

a nobody there and anoint him to be king of Syria. It was ridiculous if you take it as a command. It was a prediction given in the form of a command. Then God went on to show His great power. He said, I can control these great foreign nations, these great powers are in the hollow of my hand. I can do what I want with them. I'm giving a command that Hazael be anointed to be king. He said anoint Jehu the son of Nimshi to be king over Israel. Here Elijah is afraid of his life of Queen Jezebel; how can he anoint somebody who is not even related to the royal family - son of Nimshi - to be ruler over Israel!

He is saying to him, I'm going to make a change. This King Ahab and his two sons who will rule after him, they will not continue more than a few more years. I am going to make a complete overturning; I have control over them. Then he says, after show his great power over all these, then he says a word that must have been a terrible disappointment to Elijah, And Elisha son of Shaphat anoint to be prophet in your place! You've done a tremendous work; you deserve tremendous credit for it, but just at the key point you have run instead of carrying on the work, and so ~~you~~ <sup>the work</sup> will have to wait until another man is trained. Anoint Elisha prophet in your stead. And Elijah says, It's God's command; I've got to carry it out' I'll do it and so he goes up there and threw his coat at Elisha. What a gruff way he treated Elisha! Then Elisha went around with him and poured water on his hands and did the menial tasks for him, and Elisha put up with it all uncomplaining. Then when it came to the final day of Elijah's life that great occasion, Elijah walked over half of the country trying to shake him off, trying to loose him, telling him You stay here! And Elisha sticks to him and goes with him, and even at the very last Elijah won't say, You're to be my successor. Poor Elijah! He was disappointed and he took it out on Elisha.