

STUDY NUMBER FIVE - II Kings 6:1-23

TEXT:

- v. 1 Now the sons of the prophets said to Elisha, "Behold now, the place before you where we are living is too limited for us."
- v. 2 "Please let us go to the Jordan, and each of us take from there a beam, and let us make a place there for ourselves where we may live." So he said, "Go."
- v. 3 Then one said, "Please be willing to go with your servants." And he answered, "I shall go."
- v. 4 So he went with them; and when they came to the Jordan, they cut down trees.
- v. 5 But as one was felling a beam, the axe head fell into the water; and he cried out and said, "Alas, my master! For it was borrowed."
- v. 6 Then the man of God said, "Where did it fall?" And when he showed him the place, he cut off a stick, and threw it in there, and made the iron float.
- v. 7 And he said, "Take it up for yourself." So he put out his hand and took it.
- v. 8 Now the king of Syria was warring against Israel; and he counseled with his servants saying, "In such and such a place shall be my camp."
- v. 9 And the man of God sent word to the king of Israel saying, "Beware that you do not pass this place, for the Syrians are coming down there."
- v.10 And the king of Israel sent to the place about which the man of God had told him; thus he warned him, so that he guarded himself there, more than once or twice.
- v.11 Now the heart of the king of Syria was enraged over this thing; and he called his servants and said to them, "Will you tell me which of us is for the king of Israel?"
- v.12 And one of his servants said, "No, my lord, O king; but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the words that you speak in your bedroom."
- v.13 So he said, "Go and see where he is, that I may send and take him." And it was told him, saying, "Behold, he is in Dothan."
- v.14 And he sent horses and chariots and a great army there, and they came by night and surrounded the city.
- v.15 Now when the attendant of the man of God had risen early and gone out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was circling the city. And his servant said to him, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?"
- v.16 So he answered, "Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them."
- v.17 Then Elisha prayed and said, "O Lord, I pray, open his eyes that he may see." And the Lord opened the servant's eyes, and he saw; and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.
- v.18 And when they came down to him, Elisha prayed to the Lord and said, "Strike this people with blindness, I pray." So He struck them with blindness according to the word of Elisha.

- v.19 Then Elisha said to them, "This is not the way, nor is this the city; follow me and I will bring you to the man whom you seek." And he brought them to Samaria.
- v.20 And it came about when they had come into Samaria, that Elisha said, "O Lord, open the eyes of these men, that they may see." So the Lord opened their eyes, and they saw; and behold, they were in the midst of Samaria.
- v.21 Then the king of Israel when he saw them, said to Elisha, "My father, shall I kill them? Shall I kill them?"
- v.22 And he answered, "You shall not kill them. Would you kill those you have taken captive with your sword and with your bow? Set bread and water before them, that they may eat and drink and go to their master."
- v.23 So he prepared a great feast for them; and when they had eaten and drunk he sent them away, and they went to their master. And the marauding bands of Syria did not come again into the land of Israel.

INTRODUCTION:

We have traced the biography of Elisha from the Jordan River when his master Elijah was taken home in a whirlwind, back to Jericho, up to Bethel, and into the land of Samaria. In our second study he was consulted by the kings of Israel, Judah and Edom with regard to the conflict against the Moabites.

In our third study we witnessed 5 miracles take place.

- ① The first being the provision of oil for one of the widows who was at a point of destitution due to the death of her husband, who was one of the sons of the prophets.
- ② In the second miracle he provides a child for a lady in Shunem,
- ③ and then after the death of that child, provides life again for him.
- ④ In the fourth miracle we see him making pure a poisoned stew so that the prophets might have food to eat.
- ⑤ And in the fifth and final miracle he takes the provision of barley loaves and grain and multiplies it so that the prophets have adequate food to sustain them.

#4 In our last study we saw him confronted by Naaman with leprosy, having a desire to be healed. Naaman dips seven times in the Jordan River and is healed of his leprosy. We also noted the greed of Gehazi, Elisha's servant when he pursues Naaman for what material gain he can receive from the miracle that has been wrought. And the judgment upon Gehazi for this action is to have the dreaded disease of leprosy upon him that has been cured for Naaman.

- ① Military MAN from Syria with leprosy
- ② Greed of Gehazi - Elisha's servant

This brings us now to our fifth study, and we are going to see Elisha first in relationship with some of his prophets at the school, probably in Gilgal.

We need to remember there are three seminaries that have been founded during the first ten years of Elisha's ministry while he was still associated as an understudy with Elijah the prophet. They had formed schools in Gilgal, Jericho and Bethel.

