

Sent: Monday, April 27, 2009 7:25 PM

To: Don Anderson

Subject: Son David's Prayer

Don,

Just received this from my youngest son, David, who's in the last three months of his one-year tour at Al Salem AB, Kuwait, flying missions in the C-130 tactical transport to bases all over Iraq and as far as Afghanistan and the Horn of Africa. Col. Dave commands three C-130 squadrons. He is a committed young man of Christ!

This is his prayer, before he starts each day.

"Father, I thank you for the new day. May I face it with courage and cheer. I pray not for an easy life, but a useful one. Give me the wisdom to make right choices and confidence and faith to meet the unexpected. Cleanse my heart from evil thoughts and hard feelings. Make me strong for what I have to suffer and brave for what I have to dare. In the name of the great Helper and Friend, my LORD and Savior, Jesus Christ."

He makes his Mom and Pop proud!

Ron

This week words like Polident and Great grandchildren are making me face my mortality. My ground time will be brief. Need to crank it up a notch. "If not now, when! If not now, never!"

4/28/2009

April 29
Wednesday

DRIFTING AWAY

READ:
Job 1:13-22

Shall we indeed accept
good from God, and
shall we not accept
adversity? —Job 2:10

THE BIBLE IN ONE YEAR:
■ 1 Kings 6-7
■ Luke 20:27-47

Imagine relaxing on a rubber raft along the beach, eyes closed, soaking up the sun and listening to the gentle crash of waves along the shore. You don't have a care in the world—until you open your eyes! Suddenly the shore is alarmingly distant.

We tend to drift like that spiritually. It's subtle yet shocking when we suddenly realize how far we've drifted from God. The point of departure begins when Satan steals our affection for our loving Creator by putting a deceitful twist on our experiences and causing us to suspect God instead of trust Him.

Consider Job and his wife. Both had plenty of reasons to be mad at God. Their children were dead, their fortune lost, and Job's health destroyed. His wife told him, "Curse God and die!" But Job replied, "Shall we indeed accept good from God, and . . . not accept adversity?" (Job 2:9-10).

There are many attitudes that can set us adrift: believing that we need more than God to be happy; placing meaningful relationships above loyalty to God; thinking God should live up to our expectations; resisting His reproofs; turning a deaf ear when His Word is uncomfortable.

If you're beginning to drift, remember to stay close to the One who is the sole source of satisfaction. —Joe Stowell

*Lord, help me to stay close to You
And trust You more each day,
So when the storms of life appear
I will not drift away. —Sper*

**To avoid drifting away from God,
stay anchored to the Rock.**

Chambers

GRACIOUS UNCERTAINTY

"... it has not yet been revealed what we shall be ..." (1 John 3:2).

#26
Our natural inclination is to be so precise—trying always to forecast accurately what will happen next—that we look upon uncertainty as a bad thing. We think that we must reach some predetermined goal, but that is not the nature of the spiritual life. The nature of the spiritual life is that we are certain in our uncertainty. Consequently, we do not put down roots. Our common sense says, "Well, what if I were in that circumstance?" We cannot presume to see ourselves in any circumstance in which we have never been.

Certainty is the mark of the commonsense life—gracious uncertainty is the mark of the spiritual life. To be certain of God means that we are uncertain in all our ways, not knowing what tomorrow may bring. This is generally expressed with a sigh of sadness, but it should be an expression of breathless expectation. We are uncertain of the next step, but we are certain of God. As soon as we abandon ourselves to God and do the task He has placed closest to us, He begins to fill our lives with surprises. When we become simply a promoter or a defender of a particular belief, something within us dies. That is not believing God—it is only believing our belief about Him. Jesus said, "... unless you ... become as little children ..." (Matthew 18:3). The spiritual life is the life of a child. We are not uncertain of God, just uncertain of what He is going to do next. If our certainty is only in our beliefs, we develop a sense of self-righteousness, become overly critical, and are limited by the view that our beliefs are complete and settled. But when we have the right relationship with God, life is full of spontaneous, joyful uncertainty and expectancy. Jesus said, "... believe also in Me" (John 14:1), not, "Believe certain things about Me." Leave everything to Him and it will be gloriously and graciously uncertain how He will come in—but you can be certain that He will come. Remain faithful to Him.

