

This guide for 25 lines double-space Elite 48 Pica 48

1 he would declare the will of God. II Kings 3:15  
2 says: "And it came to pass, when the minstrel  
3 played, that the hand of the LORD came upon him."  
4 This has been quoted as evidence that a Hebrew  
5 prophet required the stimulus of music to pro-  
6 duce an ecstatic state and thus enable him to  
7 prophesy. Actually the incident is quite iso-  
8 lated and in addition, can be explained far more  
9 reasonably in a different way. The context  
10 makes it very clear that Elisha was so disgusted  
11 at being asked to give help to the wicked son of  
12 Ahab that it was difficult for him to compose  
13 his thoughts. He said, "As the LORD of hosts  
14 liveth, before whom I stand, surely, were it not  
15 that I regard the presence of Jehoshaphat the  
16 king of Judah, I would not look toward thee nor  
17 see thee" (v.14). Music was a help to Elisha in  
18 composing his spirit so that he could listen to  
19 the quiet voice of the Lord and overcome his  
20 antipathy at facing the wicked Jehoram.  
21 Reference is sometimes made to a statement in  
22 II Kings where Elisha sent one of the sons of  
23 the prophets to pour oil on the head of Jehu and  
24 thus start his revolt against the successors of  
25 Ahab. The representative of Elisha asked to

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