

an anointing wouldn't change a man in any way. It merely is a symbolic representation of the fact of God's control and of God's setting him apart for the case. And God was setting ~~him~~ apart a different man for the king of Syria than the men who were there before. So he wished to reassure and strengthen Elijah's faith in the first place. Now it is done in order to fulfill that which had been told to Elijah done by Elijah's successor. In addition to that it is done to encourage the people of Israel by showing them the true people, the servants of God, that even the king of Syria is in God's hands. When they would find the king of Syria during the next few years doing the most terrible deeds toward the people of Israel, ~~in~~ such ghastly deeds that it would be impossible that a human being could think of such atrocities, the people were to know that this wicked king who was doing these things was there because God had ruled that he should be there and therefore that the punishments, the terrible things that were now happening to Israel, were all a part of God's plan and a part of God's punishment upon the people for their turning away from Him. So the first reason then for the anointing of a new king of Syria was to reassure Elijah. That was ~~very~~ very important. The second purpose was to reassure the Godly in Israel and to strengthen their faith that God controls all things during the terrible days that were ahead when he would be king of Syria.

A third reason for it, of course, is to reassure us and to give us and by us I mean all believers since the time of Elijah the assurance of the power of God over all the ~~air~~ world and how wrong it is to be weighted down with fear or misery at a time of earthly kings because God can control the greatest of them. And incidentally one might make a fourth reason for it. It also applies to Isaiah--in order to show that God never is conceived of by the writers of the Bible as a tribal God or a local deity. Away back here in the books of Kings many critics would think of among the very oldest sections written in the Bible, that away back there we have this story showing the God of Israel ~~anointing~~ actually anointing a king of distant Syria. ~~But~~ God's interest here is in Israel