

New Beginnings: Both Good and Bad **II Kings 8:1-15**

These two episodes fit together well as Elisha's political pull is seen in both, with both people receiving more than they expected. Plus both stories are tied together over the appeal for "restoration / recovery" (same Hebrew verb repeated at least four times in both stories).

A Good Shunammite Woman gains her land (8:1-6)

- ◆ Past kindness had got her a son, a tip-off (4:8-37), and even land.
- ◆ The timing of Gehazi's chatting with the King = "a God thing." This split-second timing recalls 7:3-7. Note the evil king's responses!
- ◆ God didn't forget her "cup of water," Mtt. 10:41, 42. How is she an example to a few godly folks in a country going downhill?

A Bad Syrian Soldier gains a crown (8:7-15)

- ◆ Future brutality gets him rule over Aram (recall Kgs. 19:15-17).
- ◆ Contrast Ben-hadad to Ahaziah (1:1-4) and God's anger there.
- ◆ Elisha's odd verbal / non-verbal statements on Hazael's success are fulfilled as Hazael and Aram dominate the entire area for nearly four decades—8:29, 9:14, 10:32, 12:17, 18, 13:3, 22.



What does this episode reveal about how God feels about harsh discipline of His people? See in Ezk. 18:23, 33:11, Lk. 19:41-44.

NT examples:
Acts 5:1-10, I Cor.
11:27-31, 2 Cor.
13:2, I Tim. 1:20,
Heb. 12:11.