✓ If you ask me how you may shorten your sermons, I should say, *STUDY THEM BETTER*. Spend more time in the study that you may need less in the pulpit. We are generally longest when we have least to say. A man with a great deal of well-prepared matter will probably not exceed forty minutes; when he has less to say he will go on for fifty minutes, and when he has absolutely nothing he will need an hour to say it in. Attend to these minor things and they will help to retain attention.

✓ If you want to have the attention of your people – to have it thoroughly and always – *IT CAN ONLY BE ACCOMPLISHED BY THEIR BEING LED BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD INTO AN ELEVATED AND DEVOUT STATE OF MIND*. If your people are teachable, prayerful, active, earnest, devout, they will come up to the house of God on purpose to get a blessing. They will take their seats prayerfully, asking God to speak to them through you; they will remain on the watch for every word, and will not weary. They will have an appetite for the gospel, for they know the sweetness of the heavenly manna, and they will be eager to gather their appointed portions. No man will ever have a congregation to preach to which surpasses my own in this respect. Indeed, those with whom the preacher is most at home are usually the best hearers for him. It is comparatively easy to me to preach at the Tabernacle; my people come on purpose to hear something, and their expectation helps to fulfil itself. ~~If they would hear another preacher with the same expectancy, I believe they would generally be satisfied; though there are exceptions.~~

When the preacher first settles, he cannot expect that his congregation will give him that solemn, earnest attention which those obtain who stand up like fathers among their own children, endeared to their people by a thousand memories, and esteemed for age and experience. Our whole life must be such as to add weight to our words, so that in after years we shall be able to wield the invincible eloquence of a long-sustained character, and obtain, not merely the attention, but the affectionate veneration of our flock. If by our prayers and tears and labours our people become spiritually healthy, we need not fear that we shall lose their attention. A people hungering after righteousness, and a minister anxious to feed their souls, will act in sweetest harmony with each other when their common theme is the Word of the Lord.

← To here!

STUDIES IN THE LIFE OF ELISHA
STUDY NUMBER EIGHT - II Kings 13:14-21

TEXT:

- v.14 When Elisha became sick with the illness of which he was to die, Joash the king of Israel came down to him and wept over him and said, "My father, my father, the chariots of Israel and its horsemen!"
- v.15 And Elisha said to him, "Take a bow and arrows." So he took a bow and arrows.
- v.16 Then he said to the king of Israel, "Put your hand on the bow." And he put his hand on it, then Elisha laid his hands on the king's hands.
- v.17 And he said, "Open the window toward the east," and he opened it. Then Elisha said, "Shoot!" And he shot. And he said, "The Lord's arrow of victory, even the arrow of victory over Syria; for you shall defeat the Syrians at Aphek until you have destroyed them."
- v.18 Then he said, "Take the arrows," and he took them. And he said to the king of Israel, "Strike the ground," and he struck it three times and stopped.
- v.19 So the man of God was angry with him and said, "You should have struck five or six times, then you would have struck Syria until you would have destroyed it. But now you shall strike Syria only three times."
- v.20 And Elisha died, and they buried him. Now the bands of the Moabites would invade the land in the spring of the year.
- v.21 And as they were burying a man, behold, they saw a marauding band; and they cast the man into the grave of Elisha. And when the man touched the bones of Elisha he revived and stood up on his feet.

INTRODUCTION:

In tracing the biography of the life of Elisha, we have walked with him from the Jordan River, when he picked up the mantle that had fallen from his master Elijah; when he crossed over the River Jordan and up to the city of Jericho; and on to Bethel; and up to Samaria by way of Mt. Carmel. We have witnessed him become international in his significance as he is approached by the kings of Edom, Judah and Israel, seeking advice for their battle against the Moabites. We have seen him provide the prescription for the healing of leprosy for Naaman. We have witnessed him caring for a lot of personal needs, especially those of the prophets and the prophets' families. We have seen God bless and prosper his ministry to an expansion program in the work at the seminaries. We have witnessed Elisha's advice to the nation during a time of great famine, and we have seen him become very unpopular because the kings of Syria and of Israel both seek to take his life.

We come now in this 13th chapter of II Kings to the final chapter in the life of Elisha.

Jehoram

Jehoram Historically, now, to get the background from the last study, Joram, the second son of Ahab and Jezebel, was reigning at the time of our last study. He is wounded in battle with the Syrians, and went back to Jezreel to be healed from the wounds which he suffered at the hands of the Syrians.

Jehu
28 yrs.

