

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 Seven – 2 Kings 8:1-15

In tracing the life of Elisha to this point, we’ve watched him take over for Elijah. We’ve seen him perform quite a few miracles.

First of all, he went to the city of Jericho. And he went from there up to the city of Bethel and then on up to Samaria, which is headquarters for him. He was actually asked by three kings to be a guide to a battle against the Moabites and he entered into international significance at that point in his ministry.

We watched him in a personal way minister to students. We saw the Lord prosper and bless his ministry. We saw him heal leprosy in the situation with Naaman, the general from Syria.

We’ve watched him as he has become very popular and seen his ministry expand as the seminary was limited and the men helped in the building of it.

In our last study we saw the nation plunged into deep poverty

during an economic crisis. This crisis was so bad that the people had even stooped to cannibalism within the city walls.

Elisha comes on the scene and tells them there's going to be a provision. It's going to be taken care of. And we met four lepers that we loved. Their philosophy was fantastic. And out of that story there were a lot of lessons that came.

People are very slow learners sometimes because we see the same tragic thing just about ready to happen again. As far as the children of Israel are concerned, the land of Samaria, they're going to suffer from another famine.

We can't help but think of another passage in Isaiah. The Lord happens to be the one who's speaking and He's talking about His people. He says:

Isaiah 1:2-6

Listen, O heavens, and hear, O earth, [He's talking to His inanimate creation because His people don't listen to Him and He says] Sons I have reared and brought up, but they have revolted against Me. An ox knows its owner, and a donkey its master's manger, but Israel does not know. My people do not understand. Alas, sinful nation, people weighed down with iniquity; offspring of evil doers, sons who act corruptly. They have abandoned the Lord. They have despised the Holy One of Israel. They have turned away from Him. Where will you be stricken again, as you continue in your rebellion? The whole head is sick, and the whole heart is faint, from the sole of the

foot, even to the head, there is nothing sound in it. Only bruises, welts and raw wounds...

Now God, after we come into His family, doesn't just leave us to our own devices. We can plan that His strong hand of discipline is going to guide and direct our steps. And when we revolt and when we're stubborn and we're defiant we can expect that there are going to be times of real severity as we resist what He's trying to do in our lives.

And so as we open this particular chapter we're going to see that it's going to be the most severe of all. God loves us too much to let us just go our own way. And so He is dealing with this nation Israel in their continuing sin and it's becoming more and more severe.

Let's pick up at verse 1 of 2 Kings chapter 8.

v. 1 Now Elisha spoke to the woman whose son he had restored to life, saying, "Arise and go with your household, and sojourn wherever you can sojourn; for the Lord has called for a famine, and it shall even come on the land for seven years."

"Now Elisha spoke to the woman whose son he had restored to life, saying, 'Arise and go with your household, and sojourn wherever you can sojourn; for the Lord has called for a famine, and it shall even come on the land for seven years.'"

Remember when we met the woman at Shunam? What a

beautiful person she was. She was generous, she was godly, she was good and she was gracious. She was spiritual, she was submissive, she was sensitive, and she had a servant's heart.

And remember that as Elisha went up to Mount Carmel to spend time with the Lord he'd always go through Shunam on his way back to Samaria and he'd stop off there to eat.

The lady at Shunam even asked her husband if they could get a home improvement loan so that they could build a prophet's chamber so he could spend the night there at their place. On numerous occasions he'd been there.

Now what we see here is Elisha had been on one of those retreats. He'd been up in the hill country at Mount Carmel. And he'd been spending time with the Lord.

And he was probably saying, "Lord, I've been a leader in this country for a long time and the people are not listening. Lord, I've done everything that I know to do. I've been directed by You, I've been led by You, I have pleaded with these people, I've preached Your message, I told them what's going to happen. They've been through all kinds of severity, heartbreak, famine and Lord they're still stubborn and they're revolting against You. And Lord I just don't know what to do."

And the Lord makes it quite clear that what's going to happen is, this time it's going to be seven years.

