

from my illness. So we read that Hazael went to see Elisha and took with him a very fine gift and said, My master Benhadad wants to know shall I recover from this disease? Now see how he was anointed. Elisha said to him - not Elijah, but Elijah's successor - Go and say to him, thou mayest certainly recover; this disease is not fatal. Howbeit the Lord has shewed me that he shall surely die. He will not die of this disease, but he is going to die. So you can tell him the prophet said, This is not a mortal disease. Then the prophet began to cry. Hazael said, Why are you weeping? And Elisha said, I know what you are going to do to the children of Israel. You're going to kill many of them; torture them; mistreat them. I know what you're going to do to my people." Hazael, the son of a nobody, said, Is thy servant a dog that he should do this great thing? He said, I'm just a little fellow. I'm just a servant of the king. How could I do this? You should not blame me for it!

Elisha answered, The Lord has shown me that you are to be king of Syria. So Hazael went to his master and told him, the prophet said you could recover from this disease; ~~XXXX~~ it is not fatal. Then he went the next day and took a thick cloth and dipped it in water and spread it over the king's face that he died. And he became king.

The prophecy was fulfilled that Hazael would become king of Syria. God must have given a further revelation we don't have record of. He must have said to Elisha Now is the time for you to go to Damascus and fulfill the thing that I said to Elijah years ago that Hazael was to become king. But he certainly did not anoint him. If there was any anointing it was Hazael putting the cloth over the face of Benhadad! That certainly was not what God had commanded, at all, but what he had merely predicted.

In the next ch. we read that a time came some little time after that when Elisha took one of the sons of the prophets, that is the men