* While he is in Jezreel, recovering from his wounds, Elisha sends a young prophet to anoint Jehu to become king over Israel.

Jehu is probably one of the most dramatic and bloody kings in the sacred text. He did the will of God in many respects, but there were a lot of things that happened during his reign that were completely unnecessary. The first thing that is done is the carrying out of God's purpose in executing judgment upon the house of Ahab. God had said that there would be judgment upon the house of Ahab, and that Jezebel, too, would also face a dramatic end.

Ahab
Ahaziah
Jehoram
Jehu
Jehoahaz
Jehoash

Elisha
Keeps Preaching

Jehu first goes forth to execute Joram; and then also, Ahaziah, the king of Judah, who happened to be consulting with Joram at the time that Jehu came to confront him.

Jehoram

Jehu then carries out the execution of Jezebel in II Kings chapter 9.

Jehu then carries out the rest of the judgment on the house of Ahab in Jezreel, and all his great men and his kinfolks and his priests, until he left him none remaining.

Jehu then, also, executed those who were involved in the worship of the god Baal. While it is true that Jehu slew the prophets of Baal, he did not turn to the prophets of God.

Jehu departs the scene after 28 years of reigning in the Northern Kingdom, and Jehoahaz, the son of Jehu, reigned over Israel for the next 17 years. He followed in the sinful steps of Jeroboam, and did evil in the sight of the Lord.

Jehoash then, the son of Jehoahaz, comes to the throne; and he did evil in the sight of the Lord, in that he did not depart from the sins of Jeroboam, the son of Nebat, which made Israel to sin, but walked therein.

Actually, when you total up the years, you come closer to about 50 years from last study to the opening of today's study, because, as the story concluded, last time together, Jehoram was still king. And if he still had a couple of years left, Jehu reigned for 28 years, which would have given us 30; and Jehoahaz, Jehu's son, reigned for 17 years, which would have given us 47; and now, Jehoash, the son of Jehoahaz, reigns a total of 16 years, and he probably is just beginning his reign as this account in chapter 13 opens.

He's Faithful
Kings Kind of
Treat Him
Nice A Fortune
Teller!
Jehoahaz
17 yrs.

Jehoash
16 yrs.

3 yrs. of
Ministry

v.14 When Elisha became sick with the illness of which he was to die, Joash the king of Israel came down to him and wept over him and said, "My father, my father, the chariots of Israel and its horsemen!"

Jehoash
Joash

You will notice that we have two kings, one in the north and one in the south, that are very similar in name. In the Southern Kingdom, according to chapter 13, verse 10 Joash is ruling. And in the Northern Kingdom, we have Jehoash who is ruling. Actually, the names are so similar they could be identical. We note here in verse 14 that Jehoash is referred to as Joash the king of Israel.

There comes a time when our work on earth is done, and we face a sickness from which we'll not be healed because the Lord is preparing to take us home. Such is the case with Elisha.

Elisha has had a long and fruitful ministry, and he is probably somewhere around 120 years old here in this particular chapter. We recognize that as a prophet, he has been serving in the kingdoms of six of the kings, beginning with Ahab, and then his two sons, Ahaziah and Joram, and then Jehu, Jehoahaz and Jehoash, who is presently reigning.

120 yrs.

Jehu

Presidents

Elisha had about 10 years of ministry and association with Elijah, and he was probably about 30 when he was called to the prophetic office. So he has had a long and fruitful ministry after Elijah's departure, somewhere in the neighborhood of 80 years.

90 yrs.

10 w/ Elijah

You can get the feeling of the impact of Elisha's ministry by the fact that he is called upon by the reigning monarch at the time of his illness.

Jehoash comes down to the home of Elisha, and it says he wept over him. The weeping here was probably not out of compassion, but because of the fact that previous monarchs had leaned so heavily upon him as a source of strength and guidance during their reigns. It is tough to see the man of God now preparing to depart the scene, and wondering who is going to take his place.

Tell us what
to do & what
going to happen

Although the throne of Israel had not responded to the teachings of Elisha, yet they consulted him often for wisdom and guidance in the decisions with regard to war and relationships to foreign powers often.

Jehoash regarded the prophet as the chief bulwark of the nation, and the prospect of his speedy removal filled him with consternation and sorrow. Thus there was a strange mingling of esteem and selfishness behind the tears.

