

What You Need to Know About ELISHA:

**“Heir of the Spirit:
‘What wish shall I grant you
before I am taken away’ (2 Kings 2:9)”**

Study Number Six – 2 Kings 2:12-25

In the life of Elisha to this point we have seen him take over for Elijah, he’s become an international figure, but his ministry has also been prospered by the Lord.

In our last study we saw him in an expansion program at the seminary and then we also saw him right after that in an international situation where the Syrians were trying to take his life because of the information that he was passing on to the king of Israel.

Now there’s some tragic events that have taken place. God waits just so long before He begins to move in and do something about our disobedience.

There’s a letter in the book of Revelation, one of the letters to the seven churches, that happens to be the letter to the church at Thyatira. He says, “I gave Jezebel time to repent of her immorality but she would not.” (ref. Revelation 2:21)

It’s almost like the Lord, when there’s disobedience in our

lives, He'll put pressure on us, He'll create circumstances. The pressure comes and the Lord gives us time to respond. When we don't respond, He takes more serious measures in our lives.

The Lord has put up with the disobedience, the immorality and the idolatry of the children of Israel now for quite some time. And the Lord is one to touch physical things, many times to create circumstances that will get a favorable response.

And many times, to the children of Israel He has used an economic crisis such as a famine. We find this under Ahab and Jezebel. Elijah was the prophet at the time, Elisha's forerunner. And for three and a half years there was a great famine in the land.

And when Elijah comes back to Ahab, Ahab says, "Oh that's you, you old troubler of Israel." And Elijah says, "It's not me man, it's you. If you had not forsaken the commands of the Lord and gone after the god Baal we wouldn't have had this problem."

"But the Lord has allowed this judgment to come because y'all wouldn't respond. Now it's your fault, not mine. And just to prove it, we'll go up to Mount Carmel and see whose god is really God." Remember the Super Bowl up there when Elijah was effective in calling fire out of heaven? In answer to the call from the Lord, the Lord responded, and the prophets of Baal were unsuccessful.

Now another famine has occurred in the land. It is so severe that Jehoram—super negative character that he was—blamed Elisha for the whole thing. And on top of that, they even stooped to cannibalism.

An army a lot of times would come in and surround a city and just stay outside and cut off all their economic possibilities. So that when the food ran out on the inside and they started to starve, they'd starve them out. And when they finally reached that place where they no longer could stand it, and so many people had died, they would have to surrender to the army outside.

So camped outside the city, as the scene opens in our study—man it's been wild. Jehoram is really ticked off at Elisha, blaming him for the whole thing. And it's because of the idolatry and immorality of Jehoram and the people that has created this problem.

But in the midst of this crisis scene Elisha comes before Jehoram now in verse 1. And he gives a very strange message.

v. 1 Then Elisha said, “Listen to the word of the Lord; thus says the Lord, ‘Tomorrow about this time a measure of fine flour shall be sold for a shekel, and two measures of barley for a shekel, in the gate of Samaria.’”

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the Lord, “Tomorrow about this time a measure of fine flour shall be sold for a shekel, and two measures of barley for a shekel, in the gate of Samaria.””

“Man I’m telling you inflation’s going to be over tomorrow because there’s going to be plenty of flour. You can get a whole bushel for sixty-five cents.”

And Jehoram, he’s already learned to think twice when arguing with the prophet of God so he just sits there and doesn’t say anything. But one of his buddies, the commander in chief of the armed forces evidently, is sitting there listening to this. And so he immediately received a response in verse 2.

v. 2 And the royal officer on whose hand the king was leaning answered the man of God and said, “Behold, if the Lord should make windows in heaven, could this thing be?” Then he said, “Behold you shall see it with your own eyes, but you shall not eat of it.”

“And the royal officer on whose hand the king was leaning answered the man of God and said, ‘Behold, if the Lord should make windows in heaven, could this thing be?’ Then he said, ‘Behold you shall see it with your own eyes, but you shall not eat of it.’”

This military guy looks him straight in the face and he says, “Man, you’re crazy! If there were windows out of heaven this couldn’t be.”

