

THE STARE-DOWN

II Kings 8:7-15

God can use subtle warnings to show us His will and warn us of sin

I. BEFORE THE STARE-DOWN (7-10)

A. ELISHA'S VISIT (7)

1. An unknown reason
 - Maybe to anoint Hazael - cf. I Kings 19:15
2. But not by an unknown prophet
 - The people know him to be "the man of God"

B. BEN-HADAD'S INQUIRY (8)

1. Interesting: Seeking help from the one he had tried to imprison (see 6:13-14)
2. Entreaty: I need to know if I'll recover

C. HAZAEL'S MEETING (9)

1. Taking ostentatious gifts > They seem to forget that Elisha is not interested in bribes
2. Offering humble respect > "your son" Ben-hadad
3. Ironic reality: The king sends his murderer as a messenger to Elisha

D. ELISHA'S PREDICTION (10)

1. The king will recover
 - His sickness will not kill him ... His is not a terminal condition
2. The king will die
 - Alarming and initially confusing news

II. AT THE STARE-DOWN (11-13)

A. ELISHA'S RESPONSE (11-12)

- Note the power of unspoken expressions
1. Gazing (11a)
 - At first perplexed then perceptive and finally penetrating
 2. Grieving (11c-12)
 - a. Because of the evil Hazael will do
 - b. Because of the atrocities Israel will endure

Over please >

B. HAZAEL'S REACTION (11, 13)

1. Shame (11b)
 - a. A surprised shame
 - A smirk or sheepish smile indicating that he knows that Elisha knows the truth
 - b. A sham shame
 - He's likely already formed a murderous plot
 - c. A shallow shame
 - Though ashamed, he offers no repentance or any indication of a true change of heart
2. Self-deprecation (13a)
 - a. A false humility: I'm but a dog!
 - b. A feigned denial: How could I do such a thing?

C. ELISHA'S REVELATION (13b)

1. God says you'll be king
2. God will let you have the power for such cruelty
 - a. The prophet's burden: Conflicted comprehension
 - b. The kings coming cruelty - See 9:14-15; 10:32; 12:17-18; 13:3 and 22

III. AFTER THE STARE-DOWN (14-15)

A. AN ENCOURAGED KING (14)

1. Provided with the good news
2. Prohibited from hearing the bad news

B. A MURDERED KING (15)

1. The Timing: The very next day
2. The Method: Suffocation by a wet cloth
3. The Outcome: Hazael reigns

CONCLUSION:

Do you ever feel like someone is staring at you?

The next time someone's staring at you, see if its God or someone godly trying to get your attention.