

God has now revealed to Elisha that the time is now ready to carry out in detail the large order that has not been given. You might say that the orders given to Elijah down on Sinai were like the commands given to the American troops before the invasion of France. All the details were worked out. The different divisions had practices what they were to perform. They ~~know~~ knew exactly which were to land first and which were to land next and which were to do the particular duties and all that was worked out but no one was told when it would be done. That was a matter which was kept to be given ~~by the Lord~~ when the ~~proper~~ proper time arrived and would depend to quite an extent on weather conditions and other matters that could not be foreseen. In this case God, of course, could know exactly what the situation was going to be but ~~however~~ there is no evidence that he revealed all these details in that event. The general orders were given. Now this specific time has come and the specific direction has been given to proceed to carry out the order. So just as the general order about Hazael was carried out we don't know how long before this time. We know that it was before this time. How do we know it was before this time? May it not be that simply the account of one of them is given ⁱⁿ and the account of another event without it being told specifically what order it occurred in? Such things do happen you know. It isn't necessary that you give things in chronological order. In fact, right in Kings we have one king carried through and then we take the other kingdom and start back forty years. Now we have been dealing with the anointing of a new king of Syria and we have come over to the story of the anointing of a new king of Israel. How do we know whether the events of chapter 9 are chronologically later than the events of the middle portion of ~~the~~ chapter 8? How many here could think of a definite way in which we could know? Two, I see, three. ~~Anyone else?~~ Well, then how many can see an evidence that the ~~middle~~ events of chapter 9 precede those of chapter 8? Does anyone see such an evidence as that? Well, I guess it must follow because we have two voting that it follows to none voting that it precedes. If you decide by a majority vote, it would be that way. What