Now the significance of that is this, when Elijah was the

leader, before Elisha, God called for a period of three and a half years. Now it's seven. What's that tell us? That tells us when we don't learn the first time, the second lesson's going to be a little bit tougher and a little bit worse.

God loves us too much. And when we constantly resist, when we're slow learners and we're unwilling to return, the judgment is going to become more and more difficult. They should have learned from the previous experience, but no.

Neither does Jehoram, the leader. He should have learned from his daddy's experience—Ahab—but he didn't. There is something we also need to notice in verse 1 before we go on to the next verse and that's this, God can use the natural phenomenon around us to chasten and discipline us as His children.

What's he saying? He says to this beautiful, godly woman, "Look, I've got a message straight from the Lord. And that message is this, there's going to be an economic crisis in the land for the next seven years. And what I'd suggest to you is that you take your family and you just pack up and you go someplace and stay there outside of the land where you can exist during these next years."

v. 2 So the woman arose and did according to the word of the man of God, and she went with her household and sojourned in the land of the Philistines seven years.

“So the woman arose and did according to the word of the man of God, and she went with her household and sojourned in the land of the Philistines for seven years.”

That’s a miracle. The Philistines were a tough force. They hated the Israelites and the very fact that she could exist there in the boundaries of that country for seven years had to be a major miracle.

Now we remember that the beautiful story of the book of Ruth there’s a similar account. Elimelech and Naomi and their two sons go down to the Moabites and live during a time of famine from the city of Bethlehem.

While they are there the two boys meet two beautiful girls, Ruth and Orpah, who are Moabitesses, and end up married to them. And then all three of the men die as a result of a plague and Naomi and Ruth return back to the land, after the time of famine had passed.

Here we have another picture of that. And this is a graphic picture of what God’s people do to escape the judgment that’s going to come.

Foreshadowed in this little account we have a picture of what it’s going to be like when a church escapes the great tribulation that is going to come upon all the world.

We’re living in exciting times. We’re living on the brink of God’s final and complete judgment upon the world. And just

like this woman has the announcement to escape it, go somewhere else where we won't be involved in it, so God is going to call His church home and that could happen today.

If someone is without Jesus Christ they should be shaking in their boots, knowing what we do about the world situation, the line-up of nations, the fact that Israel's in existence. They can't put their head in the sand for one minute and delay a second, or breathe another breath until allowing Jesus Christ to come into their life so they are prepared, the fact that He could come.

Just like Noah and his family got into the ark and God shut the door and the rains of judgment came and they were protected, God's going to call His bride the church home and judgment is going to come.

Elisha now goes back into Samaria and she departs for the next seven years with her family down to a city of the Philistines where she can be economically cared for.

v. 3 And it came about at the end of seven years, that the woman returned from the land of the Philistines; and she went out to appeal to the king for her house and for her field.

“And it came about at the end of seven years, that the woman returned from the land of the Philistines; and she went out to appeal to the king for her house and for her field.”

We can really tell when we're in the center of God's will by the fact that He just works things out so perfect. The longer we walk with the Lord, the less we are amazed at how neat little things just kind of happen that are there and they're such a blessing to us. And we just say, "That just couldn't have worked out that way." But it did.

And we're just scratching our head in amazement about how good God is.

Now here she comes. She's a woman who's godly, she's coming back and she knows that she's left her house for seven years and probably some people are living in it now. And she comes back and she's going to go before this godless king. Remember Jehoram? He's the guy with mental B.O. Always Mr. Negative. Super down on anything that's spiritual—son of Ahab.

And she's going to come before him and make this request. And look at this. The timing is so perfect.

v. 4 Now the king was talking with Gehazi, the servant of the man of God, saying, "Please relate to me all the great things that Elisha has done."

"Now the king was talking with Gehazi,"

Now remember Gehazi. He was that hotdog servant who had all the greed in his heart. As a result he didn't want to look a gift horse in the mouth so he went and got the money and

ended up with leprosy in 2 Kings 5.

