was nasty and foul—and that made everything wrong. But how can it be put right?

Well, the people knew that Elisha was a prophet, and God was with him. Would he help them? So they went and asked Elisha—and he was glad to help, though he knew it must be God who did it.

Elisha did a strange thing! God must have told him to do it. He went back all the way to the spring, the place where the river water started bubbling up, and he threw some salt in.

Salt? It was a strange way of making the water pure, but it was God's way, and it worked. Elisha cried, "Thus saith the Lord!" And we know that what God says comes to pass.



*On the map, can you find: **JERICO***



I'm sure the people of Jericho were pleased. Lovely fresh water, everything growing, grass, trees, flowers, plants, the sheep happy in the fields.

But soon Elisha left. He had other places to go. They must have been sorry to see him leave.

You can read about this in the second Book of Kings, chapter 2, verses 15 to 22.