* Evidently Elisha made his headquarters in Gilgal, and this is where the scene of the story opens.

v. 1 Now the sons of the prophets said to Elisha, "Behold now, the place before you where we are living is too limited for us."

Evidently the enrollment at the seminary had continued to rise due to the love and acceptance of Elisha, to the point where their present quarters were too limited for them.

Not Methods
but Men

J. Vernon McGee points out that "This reveals something of the popularity of Elisha. He taught in a theological seminary, the school of the prophets. The school grew and they needed larger quarters. This was due to the presence and the popularity of Elisha. The strength, I feel, and the value of any school is the character and the ability of those who teach. It is not the methods, but the men that are important, especially in a Christian school."

May I say this is true in any organization. It is the leadership that makes the difference. I have a very pet little saying that I use often with camp staff and other people. "It is all in the leadership." You can have the finest facilities in the world and the greatest program, but if you don't have top-notch, Christ-committed personnel, you are wasting your time.

Here Elisha has become very popular with his students. They loved him dearly. And as a result of his popularity, there have been many who have been wanting to enroll in the school, and it has caused a problem. That problem is they don't have enough space.

v. 2 "Please let us go to the Jordan, and each of us take from there a beam, and let us make a place there for ourselves where we may live." So he said, "Go."

The prophets, recognizing Elisha's authority and recognizing, too, their responsibility to be of help in bringing about a solution to the problem, ask of Elisha, "Let us make a place there for ourselves where we may live." So he said, "Go."

Build Some New dorms + maybe Some Classrooms.

One is reminded of Isaiah 54:2 -

*
H. de-A-Way
Emerald Bay

"Enlarge the place of your tent. Stretch out the curtains of your dwellings. Spare not, lengthen your cords, and strengthen your pegs."

It is also very refreshing to see that these students want to help to build their own school. They want to be involved in this constructive project in the work that is involved in helping to solve their problem.

v. 3 Then one said, "Please be willing to go with your servants." And he answered, "I shall go." Availability

The students invite Elisha to go along with them and this helps us also to see the love and respect they feel for him, and the popularity that was his with the students.

v. 4 So he went with them; and when they came to the Jordan, they cut down trees.

400 trees
For Barn +
Corral

They all got over near the Jordan and began the logging operation to get the lumber necessary to build the building that they were desiring to build and everything seemed to be going along real well. I am sure everybody was excited and enthused about the project, and working very hard.

Muscles they never knew they had !!

v. 5 But as one was felling a beam, the axe head fell into the water; and he cried out and said, "Alas, my master! For it was borrowed."

* I Thess. 2:18 "For we wanted to come to you, I Paul, more than once, and yet Satan thwarted us."

* *

How often times, in the midst of projects which are going to expand our ministry and effectiveness or make it possible for further ministry, that we are thwarted by some accident which comes to discourage us.

This prophet was busily engaged in felling a tree that could be used for one of the beams. And while he was doing so, the axe head flew off of the handle and fell into the Jordan River. And he cried out, very upset, and said, "Alas, my master! For it was borrowed."

It does seem very insignificant to us that he would be so upset over this, but iron and axe heads were of great value at this time. And to have lost it was a real tragedy.

*

The other thing that really causes the prophet to feel a great responsibility for what has happened is that this was not his own. It was one that he had been able to borrow for the work.

Didn't have enough money w/ tuition And All to buy one of his own.
Most Seminary students discover they really don't need an
Axe or a Chain Saw much !!

The young prophet certainly is not careless in his work because he was chopping toward the river. This was an accident that could often happen and there was provision made for it in the Mosaic Law in Deuteronomy 19:5 "as when a man goes into the forest with his friend to cut wood and his swings the axe to cut down the tree, and the iron head slips off the handle and strikes his friend, so that he dies, he may flee to one of these cities and live."

6 cities of Refuge

Knowing that this was a possibility, he was cutting safely with the swing of the axe pointing toward the river. And it flew off and fell into the water. And he cried out and said, "Alas, my master! For it was borrowed."

J. Vernon McGee has an interesting remark along this line in that the "Second fault they find with him is that he borrowed it. Well I think that I am qualified to speak for this fellow here. He was a poor seminary student and he could not afford an axe in that day. No more than I could have owned a Cadillac when I was in seminary. He just could not have done it. He had to borrow it. I do not think that this poor fellow should be criticized. In fact, I have a question to ask, Who loaned this student an old axe with a head that would come off? That's the fellow I'd like to talk to. I imagine that fellow is the same one who today gives second-hand clothes and old Christmas cards to missionaries and thinks he is serving the Lord."

v. 6 Then the man of God said, "Where did it fall?" And when he showed him the place, he cut off a stick, and threw it in there, and made the iron float.