Now what's the general thinking from a military point of view? When surrounded by the enemy outside that's about ready to attack on every side, the only way God could get that kind of provision in would be through heaven.

“Well listen, mister military officer, you just forget that the children of Israel had been famous for having manna come out of heaven every day to meet their needs. And this God is not limited to coming in by the walls to make provision, although that might from a human point of view be the only explanation that we have for it.”

So many times, we get into a problem and we limit God as to what He's got to do to provide our needs. Isn't that unreal how we do that? We get ourselves between a rock and a hard place and we say, “Now God, if You're really God You're going to have to do this in order to get out of this. I just want to tell You how You're going to have to do it.”

We do that all the time. And then we get totally bent out of shape when God doesn't do it our way and then He turns around and surprises us with some kind of a miracle. And we're going to see that in this study.

He's evidently gotten mental B.O. from sitting next to Jehoram for so long. Because he's got a bad attitude, doesn't he? And he just looks at him and he says, “You know that just couldn't be.”

And Elisha looks at him and he just about stares him down. He said, “Man, you’re going to see it, but you aren’t going to enjoy it. You’re not going to eat of it.”

There’s a great principle there, friends. When God says something we better not argue with it. We better take it for face value and accept it and respond to it and say, “Wow, I can’t wait to see how He’s going to work it all out.”

It’s our response to answer in faith when God speaks to us through His Word. He says, “Listen man, you’re going to see this tomorrow but you’re not going to get the chance to eat it or enjoy it.”

There’s a day coming when those who have made light and scoff at the Word of God will see it but they aren’t going to enjoy it. They’re going to be running around wondering what happened to all the Christians.

They’re going to witness it, all the missing Christians, but they’re not going to enjoy it because that’s the beginning of the day of the Lord—the day of great tribulation, the day of great judgment that begins according to Revelation chapter 6-19.

What a dangerous thing to delight, to scoff and to make fun of the Word of God. This guy does that. And we’re going to see it in the passage unfold just exactly the way Elisha says it.

Look at verse 3. Here we are in the palace, we have a great crisis, a great need. Now the cameras focus outside the gate.

It's almost like the Lord says this is going to happen. Now the Lord's going to show how it's going to happen. There are really some beautiful guys here.

v. 3 Now there were four leprous men at the entrance of the gate; and they said to one another, "Why do we sit here until we die?"

"Now there were four leprous men at the entrance of the gate; and they said to one another, 'Why do we sit here until we die?'"

This is probably Gehazi and three of his boys. The old ex-servant comes back on the scene and they're sitting there.

Lepers, when they got leprosy, had to be put outside the gate of the city. And they usually got scraps from the table. That's all they had to eat. And when there wasn't any scraps from the table, they flat starved together just like everybody else.

And they're sitting there and they're philosophizing. There's some great wisdom that comes from guys sitting around talking. It's amazing what happens as we move down by the gate now. We're back out of the palace and this little confrontation with Jehoram.

v. 4 If we say, 'We will enter the city,' then the famine is in the city and we shall die there; and if we sit here, we die also. Now therefore come, and let us go over

to the camp of the Syrians. If they spare us, we shall live; and if they kill us, we shall but die.”

“If we say, “We will enter the city,” then the famine is in the city and we shall die there; and if we sit here, we die also. Now therefore come, and let us go over to the camp of the Syrians. If they spare us, we shall live; and if they kill us, we shall but die.””

Isn't that beautiful? That's fantastic. That sounds like a college student sitting down and trying to scrutinize all the alternatives and they're all bad, but they might as well try one and that's the last one. That's what they're saying, isn't it?

The guy's just sitting there and says, “You know, if we go into town we're going to die. Everybody died in there anyway. If we just sit here and do nothing we're going to die. Why don't we go on over there to the camp of Syrians? They can't do anything but kill us and we'll but die. I mean, so big deal. Our last opportunity is to go on over there.”

Now that wisdom right there is from the Lord. God gave the promise to Elisha that they were going to have provision and here it comes. We can just see it begin to work out, but it's in the most unexpected way.

Who would have ever thought that four leprous, creepy-type guys, sitting out there could philosophize and come up with this and be prompted to head toward the camp of the Syrians? None of us would ever have thought that that's the way God

was going to do it. But isn't that neat? He just does it the way we don't expect it and it just makes it a surprise every time it happens.