He was probably one of those four guys in our last study. One of the four lepers who were in that account was sitting outside the city. And out of appreciation for all of that, Jehoram has invited him up.

When they called that night and said, “Hey men, got the greatest news in the world. The famine’s over. We’ve been in the camp of the Syrians and there’s more food than we can eat!”

Jehoram was grateful to him for that. And so he invited him over for dinner. That’s what they’re probably doing. Just having a little time together. And the text says as:

“the king was talking to Gehazi, the servant of the man of God, saying, ‘Please relate to me all the great things that Elisha has done.’”

Now what’s wrong with that statement? It’s the great things that GOD has done to Elisha, but he can’t see that.

“We’re having just a little appreciation time. We’re just going to talk about the great things that Elisha’s done. Now Gehazi, just share a few of those things with me.”

We can almost hear old Gehazi: “Well let me tell you, the first time I met him he parted the waters of the Jordan, walked across there, went up to Jericho and was met by the water

quality board and cured their water situation. Then he went up to Bethel and I saw those she-bears come out of the wood and wipe 42 of those guys. And you know, I went on up and I saw a woman at the seminary whose husband died and he provided oil for her. Then I saw him also change a poison stew into being good enough for the seminary students to eat. And I saw him provide food. And I saw him deal with old General Naaman. You know, you remember that? When he took care of the lepers in that situation. And how he gave to that woman at Shunam the promise that God would give her a son. And she had a son. That son died and he gave back life to that son.”

He’s just going on account after account of all these great things he’s seen. And as he’s talking:

v. 5 And it came about, as he was relating to the king how he had restored to life the one who was dead, that behold, the woman whose son he had restored to life, appealed to the king for her house and for her field. And Gehazi said, “My lord, O king, this is the woman and this is her son, whom Elisha restored to life.”

“And it came about,”—verse 5. Isn’t that perfect timing?

“as he was relating to the king how he had restored to life the one who was dead, that behold, the woman whose son he had restored to life, appealed to the king for her house and for her field. And Gehazi said, ‘My lord, O king, this is the woman

and this is her son, whom Elisha restored to life.”

The Bible says in:

Galatians 4:4

When the fullness of time was come, God sent forth His Son.

We might think God's late, but He's not. He's always on time. We're the ones in a hurry.

That's like Phillips Brooks said, “What's wrong with you Phillip?” And he said, “Well I'm in a hurry and God's not.”

Satan rushes men, God leads them. Never act in panic nor allow man to dictate. We must calm ourselves and force ourselves into the closet because when we're most eager to act is when we make the most pitiful mistake. Now slow down and let God be God. He's always on time.

Remember in John 11 when Jesus had been wailed on by the people in Jerusalem and then had His life taken? He heads on up to Galilee and low and behold He gets a telegram and it's from his favorite people—Mary and Martha—and they say that Lazarus is very sick. They say, “Hurry down here.” He delays for four days and then he goes down. And when He gets there Lazarus has already been dead for four days.

Now we know if we went around the city of Bethany and asked, “How many of you people think Jesus was late?” We

would get a hundred percent.

“Well it’s obvious He’s four days late!” Now from our perspective—and if we went to Mary, what would she say? “Well if you’d been here my brother wouldn’t have died.” That’s what she said. What did Martha say? “If you’d been here my brother would not have died. The very fact that you weren’t here, he died. It’s been four days and you’re four days late.”

Now that would be the first time in history God’s Son was late, right? Well, we can say that but He was late for the glory of God because every Jew, if Lazarus had been raised from the dead a day early, would have said, “Well, the spirit was still swooping around the tomb and he just got back in the body and came out.”

But when a guy’s been in a tomb for four days, he’s dead. His spirit is flat gone after four days, but not before. So when Jesus walked over there and they rolled away that stone and He said, “Lazarus come forth,” they better be thankful He said “Lazarus come forth.” Because if He’d have said “Come forth,” He’d have emptied the whole graveyard.