Elisha is very sensitive to the needs of his students, and so he immediately raises the question, "Where did it fall?"

It is John Newton who said, "Not one concern of ours is small if we belong to Him. To teach us this, the Lord of all once made the iron to swim."

J. Vernon McGee has another interesting parallel to what is taking place here in making this iron to float. "An axe head dormant on the bottom of the muddy Jordan, raised, resurrected, if you please, restored to the owner, replaced on the handle, and it becomes useful again, utilitarian and functional. That's really a greater miracle than these others because there is a tremendous spiritual message here for us today. Man today is like that axe head. He has slipped off the handle. He has fallen. He is totally depraved. So God cut down a stick. He cast it into the waters of death. That stick is the cross of Christ. Man today can arise from the waters of death and judgment through Christ. He can be placed back on the handle of God's plan and purpose for him. And he can be geared into God's program. Paul testifies, 'I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me.' It is no longer necessary for any man to live an aimless and useless life."

Jesus borrowed
A Boat
A Donkey
A Tomb
Just don't live
on borrowed
Time !!

How Graciously
God puts up
with our Mistakes
Deceived Sinner
Lost Axehead

Through

Wallace points out "In those days, axes were scarce and valuable. So scarce were they that the poor prophets did not possess many of their own. This particular axe had been borrowed. It was a most tragic accident. It is the kind of thing that happens in Christian work. In our perplexity we find it hard to account for such happenings. Paul himself, when his work was hindered by such experiences, put them down to Satanic powers. Moreover, the infirmity or sickness with which he was constantly afflicted, and which he found a real hindrance to his work for Christ, he called not only a thorn in the flesh, but also a messenger of Satan to buffet me. We are all building for God, and in the process of building, the work can be spoiled, not only by our own mistakes and inadequacies, but also by sheer accidents that are beyond our control. Time and time again in the lives of great Christian enterprises there has come a crisis, when something we are tempted to describe as an evil fate, seems to have stepped in to threaten all success. Such things are bound to happen to us if we will throw ourselves into the service of God. We must be prepared for such accidents."

v. 7 And he said, "Take it up for yourself." So he put out his hand and took it.

How much this is like salvation itself. A gift for the taking. "God so loved the world, that he gave His own begotten Son. That whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." God is offering the gift of salvation to all who will by faith receive it.

The only condition for the restoring of the axe head to the axe handle and to ultimate usefulness was for the prophet to take it for himself. And the record says, "So he put out his hand and took it."

This message from the loss of the axe head not only speaks to the person who is not a Christian, but it also speaks to the believer, who at some point or time has fallen out of fellowship with the Lord. It is coming back to that point, "Where did it fall?" and begin to retrieve and experience the blessings that the Lord has for us. So often times, we feel that all of it is lost, but when we acquaint our master with our grief, and when he asks, "Where fell it?" As he begins to search us and examine our hearts, we confess and acknowledge it. We can stretch forth our hand in faith and count on the master's infinite goodness and grace in restoring that lost blessing and fellowship to us once again.

Jeremiah 32:27 "Behold I am the Lord, the God of all flesh. Is anything too difficult for me?"

Jeremiah 33:3 "Call to me and I will answer you and I will tell you great and mighty things which you do not know."

I Sam 12:20 "Do not be Afraid," Samuel replied.
"You have done All This evil; Yet do not Turn Away From the Lord, but serve The Lord with All Your heart."

loves us
unconditionally
Forgetting
Repentance

fellowship
service

v. 8 Now the king of Syria was warring against Israel; and he counseled with his servants saying, "In such and such a place shall be my camp."

Building → Battle
work → war

The focus now turns from this expansion program at the seminary to a international problem, and that is the conflict between Syria and Israel. It almost sounds like what is taking place today. They have been at it for a long, long time.

The king of Syria counseled with his ministers of war and said to them, "In such and such a place shall be my camp." He wanted to get his military operations strategically located so that the conflict that was going to be taking place would be advantageous to them and provide the greatest possibility for victory.

v. 9 And the man of God sent word to the king of Israel saying, "Beware that you do not pass this place, for the Syrians are coming down there."