See if we really knew how He was going to do we could anticipate it and we just put it on automatic pilot and help Him. He doesn't want any help. He just doesn't like that at all. He wants to be God and He wants to do it His way. And so it's always going to be a surprise how He does it.

v. 5 And they arose at twilight to go to the camp of the Syrians; when they came to the outskirts of the camp of the Syrians, behold, there was no one there.

It took them most of the afternoon to get this together. When there are four guys voting on a committee to get a majority they have to work a while. They have to get up a lot of courage, sitting here and dying is security. Going into the city and dying is security. But to go to the camp of the enemy, that's ridiculous.

But finally, they went over to the guy that doesn't want to go and it's just about dark when they finally get it all together.

“And they arose at twilight to go to the camp of the Syrians; when they came to the outskirts of the camp of the Syrians, behold, there was no one there.”

They couldn't believe it. And the answer to that's in verse 6.

v. 6 For the Lord had caused the army of the Syrians to hear a sound of chariots and a sound of horses, even the sound of a great army, so that they said to one another, “Behold, the king of Israel has hired against us the kings of the Hittites and the kings of the Egyptians, to come upon us.”

“For the Lord had caused the army of the Syrians to hear a sound of chariots and a sound of horses, even the sound of a great army, so that they said to one another, ‘Behold, the king of Israel has hired against us the kings of the Hittites and the kings of the Egyptians, to come upon us.’”

The Syrians are sitting there and they hear the rumble of the chariots and the noise of armies coming and they say, “Oh good great Jehoram! Got the king of the Hittites, the king of the Egyptians! And here they come like the cavalry! They’re going to destroy us!”

For a long, long time critics have really picked at this verse in the Bible. Why? They said there’s no such thing as a Hittite.

Well, the archeologists have gone over there and they found one of the greatest empires from this time known as the Hittite Empire. They had their own worship and their own king.

And more archeologists have gone over liberal critics and come back conservative Christians than we can shake a stick at.

Because they're digging up the stuff that's destroying their own arguments.

If we don't understand something in the Bible and it just doesn't seem to fit together, just wait a while. Don't make a premature judgment about it. Just let God be God and He'll see to it that it'll get uncovered or we'll get it explained to us when you get up there and He teaches that first Bible study in the sky.

Recognize the fact that we can put our faith and trust in this. God's still on the throne and He's fulfilling what He said He would.

Now it says they've "hired" the "kings of the Hittites and the kings of the Egyptians, to come upon us." Well the Lord intervenes. Here's these four guys who are tripping in toward the camp of the Syrians.

v. 7 Therefore they arose and fled in the twilight, and left their tents and their horses and their donkeys, even the camp just as it was, and fled for their life.

"Therefore they arose and fled in the twilight, and left their tents and their horses and their donkeys, even the camp just as it was, and fled for their life."

They dropped everything and took off. Heading out for their lives, thinking they're going to get killed.

v. 8 When these lepers came to the outskirts of the camp, they entered one tent and ate and drank, and carried from there silver and gold and clothes, and went and hid them; and they returned and entered another tent and carried from there also, and went and hid them.

“When these lepers came to the outskirts of the camp, they entered one tent and ate and drank, and carried from there silver and gold and clothes, and went and hid them; and they returned and entered another tent and carried from there also, and went and hid them.”

They think they’ve died and gone to heaven. They go in this one tent and they start eating up a storm. They’re starving to death and they’re drinking and eating like crazy.

And they say, “Oh man, look at all the silver and gold. We’ll put this away for another day.” They run out and hide it somewhere. They come back in like packrats, and find another tent. They’re eating away like crazy and pretty soon one guy says, “Oh man, I can’t believe I ate the whole thing. I’m stuffed! I just can’t eat another bite.” And they’re just laying back there in ruckus laughter in this tent thinking, “Wow! What prosperity!”

Then verse 9 comes along. We can see they’re good philosophers.

v. 9 Then they said to one another, “We are not doing

right. This day is a day of good news, but we are keeping silent; if we wait until morning light, punishment will overtake us. Now therefore come, let us go and tell the king's household."