That’s sovereign power speaking at that point. And He wasn’t late. He was right on time.

So many times, we get in such a twist because He gets on our case and we seem like He’s really late. But He’s not. In His own perfect timing—we just wait until all the facts are in. We

don't have a right to an opinion. And when we finally see the picture, He's going to be right on schedule.

Now some of us might be really upset about the fact that He's delaying in giving us answers to our prayers. We think God delights to delay an answer to our prayers. You better believe it and we shouldn't ever say that He doesn't. Why? Because while He's delaying, we're dependent.

While He's delaying, He has us right where He loves us. We're just waiting on Him every minute to find out an answer. And He loves that. That's perfect for Him. Because as long as He restrains in giving an answer, we're just really agonizing in prayer before Him and we're dependent upon Him and we're trusting and we're waiting for Him. He loves that! That's what He does a lot of times.

But right on schedule! It's beautiful, sovereign intervention.

"it came about, as he was relating to the king how he had restored to life the one who was dead, but behold, the woman whose son was restored to life, appealed to the king for her house and for her field."

"Hey man look here she is right here! Flesh and blood! Just talking about her son and here's the mother herself."

And Jehoram, he just pushes the chair back and stands up like a good southern gentleman. She comes walking in the room and he's willing to do anything for her.

“Gehazi said, ‘My lord, O king, this is the woman and this is her son,’

“Here he is right here. Let him tell you himself.”

“whom Elisha restored to life.”

What perfect timing.

There are so many times God so perfectly prepares the circumstances so that it's exactly at the right time and in the right place and things happen that are so beautiful. And the only way we can explain the timing is, God did it! And it just is such a marvelous witness to His love and grace.

v. 6 When the king asked the woman, she related it to him. So the king appointed for her a certain officer, saying, “Restore all that was hers and all the produce of the field from the day that she left the land even until now.”

“When the king asked the woman, she related it to him.”

Man he just says, “Oh sit down. This is so exciting. I’ve got to hear this story myself.” And so she tells the story to him.

“So the king appointed for her a certain officer,” and while she’s telling the story she also gave a little request. The fact that she’d like to have her land back. And look at what

happened.

“the king appointed for her a certain officer saying, ‘Restore all that was hers and all the produce of the field from the day that she left the land even until now.’”

Talk about, it was a miracle getting out to go to the Philistines. It’s a miracle getting back in. She gets her home, plus she gets the produce from everybody who has worked on that land for the last seven years. Now it wasn’t very much during an economic crunch, but at least it was something to get a body and soul together and get things back and get settled down again.

That reminds us of another verse in Ephesians where Paul says:

Ephesians 3:20

Now unto him who is able to do exceeding abundant above all we can ask or think.

She hardly makes a request for the house and God gives her the house back and all the existence on that land for the years that she’s been gone.

v. 7 Then Elisha came to Damascus. Now Ben-hadad king of Syria was sick, and it was told him, saying, “The man of God has come here.”

“Then Elisha came to Damascus.”

Now we’re going to move away from Samaria and we’re going north to the city of Damascus. Evidently Elisha’s ministry has spread out and expanded to the point where he had entrée into these other cities. And Damascus is one of them—home of the Syrians, up there where old Naaman lived.

“Then Elisha came to Damascus. Now Ben-hadad king of Syria was sick, and it was told him, saying, ‘The man of God has come here.’”

The king of Syria was the one who tried to get Elisha when he was telling all the secrets. Tried to kill him. And now Elisha’s got entrée into the city.

v. 8 And the king said to Hazael, “Take a gift in your hand and go to meet the man of God, and inquire of the Lord by him, saying, ‘Will I recover from this sickness?’”

“And the king said to Hazael, ‘Take a gift in your hand and go to meet the man of God, and inquire of the Lord by him, saying, “Will I recover from this sickness?”’”