And is not that generally the case even in connection with the departure of a loved one.

Let us seek so to live that even ungodly men may miss us when we are gone. It is possible for us in a quiet, unobtrusive manner so to adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things, that when we die, many shall say, Let me die the death of the righteous, and let my last end be like his. And men shall drop a tear and close a shutter, and be silent and solemn for an hour or two when they hear that the servant of God is dead. They laughed at him while he lived, but they weep for him when he dies. They could despise him while he was here, but now that he is gone, they are aware of his value. I would covet this earnestly, not for the honor and esteem of men, but for the honor and glory of God, that even the despisers of Christ may be compelled that there is a dignity, a respect about the walk of an upright man.

Laughed - lived
wept - died

Knowing it is
the time of
his death

Go to Glory
w/ your running
shoes on!

The words of Joash are the words of Elisha when his ministry began, "My father, my father, the chariots of Israel and its horsemen!"

These are the words that were spoken in chapter 2, verse 12 of II Kings, as Elijah departed the scene, and Elisha begins his ministry. Now that we are at the eve of Elisha's life, another utters the words over to him.

v.15 And Elisha said to him, "Take a bow and arrows." So he took a bow and arrows.

Get your Archery equipment I've Got Something to tell you

Elisha still isn't finished. He's got a final prophecy to give to the king. Instead of feeling sympathy and wanting to accept the comfort of the king coming in tears, he now speaks his last prophecy: "Take a bow and arrows" he speaks to Jehoash. And now with this object lesson, he is going to share with the king what is going to take place.

v.16 Then he said to the king of Israel, "Put your hand on the bow." And he put his hand on it, then Elisha laid his hands on the king's hands.

After he takes the bow and arrows, the king of Israel is told to put his hand on the bow. Then Elisha also laid his hands on the king's hands.

v.17 And he said, "Open the window toward the east," and he opened it. Then Elisha said, "Shoot!" And he shot. And he said, "The Lord's arrow of victory, even the arrow of victory over Syria; for you shall defeat the Syrians at Aphek until you have destroyed them."

Elisha realizes that Jehoash is deeply fearful about what is going to take place in the battle against the Syrians. So rather than allow the king of remain in confusion and uncertainty, Elisha makes it quite clear what the Lord is about to do. And as the king follows Elisha's orders to shoot, the words of Elisha are: "The Lord's arrow of victory, even the arrow of victory over Syria; for you shall defeat the Syrians at Aphek until you have destroyed them."

Thinking of others in death!

- Jesus
- ① Father Forgive - - -
 - ② Behold your Son, Behold your Mother!
 - ③ Today, You will be with Me in the paradise

Using His
Suffering
As opp. for
Service
Rather Than
Self-pity

Thinking of others
rather than
Himself !!

Now the focus is going to turn away from the words of the Lord, spoken by Elisha, to the faith of the king. Is he going to believe what the message of the Lord is that has been spoken, or will he be one who has very little faith in God's word?

v.18 Then he said, "Take the arrows," and he took them. And he said to the king of Israel, "Strike the ground," and he struck it three times and stopped.

Having shot the Lord's arrow of victory, now Elisha asks the king to take the remaining arrows and to strike the ground.

He only strikes the ground three times and then he stops.

J. Vernon McGee points out the fact that "because he didn't have the faith that God would give him deliverance, discouragement caused him to quit. Many wonderful projects for God never come to fruition, are never executed because a child of God meets opposition or discouragement. He gives up and says, The project is not in God's will. That is the attitude of Joash. He smote only three times. He is saying by this, I don't think God will see me through. Today I see so much soft faith. Folks sit on the sidelines and engage in wishful thinking. They say, Oh, I want to do something for God. And the next time I see them they are still sitting there. God expects you to get on the move for Him. If you believe God can use you, then get busy! Elisha gives us a very practical lesson here."

Because his heart isn't in this, he just goes tap, tap, tap on the ground and then he quits.

v.19 So the man of God was angry with him and said, "You should have struck five or six times, then you would have struck Syria until you would have destroyed it. But now you shall strike Syria only three times."

Elisha is quite upset with the king for his silly little light tapping on the ground, and rebukes him. His words of rebuke and his anger manifest what the Lord was trying to say to him. "You should have struck five or six times, instead of three, then you would have struck Syria until you would have destroyed it. But now you shall strike Syria only three times."