"Then they said to one another, 'We are not doing right. This day is a day of good news, but we are keeping silent; if we wait until morning light, punishment will overtake us. Now therefore come, let us go and tell the king's household.'"

This is a day of good news now get on with it! Get out there and tell them! "Don't wait till the morning light," they said.

They feel a sense of urgency. God gifted every one of us so that we can function in the body of Christ, edify others in the body of Christ.

So get busy. Show where we are by our life and our lips. This "is a day of good news."

Remember that account of Jesus in the ascension in Acts 1? The last words Jesus said were, "But you shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you. And you shall be witnesses unto Me, both in Jerusalem (that's right where you are), Judea (that's your surrounding counties), Samaria (that's the city to the north that you hate), and the uttermost part of the earth."

What did they say after that? "After these things He was lifted up while they were looking on. And a cloud received Him out

of their sight. And as they were gazing intently into the sky, while He was departing, two men in white clothing stood beside them. And they said, ‘Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go up into heaven.’”

“Why are you standing around here looking in the sky? Get on with what he just told you to do. He’s going to be coming again, just like you saw Him go up. So get on with the task of telling others.”

“This...is a day of good news,”

But it’s easy to be part of the silent majority, isn’t it? Become scared because we don’t have all our arguments straight. Afraid somebody will pin us high to the wall.

We shouldn’t worry about that. We should just be faithful to radiate the Lord Jesus Christ, live Him before others, share Him as we get the opportunity. Don’t apologize for Him. These four lepers, they’re not even going to wait until morning.

“come, let’s go tell the king’s household.”

Now we’re going to see the king.

v. 10 So they came and called to the gatekeepers of the city, and they told them, saying, “We came to the camp of the Syrians, and behold, there was no one

there, nor the voice of man, only the horses tied and the donkeys tied, and the tents just as they were.”

“So they came and called to the gatekeepers of the city, and they told them, saying, ‘We came to the camp of the Syrians, and behold, there was no one there, nor the voice of man, only the horses tied and the donkeys tied, and the tents just as they were.’”

They come to the gatekeepers and they have this wild news, they say, “Man you won’t believe it but we’re full. We’ll tell you that. We’ve been feasting up a storm. We went out there and there wasn’t anybody there. Donkeys, horses, everything tied in their places. Bright shining faces, but no people! Nothing! We just ate and ate and ate and here we are. We’ve come back to tell you.”

Well we can tell the old gatekeeper he turns around, gets his security and he says, “Oh Jehoram gets out in his pajamas.” It’s getting toward night and it says the gatekeepers called and they told it to the king’s household.”

v. 11 And the gatekeepers called, and told it within the king’s household.

“And the gatekeepers called, and told it within the king’s household.”

Here comes Jehoram.

v. 12 Then the king arose in the night and said to his servants, “I will now tell you what the Syrians have done to us. They know that we are hungry; therefore they have gone from the camp to hide themselves in the field, saying, ‘When they come out of the city, we shall capture them alive and get into the city.’”

“Then the king arose in the night”—here he comes—“and said to his servants, ‘I will now tell you what the Syrians have done to us.’”

Here comes the explanation:

“They know that we are hungry;”—right on Jehoram—
“therefore they have gone from the camp to hide themselves in the field,”—they’re going to play hide-and-go-seek—“saying, ‘When they come out of the city, we shall capture them alive and get into the city.’”

“You know what they’re doing? They’re hiding out in the bushes. And as soon as we step outside the city they’re going to nail us. They’re going to get us! They’re going to wait just till we get down there, ready to eat, and then they’re going to come and grab us and they’re going to get the city. That’s the way it’s going to be.”

Now isn’t that just like a guy who doesn’t have a relationship with God? This morning he heard about it but he didn’t

believe it, did he? He just kept his mouth shut up there when Elisha said this was going to happen.

He couldn't even think that this just might be what God was going to do to meet the need. He couldn't even figure that out.

We've seen him twice before and both times he's been bad. The first time he meets Elisha he says, "Yep, God brought us out here to get into the hands of the Moabites. They're going to kill us. We're all going to die of thirst."