Now just like he had done a favor for Naaman, his general, he’s asking a favor for himself. He forgets the fact that he was trying to take his life earlier. But now that he’s getting sick and the chips are down, he’s going to go to anybody to find an answer. So he’s turning to Elisha for the answer.

v. 9 So Hazael went to meet him and took a gift in his hand, even every kind of good thing of Damascus, forty camels' loads; and he came and stood before him and said, "Your son Ben-hadad king of Syria has sent me to you, saying, 'Will I recover from this sickness?'"

"Hazael went to meet him and took a gift in his hand, even every kind of good thing of Damascus, forty camels' loads; and he came and stood before him and said, 'Your son Ben-hadad king of Syria has sent me to you, saying, "Will I recover from this sickness?'"

Forty camels, loads of food and provision—wanting a favorable answer from Elisha.

To give a little background on Hazael so we have a picture of what he was like. Hazael was anointed to be king over Syria under Elijah's rule. And all these years since Elisha's taken over, Hazael's been standing in the wings praying that Ben-hadad would die, because when he dies he can go to his funeral and he becomes king.

So he's hoping when he goes to Elisha, Elisha is going to in fact say no. He's probably not excited about going on this mission. He's very selfish, he wants to become the king's successor. He's been waiting all these years to take over and he's hoping that the king will not get well so he can become king.

v. 10 Then Elisha said to him, “Go say to him, ‘You shall surely recover,’ but the Lord has shown me that he will certainly die.”

“Then Elisha said to him, ‘Go say to him, “You shall surely recover,” but the Lord has shown me that he will certainly die.””

We think that’s double talk and it’s telling the guy a lie. No it’s not. That’s forming a pre-mature opinion here. Now just a minute, let’s get an explanation for it. And it’s in the next verse.

v. 11 And he fixed his gaze steadily on him until he was ashamed, and the man of God wept.

“And he fixed his gaze steadily on him until he was ashamed, and the man of God wept.”

He looked holes through Hazael. He looked right straight at him and said, “He’ll recover but I know he won’t.” And Hazael starts to look down because he knows in his heart he’s got those feelings of selfishness and hopes for murder, hopes for death, so he can become king.

That reminds us of what’s going to happen to every one of us if we die, or even if we’re taken in rapture today. The very first person that we’re going to meet is Jesus Christ and we’re going to meet His searching gaze.

In Revelation 1 it is a “flame of fire”—a gaze like a flame of fire. And He’ll look right through us.

That’s why the little letter of 1 John says:

1 John 2:28

Live in such a way so that you won’t have to shrink away from Him in shame at His coming.

As He looks right through us. Why would we shrink away in shame? Because we’ve lived with botched up priorities. Because we’ve lived and dissipated all of our energies and talents and abilities for selfish pursuit rather than the accomplishment of His will. And He’s caught us unprepared and we’re not ready to meet Him.

We have these feelings in our heart about what we wanted to do. And so as all things are naked and we’re stripped down before Him we realize that He knows our heart! And as He fixes that gaze upon us, we have to look away in shame or look down.

As Elisha looks at him he becomes ashamed. He has a feeling inside that the man of God knows more than he thinks he knows. And then Elisha starts to weep.

And notice that as the man of God began to weep:

v. 12 And Hazael said, “Why does my lord weep?” Then he answered, “Because I know the evil that you will do to the sons of Israel: their strongholds you will set on fire, and their young men you will kill with the sword, and their little ones you will dash in pieces, and their women with child you will rip up.”

“And Hazael said, ‘Why does my lord weep?’ Then he answered, ‘Because I know the evil that you will do to the sons of Israel: their strongholds you will set on fire, and their young men you will kill with the sword, and their little ones you will dash in pieces, and their women with child you will rip up.’”

Elisha is crying uncontrollably because he knows what Hazael’s going to do when he becomes king in Syria. He’s going to invade the land of Israel.

What God did on Mount Carmel up there was say, “Look, I’m calling for a famine and it’s going to be seven years in length, but it isn’t going to do any good Elisha. I want to tell you one more thing, Hazael’s going to become king in Ben-hadad’s place. And then that country will be My instrument to take them away into captivity because I can’t trust those people anymore as a nation.”