FAX = E-mail

Elisha sends a telegram to Jehoram, the godless king, and warns him by saying, "Beware that you do not pass this place, for the Syrians are coming down there." With this knowledge that Elisha had gained from the Lord about the Syrian camps, he is able to warn the king of Israel to avoid those key locations.

How quickly the (king of Syria) forgets the blessing that has been conferred upon his general Naaman. And then returns so quickly to war against the nation Israel.

Obviously the king of Syria did not confer with Naaman or he would have probably been opposed to this whole project.

Evidently the king of Syria knew the movement of troops and had pinpointed some key locations; and now Elisha warns Jehoram about these locations.

v. 10 And the king of Israel sent to the place about which the man of God had told him; thus he warned him, so that he guarded himself there, more than once or twice.

Jehoram had seen how God had used Elisha in the victory over the Moabites, and so he did not totally disregard the warning at this time. But he still had some skepticism about it. So he sends to the place about which the man of God spoke to check out the situation and found that the warnings were certainly valid.

v. 11 Now the heart of the king of Syria was enraged over this thing; and he called his servants and said to them, "Will you tell me which of us is for the king of Israel?"

Because the king of Syria has been thwarted on a couple of previous occasions due to this prior knowledge that Jehoram has, he becomes very

where's the leak in our security?

There's A SKUNK in the woodpile
Somewhere!

forgets
Naaman &
the Favor

When the Lord
Speaks you better
listen ...

When E.F. Harrison
Speaks everybody
listens ...

When the Lord
Speaks through
His word everybody
listens ...

upset and wonders who is passing out secrets to the king of Israel to protect him from the invasion.

v.12 And one of his servants said, "No, my lord, O king; but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the words that you speak in your bedroom."

Evidently some of the servants in Syria were acquainted with what had taken place in Naaman's life, and the fact that Elisha was the instrument used, because one of the servants points up the fact that there is no problem with them. It is that Elisha the prophet, who dwells in Israel, tells Jehoram the words that are even spoken in your bedroom.

Elisha even has the bedroom bugged so that any words that are spoken are known to him.

v.13- So he said, "Go and see where he is, that I may send and take him." And it was told him, saying, "Behold, he is in Dothan."

The king issues an all-points bulletin to find out where Elisha is in the land. The purpose for this mission is so that he can go and take Elisha. The intelligence reports come back that he is in Dothan.

It is to Dothan that the seventeen-year-old young man by the name of Joseph goes to seek and inquire about the condition of his brothers, who only wait to strip him of his multicolored coat and throw him into a pit, and eventually sell him into Egypt.

What a contrast we have here to that in that Elisha is miraculously protected from these enemies by the Lord. How much we need to recognize the fact that God's ultimate purpose is being worked out in each of our lives, and that whatever He permits, He deems it as necessary to discipline and instruct us, or to bring about the full accomplishment of His will.

v.14 And he sent horses and chariots and a great army there, and they came by night and surrounded the city.

The king is going to launch an all-out military attack here on the city of Dothan so that he might get the key figure involved, Elisha first, in the hopes that he ultimately might besiege the land of Israel.

v.15 Now when the attendant of the man of God had risen early and gone out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was circling the city. And his servant said to him, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?"

Elisha now has a new attendant or servant since Gehazi has been stricken with leprosy. And when he gets up early in the morning to go out,

No one is indispensable! What a privilege to be used by the Lord! Gehazi could have been restored too!!

C.I.A.

Secret Service

"Say guys we got a leak..."

Shechem
Dothan

Why
For
Elisha &
Not Joseph?

1st Step
in A Campaign
to Get Israel
into Egypt!

probably to get some water from one of the wells that is located in that city, he is frightened by the fact that he sees an army with horses and chariots circling the whole city. He comes back to Elisha crying, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?" **HE'S NEW AT THIS!**

* * II Chron. 20:12 "O our God! Wilt thou not judge them, for we are powerless before this great multitude who are coming against us, nor do we know what to do; but our eyes are on Thee."

* * II Chron. 32:7,8 "Be strong and courageous; do not fear or be dismayed because of the king of Assyria, nor because of all the multitude which is with him. For the one with us is greater than the one with him. With him is only an arm of flesh, but with us is the Lord our God to help us and to fight our battles. And the people relied on the words of Hezekiah, king of Judah."

Elisha and his servant are at a very vulnerable point, and that is: it seems like a time to move into action quickly. And it could be prematurely. And so in answer to the question, "What shall we do?" it is only to wait for the Lord to make known His wisdom to properly relate to the circumstances at hand.

It is a principle of life that when we are most eager to act, will be the times when we make the most pitiful mistakes.