We know what the Lord said. The Lord gave him water, gave him victory. Just the opposite of what he thought.

The second time we saw him Naaman came trucking in with this note saying, "You know, heal this guy of his leprosy." And then old Jehoram thinks that the king of Syria has worked it out to kill him.

"My God, can I do that?" He rinses his clothes and he's just bent out of shape. And here he is again. He's got natural explanations for everything that happens.

He tells the guy, "You know, just don't bother. Just don't because I can just tell you what's going to happen. It's dark now and if we go out there, something's going to happen. It's going to be bad."

**v. 13 And one of his servants answered and said,
"Please, let some men take five of the horses which**

remain, which are left in the city. Behold, they will be in any case like all the multitude of Israel who are left in it; behold, they will be in any case like all the multitude of Israel who have already perished, so let us send and see.”

“And one of his servants answered and said, ‘Please, let some men take five of the horses which remain,”

And many of the horses have already died and they’ve had sales on horse meat and all that.

“which are left in the city. Behold, they will be in any case like all the multitude of Israel who are left in it; behold, they will be in any case like all the multitude of Israel who have already perished, so let us send and see.”

Now doesn’t that sound like the wisdom of the four lepers at the gate? He comes and he says, “Hey look man, you know we never look a gift horse in the mouth. Let’s check this thing out. Could you just let five guys take five of the horses that remain? Let them just ride down, let them just check it out just to see if it might be? Would you please sir?”

Well, at least the king is approachable—verse 14. He doesn’t get the five horses but they got a couple of chariots with horses.

v. 14 They took therefore two chariots with horses, and the king sent after the army of the Syrians, saying,

“Go and see.”

“They took therefore two chariots with horses, and the king sent after the army of the Syrians, saying, ‘Go and see.’”

“Why don’t you go yourself Jehoram so you can see? I’m staying here at the house where it’s safe. I know they’re hiding in the woods.”

v. 15 And they went after them to the Jordan, and behold, all the way was full of clothes and equipment, which the Syrians had thrown away in their haste. Then the messengers returned and told the king.

“And they went after them to the Jordan, and behold, all the way was full of clothes and equipment, which the Syrians had thrown away in their haste. Then the messengers returned and told the king.”

These guys were so scared by the Hittites and the Egyptians, supposedly. They kept hearing these noises, they kept throwing away cameras, swords, anything that would impede their haste—backpacks and the whole thing. Clothes laying all over the place as they’re heading toward the Jordan to get out of there because they’re feeling sure that they’re getting close.

When we read that we think of another neat passage in the New Testament.

Hebrews 12:1, 2

Seeing we are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that's set before him, endured the cross, despising the shame and is set down at the right hand of the Father.

He's already finished and we need to be stripping down and running for all we're worth. Straightened up priorities with haste and with urgency we're running.

They're a picture of what our life ought to be like as a Christian. These days we should be saying with the Lord Jesus, "Don't stay there four months and then come with harvest. Behold I say unto you, 'Lift up your eyes and look on the fields. They're white already.'" (ref. John 4:35) "Now get after it."

The opportunities are here. Get with the program.

Well it says that in verse 15—"the messengers returned and told the king" what they'd seen.

v. 16 So the people went out and plundered the camp of the Syrians. Then a measure of fine flour was sold for a shekel and two measures of barley for a

shekel, according to the word of the Lord.

“So the people went out and plundered the camp of the Syrians. Then a measure of fine flour was sold for a shekel and two measures of barley for a shekel, according to the word of the Lord.”

Chew on that for a minute.

The Lord Jesus has promised to come again. The Word of God says that very clearly in several places. In the Upper Room with the disciples He said, “You guys don’t sweat it. Quit being troubled in your hearts. You believe in God, believe also in Me. In Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so I would have told you. I’m going to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I’m going to come again and receive you unto myself, that where I am there you may be also.” (see John 14:1-3)

The apostle Paul tells us that the Lord’s going to “descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel the trumpet of God. The dead in Christ are gonna rise first and we which are alive and remain are going to be caught up together with them to meet the Lord in the air.” (see 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17)

We read stuff like that and we think, “Oh that’s going to be a lot of science fiction or something.” Watch it. We might see it and won’t enjoy it.