In 721 B.C. the hordes of Syria came down and took this nation Israel, God’s people, into captivity and the nation ceases.

What a tragic judgment. What a tragedy to be forced to that point because of our resistance to what God wants to do to provide a life of blessing for us as His children. But Elisha sees that.

And that's why tears are running down his cheeks, because he's given all of his time and all of his energy and all of his effort to try to bring those people to their senses and to recognize their responsibility before God.

v. 13 Then Hazael said, “But what is your servant, who is but a dog, that he should do this great thing?” And Elisha answered, “The Lord has shown me that you will be king over Syria.”

“Then Hazael said, ‘But what is your servant, who is but a dog, that he should do this great thing?’ And Elisha answered, ‘The Lord has shown me that you will be king over Syria.’”

Just like at the well-played little pretend game about the fact that she wasn't married. The Lord Jesus looked right through her and said, “You're right. You aren't married. You've been married five times and the guy you're living with now is not your husband.” (see John 4)

He pierced right through her because He's the all-knowing and all-seeing Christ. So Elisha tells Hazael what's going to happen.

v. 14 So he departed from Elisha and returned to his

master, who said to him, “What did Elisha say to you?” And he answered, “He told me that you would surely recover.”

“So he departed from Elisha and returned to his master, who said to him, ‘What did Elisha say to you?’ And he answered, ‘He told me that you would surely recover.’”

v. 15 And it came about on the morrow, that he took the cover and dipped it in water and spread it on his face, so that he died. And Hazael became king in his place.

“And it came about on the morrow, that he took the cover and dipped it in water and spread it on his face, so that he died. And Hazael became king in his place.”

Elisha saw that. He saw that he was going to recover but he also saw that in his recovery, Hazael was going to murder him so that he became king.

Now there are a lot of lessons that come out of this study. Let's hit on a few of them.

Lesson #1: How gracious of the Lord to provide through Elisha blessing upon the household of the Shunammite woman during the time of famine.

God has a way of taking care of His own. His provision is always adequate. If we're sensitive to it in a time of need, He'll

supply that need.

How gracious of the Lord to provide through Elisha blessing upon the household of this woman. She had done so much for Elisha in all of his ministry. And what a thrill to let God bless her now for all that she'd done.

Remember, what we sow we're going to reap. And we never sow in vain when we cast our bread upon the waters. When we sacrifice and give of ourselves for the service of the Lord, we'll always be taken care of.

We can trust the Lord to supply our needs as we're faithful unselfishly to give of ourselves to others. This woman has the blessing now. She's reaping what she's sown. She's taken care of Elisha. She's heard his messages from the Lord. She's ordered her life by it and now God is protecting her in a time of judgment.

Lesson #2: We see God's providential dealings with the king and Gehazi to meet the Shunammite woman's needs upon return to the land after the famine. (See Philippians 4:19).

Here's the king and Gehazi talking right at that time about her when she walks in. We see God's providential dealing—the timing is perfect.

When they're talking, she walks in. We see God's providential dealings with the king and Gehazi to meet the Shunamite woman's needs when she returns to the land.

Philippians 4:19

My God shall supply all your needs according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

The Lord supplies NEEDS not WANTS. And if we really want to be a person who is discovering the fact that the Lord is supplying our needs, then get closer and closer to Him so that He can change our wants into legitimate needs.

The closer you get to the Lord the more we're aware of the two and how to distinguish them. And the more content we are to see Him supply our needs. And our wants become His desires and the delight to fulfil them in His own time and His own way.

Lesson #3: How exceeding abundantly does the Lord provide for His own. For the king also said that the produce of the field from the day that she had left the land even until now shall be hers.

She asked for her house back. He gave her the house, all the property, plus all the produce from the previous seven years to take care of her.

Lesson #4: How fickle is the heart of man when Ben-hadad in one moment is seeking to kill Elisha, and on another occasion is seeking a favor from him.

