

blame me if these things take place? I'm just a servant of the king. How could I do these things? I'm just like a little dog. I'm not the master of the ~~household~~ household. I'm one of the dogs that follows along and you don't blame the watchdogs when the master of the house sets him on somebody. You blame the master of the house. He is the one who is responsible for what ~~the~~ the dog does. I'm just like a dog. I'm just an underling. How could I do this great thing? How could you blame these things on me? I ~~was not~~ <sup>might be</sup> involved in them yet, but I would be merely carrying out orders." Elisha answered, "The Lord has shown me that you are going to be king over Israel." That is the end of the scene between Elisha and Hazael.

So Hazael now carries out his dastardly plan which he doubtless had had in mind for some time. ~~Was~~ before this time. Which gave all the more reason for him to be ~~astounded~~ <sup>that</sup> ~~at~~ the prophet should suspect him in any way being in line for the kingship. Perhaps the whole fact that the prophet suspected him made him wonder whether people around were suspecting him. Perhaps the word of the conspiracy might get to the king if he didn't hurry up. Perhaps that somebody told Elisha ~~about~~ of it and the rumor is spreading of the people whom Hazael has already sounded out as to whether they will ~~hear~~ <sup>stand behind</sup> him if he kills the king or whether they will seize him and punish him for his fowl deed. So he says, "I had better carry this through quickly before I am suspected by the king and punished myself for it." Evidently up to this time he had enjoyed the king's full confidence. The king sent him and gave him opportunity where he could do this. But there may have been others in the ~~country~~ king's household who were ready to suspect him and if they proved his guilt and killed him would receive a reward from the king. So he killed the king and the king didn't die of the disease; he died because he was suffocated. And Hazael reigned in his stead.

So we have this interesting incident here given for the four reasons which I mentioned. In the ~~first~~ immediate situation showing the people of Israel that God controlled even Syria and showing them that in the terrible days just ahead when