The psalmist warns us about making our seat in the seat of the scornful, scoffing at the Word of God. (see Psalm 1:1)

“Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stand in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord.” (ref. Psalm 1:1-2)

Four-fifths of Bible prophecy has already been fulfilled and it has been fulfilled literally, word for word. That is some kind of record. Over 300 prophetic statements were fulfilled when Christ said, “Tetelestai! It is finished!” when He died upon the cross for man’s sin.

That leaves only one-fifth. When we have a four-fifths track record literal, we have to take the one-fifth literal too. And this guy, this servant who sits there and scoffs at the beginning has to see that it’s “according to the word of the Lord.”

Elisha said, “Come out this time. You’re going to get flour for sixty-five cents a bushel.” That guy says, “That can’t be. This God makes windows out of heaven, brings it in here.”

God’s not limited to our preconceived notions and ideas about how He’s going to make the provision. But He will fulfill His Word literally.

Now why do we say that? Because we should believe it and that’ll settle it. Don’t argue about it. If the Lord said it, believe

it. That'll settle it. We can count on it. We can stake our life on it. Because the Lord is going to be faithful even in impossible circumstances to fulfill exactly what He said in His Word.

v. 17 Now the king appointed the royal officer on whose hand he leaned to have charge of the gate; but the people trampled on him at the gate, and he died just as the man of God had said, who spoke when the king came down to him.

“Now the king appointed the royal officer on whose hand he leaned to have charge of the gate; but the people trampled on him at the gate,”

He got trampled at the gate:

“and he died as the man of God had said, who spoke when the king came down to him.”

He's killed in a stampede of a hungry mob who are getting to the provision! He heard it, he saw it, but he never enjoyed it.

Now we look at those next two verses and say, “Why in the world are those repeated?”

Well, when God says something twice He's saying, “sit up, take notice because I really mean this.” And if He says it three times, boy oh boy, we better listen.

Like he says three times in a row and the writer to the book of

Hebrews, “Harden not your hearts in the day of conviction. Harden not your hearts in the day of conviction. You’re convicted, don’t harden your heart. You’re convicted, don’t harden your heart. You’re convicted, don’t harden your heart!”

To Peter He said, “Do you love Me?” That’s not enough. “Peter do you love Me?” That’s not enough. “Peter, do you love Me?” Get the message friend! When it’s repeated at least three times or when it’s even repeated twice. The Lord is saying, “Put double underlines under that.” And that’s what’s happening right here.

v. 18 And it came about just as the man of God had spoken to the king, saying, “Two measures of barley for a shekel and a measure of fine flour for a shekel shall be sold tomorrow about this time at the gate of Samaria.”

“And it came about just as the man of God had spoken to the king, saying, “Two measures of barley for a shekel and a measure of fine flour for a shekel, shall be sold tomorrow about this time at the gate of Samaria.”

v. 19 Then the royal officer answered the man of God and said, “Now behold, if the Lord should make windows in heaven, could such a thing be?” And he said, “Behold, you shall see it with your own eyes, but you shall not eat of it.”

“Then the royal officer answered the man of God and said,

‘Now behold, if the Lord should make windows in heaven, could such a thing be?’ And he said, ‘Behold, you shall see it with your own eyes, but you shall not eat of it.’”

v. 20 And so it happened to him, for the people trampled on him at the gate, and he died.

“And so it happened to him, for the people trampled on him at the gate, and he died.”

See the road just opens this chapter with the very statements that are prophetic. But he ends it with a repetition of it so that we’ll get the message that when God says it, it will happen.

When the Lord speaks to us and He makes a promise to us, we can count on the fulfillment of it. It’ll really be a blessing for us to see how it’s going to happen. Don’t try to anticipate it, don’t try to work it out. If God has spoken to us clearly through His Word about what He’s going to do, get excited in anticipation to see that provision.

Now there are a lot of lessons that come out of this particular passage so let’s take a few minutes to lay some of them out.

Lesson #1: I think we are impressed with the fact that what the Lord has promised He will faithfully perform. (See Ephesians 3:20).