We can count on it getting rougher if we're a slow learner. And if we're resisting what God's trying to tell us right now, plan on it being tougher before it gets better.

Stress increases as we resist what He's trying to do in our lives. He went from three and a half years of famine to seven years.

Lesson #5: All of the events of our lives are certainly known to the Lord. (See Hebrews 4:13).

He knew all about the famine, he knew all about the fact that Hazael was going to kill Ben-hadad and become king. And he knows even ahead of time that judgment is going to come upon Israel through the Syrians.

Lesson #6: Elisha manifests his love and compassion for the wayward nation of Israel through his tears.

Elisha's tears manifest his love for Israel. He wanted them to respond so badly.

Lesson #7: How literally does the Lord fulfill the prophecy in the death of Ben-hadad, and the assuming of the throne by Hazael who became king of Syria.

Now we can take that principle and apply it to the future. Four-fifths of Bible prophecy have been fulfilled literally, one-fifth remains.

The Lord's coming soon. He said He was. We can't spiritualize that. We can't delay it. He's going to be on schedule—right on time. Not a minute early and not a minute late. Exactly on target.

Just like His first coming, so His second coming is going to be just like that. We can count on it.

Lesson #8: The Shunamite woman's escaping judgment is a picture of the rapture of the church.

She goes to reside outside the area of judgment during these seven years.

Lesson #9: Stress increases as we resist what God is doing in our lives.

Lesson #10: Supreme selfishness of the human heart in Hazael to stoop to murder for desired objectives.

He can't wait for God to deal with Ben-hadad so that he can get the kingdom legitimately. He takes his life so he can become king. We see the supreme selfishness of the human heart in Hazael taking the life of Ben-hadad.

Lesson #11: Contrast Hazael and the Shunammite woman on God's timing and provision.

Lesson #12: There are tears in the eyes of the Lord now. There will be tears in our eyes later.

Now a couple of questions. Are we right with God through our relationship to the Lord Jesus Christ?

And if we're not, we understand what we need to do in order to establish a relationship with Him.

There's a lot of confusion about that. But basically, if we're still searching for truth, it is found through a personal relationship with the living Christ. Every man and every woman born again and not born again will eventually stand before Christ. It says "every knee will bow and every tongue will confess (willingly and unwillingly) that Jesus Christ is the Lord." (ref. Philippians 2:10-11)

Even those who crucified Him are going to look on Him whom they have pierced and they're going to mourn for Him like an only son.

Paul ran out of words when he said, "Eye hath not seen nor ear heard, neither hath it entered into the heart man the things which the Lord hath prepared for him that love Him." (ref. 1 Corinthians 2:9)

We have a responsibility and we don't have an excuse. Our responsibility is to occupy till He comes. He'll let the pulsating power of the Spirit of God move out through our lives and touch others every day. Make our world a place that can be honored and blessed because there are Christians here who are paying the price, who are walking in fellowship with the

Lord and providing others with an opportunity to come to know Him.

Father, we thank You that across our pathway come so many sacred appointments. People sent by You to refresh us and encourage us. Lord, much in this study that we're taking away more than we ever gave as Your servant, because of the encouragement, the study, the enthusiasm. We pray now that Your Holy Spirit will meet each person in the area of need. For anyone without Christ we pray that right now they'll acknowledge their sin and ask Jesus Christ to come into their lives. Then having asked Him to come in, to express their faith by thanking Him for coming into their lives. We thank You that You don't coerce us or force Your way upon us. Your Spirit convicts us through the Word and we see our need and we respond by an act of our will. We pray that out of the life of Elisha there comes some principles and some lessons to have proven to be a great source of encouragement. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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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 Seven – 2 Kings 8:1-15

Notes

v. 1 Now Elisha spoke to the woman whose son he had restored to life, saying, “Arise and go with your household, and sojourn wherever you can sojourn; for the Lord has called for a famine, and it shall even come on the land for seven years.”

v. 2 So the woman arose and did according to the word of the man of God, and she went with her household and sojourned in the land of the Philistines seven years.