Elisha probably remembers back to the experience of Elijah when, after the great victory on Mt. Carmel, because of the threat of Jezebel over the death of the prophets of Baal, she is threatening to take Elijah's life, that he flees into the wilderness and casts himself under a juniper tree in depression, and requests of the Lord that he might die.

Elisha, realizing the fact that he needs to be still and know that God is there and capable of meeting his needs, handles this situation beautifully.

v.16 So he answered, "Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them."

* Elisha can respond to the cry of the servant in this situation with a calm composure because Isaiah 26:3 says: "Thou will keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee, because he trusteth in thee."

* Isaiah 41:10 "Fear thou not, for I am with thee. Do not be dismayed, for I am thy God. I will strengthen thee, yea, I will help thee. Yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness."

When the statistics are truly known, those who are with us are more than those who are with them.

This week!
Peter tries his hand at deliverance. Should have stuck w/ his fishing pole!
12 legions - 72,000 Angels on Alert Status

Genesis 50:20 : "you intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives."

-10-

* Romans 8:31 "What then shall we say to these things, if God is for us, who is against us?"

* Romans 8:37 "But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us."

v.17 Then Elisha prayed and said, "O Lord, I pray, open his eyes that he may see." And the Lord opened the servant's eyes, and he saw; and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

How graciously Elisha deals with his fearful servant. As he prays for him, that his eyes might be open so that he can see and have an increased confidence and trust in God's ability to protect his own.

Joseph

* I Cor. 2:14 "But a natural man does not accept the things in the Spirit of God for they are foolishness to him and he cannot understand them because they are spiritually discerned."

* Ephesians 1:18 "I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened so that you may know what is the hope of his calling, what are the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints."

How quick the Lord is to answer the unselfish petition of Elisha for this servant.

*** Psalm 119:18 "Open my eyes that I may behold wonderful things from thy law."

"And the Lord opened the servant's eyes and he saw; and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha."

*** II Kings 2:11 "Then it came about as they were going along and talking that behold there appeared a chariot of fire and horses of fire which separated the two of them; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind to heaven."

v.18 And when they came down to him, Elisha prayed to the Lord and said, "Strike this people with blindness, I pray." So He struck them with blindness according to the word of Elisha.

Not only did Elisha pray for his servant that his eyes might be opened, but he prayed for his enemies, that their eyes might be closed and that they be struck with blindness. And as the Lord answered the previous prayer, so He also answered this prayer of Elisha his servant.

v.19 Then Elisha said to them, "This is not the way, nor is this the city; follow me and I will bring you to the man whom you seek." And he brought them to Samaria.

(5-10 mi.)

open
&
closed

Elisha, in this 19th verse, is not in a position of lying to the Syrians, because just coming to Dothan to get Elisha, is not really the one they are after. They are wanting the king of Israel, and so he brought them to Samaria.

v.20 And it came about that when they had come into Samaria, that Elisha said, "O Lord, open the eyes of these men, that they may see." So the Lord opened their eyes, and they saw; and Behold, they were in the midst of Samaria.

II Cor. 4:4 "In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them that believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."

What a tragedy to see natural man in his blindness stumbling along in the pathway of life, ultimately to wake up in the enemy's camp.

v.21 Then the king of Israel when he saw them, said to Elisha, My father, shall I kill them? Shall I kill them?"

When Jehoram comes he is really excited. And turns to Elisha the prophet and asks the question twice in his excitement: 'Shall I kill them? Shall I kill them?'

v.22 And he answered, "You shall not kill them. Would you kill those you have taken captive with your sword and with your bow? Set bread and water before them, that they may eat and drink and go to their master."

One is reminded of Romans 12:19-21 -

"Never take your own revenge beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord. But if your enemy is hungry, feed him; and if he is thirsty, give him to drink. For in so doing you will heap burning coals upon his head. Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."

v.23 So he prepared a great feast for them; and when they had eaten and drunk he sent them away, and they went to their master. And the marauding bands of Syria did not come again into the land of Israel.

This is the second generous act by the children of Israel toward the Syrians in the north. The first being the return of General Naaman, cured from his leprosy; and now, the return of the Syrian forces all intact, having been fed and well cared for.

Don't Mess with Texas!
" " " O's man!