He will always “do exceeding abundantly above all we ask or

think.” We see that so beautifully in Ephesians 3:20.

He makes the provision beyond our expectations. It’s a delight to see God faithfully fulfill His promises.

Lesson #2: Many times the Lord stirs up circumstances around us to get us to respond to Him. He uses an economic crisis (famine) to get the attention of the children of Israel.

Just because we’re having a rough time doesn’t mean that the Lord’s mad at us. It means the Lord is working in our life, creating an environment for fruitfulness. He wants us to respond.

Many times we pray, “Make me like the Lord Jesus. I just want to be like Christ.” Then He puts His hand on us and starts to work and we just go bananas.

Don’t ever pray for patience, we’ll get an opportunity to exercise it.

Lesson #3: Just as the Lord allowed a famine in the land of the Prodigal Son to bring him to his senses, so it is the design of the Father here, to bring Jehoram and the people of Israel back to Himself.

Or maybe we ask the Lord to do a work in our life, He is limited to one tool and that’s suffering. And here these people are resistant. They’re not responding at all! And so the Lord puts His hand on them through this event. The Lord stirs up

circumstances to get us to respond to Him.

Lesson #4: It is a serious thing to scoff at the message of the Lord, for “whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.” (See Galatians 6:7)

Lesson #5: What are you doing to help spread the message of good news?

What are you doing to help spread the good news about the Lord Jesus Christ? Are we taking opportunities to share Him with others?

“Where there is no vision, the people perish.” (ref. Proverbs 29:18)

Are we holding forth the word of life as a light? Are we afraid to talk about it for fear that somebody will make fun of us? This is a day of good news. What are we doing personally to share?

These four lepers are not going to wait until morning. They’re so excited. They get on with doing it right now.

Lesson #6: Jehoram’s negative attitude is an indication of his lack of relationship with God.

Every time we’ve seen him he’s been negative. It only indicates the lack of a relationship with God.

Lesson #7: When you consider all the alternatives you come up with one answer. We are all going to die! It is just a question of when. Wouldn't it be best to prepare to meet God now?

Lord, You know the circumstances that surround the lives of each one of us. You know those who are letting other things be more important in their life than their relationship with You. And You're convicting them right now because they're so burdened and bogged down with things that are really not important. We pray that there might be some rearrangement of priority and we say, "Lord, I really let You slip way down on my list. I want You in first place. I want to see to it that if everything else has to fall apart, I'm going to spend time with You. This is a day of good news and I want to be Your instrument." Lord, we just pray that out of that will come a well-ordered, disciplined life that will really begin to see the pieces fall together because You're the one directing it. Lord if there's someone who does not know Christ as Savior, that right now before this study's over they'll come to personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and allow Christ to come into their life. We thank You for the great work You're doing here. For those who are having a phenomenal impact in the lives of others, we pray to encourage them and know the feeding at Your Word will be a fresh encouragement to them. Keep us Lord serious about Your Word, knowing that when we don't understand it, help us to reserve our judgment and to wait for You to make it clear how You're going to fulfill it. Keep us from trying to anticipate Your will and learn how more effectively to trust You on a daily basis. In Jesus' name we

pray. Amen.

What You Need to Know About ELISHA:

**“Heir of the Spirit:
‘What wish shall I grant you
before I am taken away’ (2 Kings 2:9)”**

Study Number Six – 2 Kings 2:12-25

Notes

v. 1 Then Elisha said, “Listen to the word of the Lord; thus says the Lord, “Tomorrow about this time a measure of fine flour shall be sold for a shekel, and two measures of barley for a shekel, in the gate of Samaria.”

v. 2 And the royal officer on whose hand the king was leaning answered the man of God and said, “Behold, if the Lord should make windows in heaven, could this thing be?” Then he said, “Behold you shall see it with your own eyes, but you shall not eat of it.”

v. 3 Now there were four leprous men at the entrance of the gate; and they said to one another, “Why do we sit here until we die?”

v. 4 If we say, ‘We will enter the city,’ then the famine is in the city and we shall die there; and if we sit here, we die also. Now therefore come, and let us go over to the camp of the Syrians. If they spare us, we shall live; and if they kill us, we shall but die.”