v. 3 And it came about at the end of seven years, that the woman returned from the land of the Philistines; and she went out to appeal to the king for her house and for her field.

v. 4 Now the king was talking with Gehazi, the servant of the man of God, saying, “Please relate to me all the great things that Elisha has done.”

v. 5 And it came about, as he was relating to the king how he had restored to life the one who was dead, that behold, the woman whose son he had restored to life, appealed to the king for her house and for her field. And Gehazi said, “My lord, O king, this is the woman and this is her son, whom Elisha restored to life.”

v. 6 When the king asked the woman, she related it to him. So the king appointed for her a certain officer, saying, “Restore all that was hers and all the produce of the field from the day that she left the land even until now.”

v. 7 Then Elisha came to Damascus. Now Ben-hadad king of Syria was sick, and it was told him, saying, “The man of God has come here.”

Notes

v. 8 And the king said to Hazael, “Take a gift in your hand and go to meet the man of God, and inquire of the Lord by him, saying, ‘Will I recover from this sickness?’”

v. 9 So Hazael went to meet him and took a gift in his hand, even every kind of good thing of Damascus, forty camels’ loads; and he came and stood before him and said, “Your son Ben-hadad king of Syria has sent me to you, saying, ‘Will I recover from this sickness?’”

v. 10 Then Elisha said to him, “Go say to him, ‘You shall surely recover,’ but the Lord has shown me that he will certainly die.”

v. 11 And he fixed his gaze steadily on him until he was ashamed, and the man of God wept.

v. 12 And Hazael said, “Why does my lord weep?” Then he answered, “Because I know the evil that you will do to the sons of Israel: their strongholds you will set on fire, and their young men you will kill with the sword, and their little ones you will dash in pieces, and their women with child you will rip up.”

v. 13 Then Hazael said, “But what is your servant, who is but a dog, that he should do this great thing?” And Elisha answered, “The Lord has shown me that you will be king over Syria.”

v. 14 So he departed from Elisha and returned to his master, who said to him, “What did Elisha say to you?” And he answered, “He told me that you would surely recover.”

v. 15 And it came about on the morrow, that he took the cover and dipped it in water and spread it on his face, so that he died. And Hazael became king in his place.

QUESTIONS:

1. Read 2 Kings 8:1-15 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. What does Elisha the prophet predict in verse 1?

3. What is the king's request in verse 4?

4. What does the king do in verse 6?

5. What problem does Elisha run into in Damascus, according to verse 7?

6. What is Elisha's response to the question about the king's sickness, according to verse 10?

7. Why does Elisha weep, according to verse 12?

8. What does Hazael do in verses 14 & 15?

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: How gracious of the Lord to provide through Elisha blessing upon the household of the Shunammite woman during the time of famine.

LESSON #2: We see God's providential dealings with the king and Gehazi to meet the Shunammite woman's needs upon return to the land after the famine. (See Philippians 4:19).

LESSON #3: How exceeding abundantly does the Lord provide for His own. For the king also said that the produce of the field from the day that she had left the land even until now shall be hers.

LESSON #4: How fickle is the heart of man when Ben-hadad in one moment is seeking to kill Elisha, and on another occasion is seeking a favor from him.

LESSON #5: All of the events of our lives are certainly known to the Lord. (See Hebrews 4:13).

LESSON #6: Elisha manifests his love and compassion for the wayward nation of Israel through his tears.

LESSON #7: How literally does the Lord fulfill the prophecy in the death of Ben-hadad, and the assuming of the throne by Hazael who became king of Syria.

LESSON #8: The Shunamite woman's escaping judgment is a picture of the rapture of the church.

LESSON #9: Stress increases as we resist what God is doing in our lives.

LESSON #10: Supreme selfishness of the human heart in Hazael to stoop to murder for desired objectives.

LESSON #11: Contrast Hazael and the Shunammite woman on God's timing and provision.

LESSON #12: There are tears in the eyes of the Lord now. There will be tears in our eyes later.