CONCLUSION:

Ronald Wallace points out: "These miracles are messages of great encouragement to those of us who are seeking to serve God. Their message is: 'Let us not be weary in well doing, for in due season we shall reap if we faint not.' Their message is: 'Your labor is not in vain in the Lord.' Our labor may seem to be in vain. It may seem to become spoiled by our mistakes, shortcomings, and accidents, but it is not in vain. Let us go to our work for Christ joyfully, remembering that he can turn poison into sweetness; he can turn our little offering into abundance. He is always there to watch in the catastrophies that come upon us. He can make the lost axe head to swim."

8 Lessons

* LESSON #1: How gracious the Lord is to provide and to prosper for our ministry when we are willing to trust Him. We see this in the need for expansion of Elisha's facilities for the seminary in Gilgal.

Mistakes
Shortcomings
Accidents

LESSON #2: There are going to be unforeseen accidents that happen in our ministry for the Lord. And it is at times like this we need to trust Him and know that all things work together for good.

Slipped off
the Handle

LESSON #3: Is the axe head sunk in the mud and mire of the muddy Jordan a picture of your life? Would you not allow God himself to cast into your presence the cross of Christ? And for you by faith to receive the gift of life, so that you might be restored to usefulness and the accomplishment of His purpose in your life.

LESSON #4: The Syrians who were enemies to the people of God remind us that Satan is a roaring lion, roving about, seeking whom he may devour.

* LESSON #5: Psalm 34:7 "The angel of the Lord encampeth around them that fear him and delivereth them."

LESSON #6: How quick the Lord is ready to answer our prayers when we are walking in fellowship with Him and accomplishing His will.

* LESSON #7: We need not fear when we see things from the divine perspective, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them. When the enemy shall come in like a flood

* LESSON #8: Ministering to the needs of our enemies often times neutralizes their opposition.

The Lord will Find Your "Axehead" And Protect You From The enemy !!

Prov. 1:33
"But she who listens to me shall live securely & shall be at ease from the dread of evil."

TOPIC	REF #	TEXT
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Commitment 771-01 <i>Prevailing Blindness</i> ① Spiritually Blind ② Nationally Nuclear Iran ③ We Are in Awar. ✓	Their lives stand as a testimony to the central paragraph of the philosophy of the U.S. Navy SEALs: "I will never quit. I persevere and thrive on adversity. My Nation expects me to be physically harder and mentally stronger than my enemies. If knocked down, I will get back up, every time. I will draw on every remaining ounce of strength to protect my teammates and to accomplish our mission. I am never out of the fight." p. 7
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Commitment 771-02 <i>69 weeks Messiah cut off</i> <i>The King is coming</i> ✓	It's written right there in black and white in the official philosophy of the U.S. Nave SEAL, the last two paragraphs of which read: We train for war and fight to win. I stand ready to bring the full spectrum of combat power to bear in order to achieve my mission and the goals established by my country. The execution of my duties will be swift and violent when required, yet guided by the very principles I serve to defend. Brave men have fought and died building the proud tradition and feared reputation that I am bound to uphold. In the worst of conditions, the legacy of my teammates steadies my resolve and silently guides my every deed. I will not fail. p. 15
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Commitment 771-03 ① Prayer Chorus #459 "Open our eyes Lord" ② Crown Him #272 ③ Charles Wesley: Soldiers of Christ Arise	When someone tells you he's in a SEAL team, you know you are in the presence of a very special cat. Myself, I was just born lucky, somehow fluked my way in with a work ethic bequeathed to me by my dad. The rest of those guys are the gods of the U.S. Armed Forces. And in faraway foreign fields, they serve their nation as required, on demand, and mostly without any recognition whatsoever. They would have it no other way, because they understand no other way. Accolades just wash off them, they shy away from the spotlight, but in the end they have one precious reward—when their days of combat are over, they know precisely who they are and what they stand for. That's rare. And no one can buy it. p. 59
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"Soldiers of Christ, Arise"

(Tune: "Crown Him With Many Crowns")

*Soldiers of Christ, arise,
And put your armor on,
Strong in the strength which God supplies
Thru His eternal Son;
Strong in the Lord of hosts,
And in His mighty pow'r
Who in the strength of Jesus trusts
Is more than conqueror.*

*Stand then in His great might,
With all His strength endued,
And take, to arm you for the fight,
The panoply of God;
That having all things done,
And all your conflicts past,
Ye may o'ercome thru Christ alone,
And stand entire at last.*

*Leave no unguarded place,
No weakness of the soul,
Take ev'ry virtue, ev'ry grace,
And fortify the whole.
From strength to strength go on,
Wrestle and fight and pray,
Tread all the pow'rs of darkness down,
And win the well-fought day.*