v. 5 And they arose at twilight to go to the camp of the Syrians; when they came to the outskirts of the camp of the Syrians, behold, there was no one there.

v. 6 For the Lord had caused the army of the Syrians to hear a sound of chariots and a sound of horses, even the sound of a great army, so that they said to one another, “Behold, the king of Israel has hired against us the kings of the Hittites and the kings of the Egyptians, to come upon us.”

v. 7 Therefore they arose and fled in the twilight, and left their tents and their horses and their donkeys, even the camp just as it was, and fled for their life.

Notes

v. 8 When these lepers came to the outskirts of the camp, they entered one tent and ate and drank, and carried from there silver and gold and clothes, and went and hid them; and they returned and entered another tent and carried from there also, and went and hid them.

v. 9 Then they said to one another, “We are not doing right. This day is a day of good news, but we are keeping silent; if we wait until morning light, punishment will overtake us. Now therefore come, let us go and tell the king’s household.”

v. 10 So they came and called to the gatekeepers of the city, and they told them, saying, “We came to the camp of the Syrians, and behold, there was no one there, nor the voice of man, only the horses tied and the donkeys tied, and the tents just as they were.”

v. 11 And the gatekeepers called, and told it within the king’s household.

v. 12 Then the king arose in the night and said to his servants, “I will now tell you what the Syrians have done to us. They know that we are hungry; therefore they have gone from the camp to hide themselves in the field, saying, ‘When they come out of the city, we shall capture them alive and get into the city.’”

v. 13 And one of his servants answered and said, “Please, let some men take five of the horses which remain, which are left in the city. Behold, they will be in any case like all the multitude of Israel who are left in it; behold, they will be in any case like all the multitude of Israel who have already perished, so let us send and see.”

v. 14 They took therefore two chariots with horses, and the king sent after the army of the Syrians, saying, “Go and see.”

v. 15 And they went after them to the Jordan, and behold, all the way was full of clothes and equipment, which the Syrians had thrown away in their haste. Then the messengers returned and told the king.

v. 16 So the people went out and plundered the camp of the Syrians. Then a measure of fine flour was sold for a shekel and two measures of barley for a shekel, according to the word of the Lord.

v. 17 Now the king appointed the royal officer on whose hand he leaned to have charge of the gate; but the people trampled on him at the gate, and he died just as the man of God had said, who spoke when the king came down to him.

Notes

v. 18 And it came about just as the man of God had spoken to the king, saying, “Two measures of barley for a shekel and a measure of fine flour for a shekel, shall be sold tomorrow about this time at the gate of Samaria.”

v. 19 Then the royal officer answered the man of God and said, “Now behold, if the Lord should make windows in heaven, could such a thing be?” And he said, “Behold, you shall see it with your own eyes, but you shall not eat of it.”

v. 20 And so it happened to him, for the people trampled on him at the gate, and he died.

QUESTIONS:

1. Read 2 Kings 7:1-20 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. What is Elisha’s prophecy in verse 1?

3. What is the royal officer’s response to this message from the man of God, according to verse 2?

4. Describe the reasoning of the four lepers in verses 3-5.

5. What caused the Syrians to leave their encampment?

6. What do the lepers decide to do in verse 9?

7. Describe the response of the king and the people to the message of the four lepers.

8. What happened to the royal officer in verse 17?

9. Which verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: I think we are impressed with the fact that what the Lord has promised He will faithfully perform. (See Ephesians 3:20).

LESSON #2: Many times the Lord stirs up circumstances around us to get us to respond to Him. He uses an economic crisis (famine) to get the attention of the children of Israel.

LESSON #3: Just as the Lord allowed a famine in the land of the Prodigal Son to bring him to his senses, so it is the design of the Father here, to bring Jehoram and the people of Israel back to Himself.

LESSON #4: It is a serious thing to scoff at the message of the Lord, for “whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.” (See Galatians 6:7)

LESSON #5: What are you doing to help spread the message of good news?

LESSON #6: Jehoram’s negative attitude is an indication of his lack of relationship with God.

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