

## **Elijah to Anoint Hazael, Jehu, and Elisha – Floyd Nolen Jones, Th.D., Ph.D.**

As to 1 Ki. 19:15-19: verse 15 God commands Elijah to “return” from Mt. Sinai (same as Horeb) and go through the wilderness to Damascus. Moreover, that when he gets there he is to “anoint Hazael *to be* king over Syria.” If we look at my Chart 5 we see that the date of Elisha’s calling was about 907 BC; which I take as the date for Elijah’s victory at Mt. Carmel, his flight from Jezebel to Mt. Sinai, and the date for his commission in 1 Ki. 19:15-16.

Reading the account of Elisha’s meeting with Hazael at 2 Ki. 8:7-15, we find nothing that reads like an “anointing” of that Syrian – nothing at all. These facts strongly indicate that Elijah did exactly as instructed in 1 Ki. 19:15. He went to Damascus and anointed Hazael “*to be* king” – that is, to become king at some later date. Thus, his coming to Damascus in 2 Ki. 8:7 (c. 886 BC, by way of his delegated representative Elisha – Elijah having been translated c. 897 BC) is speaking of a much later date and was seemingly done in order to reaffirm the earlier anointing. This understanding is not demanded, but we do observe that it is what the Scriptures indicate.

Also, history does not give an actual date for Ben-hadad II’s death or Hazael’s year of enthronement. After much research, the best I can do is place them at 886 BC – the same year that Jehu slew King Joram of the northern kingdom and King Ahaziah of the southern kingdom of Judah (see Chart 5c: some give 841 for this, but it is Edwin Thiele’s date – other biblicalists and I expose his error s).

Such a happening, being anointed long before one actually gets to sit on the throne, is common in Scripture. A precedent is David, who was anointed c. 1070 BC by Samuel but did not become king over Judah until 1055 BC (see my *Chronology*, page 103). Another example is Jeconiah (Jehoiachin or Coniah). As explained on pages 192-194, he was selected by his grandfather Josiah to succeed him on the throne should he die in the Battle of Charchemish (which he in fact did) when but age eight. However, he did not gain the crown until he was 18.

Now all these serve as Old Testament examples of our Lord Jesus who was anointed king by the prophet John the Baptist but, after nearly 2000 years, has yet to sit on the earthly throne of his “father” David: anointed to reign but not enthroned (He is currently seated on the throne of heaven and making intercession for us; Heb. 7:24-8:2).

Further, 1 Ki. 19:19 indicates that immediately after going to Damascus and anointing Hazael, Elijah cast his mantle on Elisha (circa 1 October 907 BC: plowing season).

However, once again by a delegated authority, Jehu is clearly anointed about 21 years after God’s charge to Elijah (907 – 886 = 21; Chart 5 & 5c) by a student of Elisha’s (2 Ki. 9:1-13).