

But these prophecies - these are not commands, if they were commands Elijah was disobedient! Elijah did not disobey God. They are predictions, and the predictions were fulfilled. Hazael became king of Syria, and Jehu became king over Israel. Elisha became successor of Elijah before either of these other changes was made. Thus you see the three predictions given here were not fulfilled by Elijah. There was no literal anointing except in one of the three cases, and Elisha did not anoint any of them and they were not fulfilled in the order given.

It is a great example of reading into Scripture what is not there. It does not say in what order they take place. In the NT we have the story of the temptation of Christ, told in different orders. Some have said, All the temptations must have occurred at 3 different times. So that they would happen in the order exactly as given in the Gospels. It does not say what order they happened in. Unless it states the order there is always the possibility that matters are arranged chronologically by one writer, logically by another rather than chronologically. We must find what is in the Scripture. We can believe what's in the Scripture; we can stand upon it, but we must not read into the Scripture what is not there and we must learn to interpret it by its true meaning.

So Elisha became Elijah's successor but not through any anointing by Elijah. Then Elisha his successor a number of years later made a trip to Damascus and there in Damascus we read how Elisha was there and word reached ~~him~~ King Benhadad who was sick, and Benhadad took one of his most trusted employees - the man he had picked out of the gutter because of the ability the man seemed to have and elevated him to a high position, and put complete trust in him, and he said, This famous prophet is here; go and see him and ask him if I will recover