Pink points out "Most Christians (expect little) from God, (ask little), and therefore (receive little), and are (content with little). They are content with (little faith), (little knowledge) of the deep things of God, (little growth) and fruitfulness in the spiritual life, (little joy), peace and assurance; and the zealous servant of God is justified in being wroth at their lack of spiritual ambition."

v.20 And Elisha died, and they buried him. Now the bands of the Moabites would invade the land in the spring of the year.

ISA. 50:7: "Because the Sovereign Lord helps me, I will not be disgraced. Therefore, have I set my face like flint, and I know I will not be put to shame."

Arrows of Victory He should have kept hitting the ground

Submission & Obed. Kept hitting.

Persistence in this will until He stops you I Cor. 15:58 should have hung in there

Stick w/ it Persistence what a Jewel

It Finds A way where others haven't IF there

Tap, tap, tap. And ye shall seek me & find me when you shall search for me in your hearts.

Persistent widow!

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The curtain now drops on the long and fruitful career of Elisha the prophet. His departure is different from that of Elijah. The departure of each and the way of that departure, and the time of that departure is in the hands of the Lord.

The Moabites once again come north to invade the land of Israel in the spring of the year.

v.21 And as they were burying a man, behold, they saw a marauding band; and they cast the man into the grave of Elisha. And when the man touched the bones of Elisha he revived and stood up on his feet.

One of the Moabite warriors had died and they were preparing for his burial. And they saw a band of Israelis coming toward them and so they cast the body of the man into the grave of Elisha. When the man touched the bones of Elisha, he revived and stood on his feet.

Even in death, Elisha was a miracle-working individual. What a tremendous tower of strength he has been through the long tenure of his service as a prophet to the nation Israel.

Pink points out "Behold, here once more the sovereignty of God. He honored Elijah at his departure from this world, but Elisha in a different way afterward. Was the Lord's seal upon His servant's mission. It indicated that the Lord was his God after death, as well as before; and thus furnished evidence both of the immortality of the soul and the final resurrection of the body. It was an intimation that other miracles would yet be wrought for Israel in response to his prayers, and as the result of his labors. Thus to the end, miracles are connected with the mission of Elisha."

Contact w/ Jesus Christ gives life !!

CONCLUSION:

There are a number of lessons that we can gather from this last study:

LESSON #1: Our times are in His hands. So let us number our days and apply our hearts to wisdom.

LESSON #2: God is still using His prophet to convey a message to the king of Israel while he is on his deathbed.

LESSON #3: Matthew 9:29 "According to your faith be it unto you."

LESSON #4: Elisha is upset with the king for his lack of confidence in God's ability to give him the victory.

LESSON #5: The time and place of our departure to be with the Lord is in His hands.

9 Lessons

"When the Lord was about to take Elijah up."

Seal of Approval on His Ministry

May 2
Saturday

THE WORK OF OUR HANDS

READ:
Psalm 112

The righteous will
be in everlasting
remembrance.
—Psalm 112:6

THE BIBLE IN ONE YEAR:

■ 1 Kings 12-13
■ Luke 22:1-20

while it is day," Jesus said. "Night is coming when no one can work" (John 9:4). Night is coming when we will once for all close our eyes on this world, or our Lord will return to take us to be with Him. Each day brings that time a little closer.

As long as we have the light of day, we must work—not to conquer, acquire, accumulate, and retire, but to make visible the invisible Christ by touching people with His love. We can then be confident that our "labor is not in vain in the Lord" (1 Cor. 15:58). —David Roper

*If you rely upon God's strength
And live a life that's true,
Then what you do in Jesus' name
Will be His work through you. —D. De Haan*

In God's eyes, true greatness is serving others.

One reason we're left here on earth and not taken to heaven immediately after trusting in Christ for salvation is that God has work for us to do. "Man is immortal," Augustine said, "until his work is done."

The time of our death is not determined by anyone or anything here on earth. That decision is made in the councils of heaven. When we have done all that God has in mind for us to do, then and only then will He take us home—and not one second before. As Paul put it, "David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell asleep" (Acts 13:36).

In the meantime, until God takes us home, there's plenty to do. "I must work the works of Him who sent Me

LESSON #6: The seal of approval upon Elisha's ministry is seen in the resurrection of the Moabitish man. Even as the seal of approval upon the ministry of Jesus Christ is seen in his own resurrection from the dead.

Lesson #7 Uses His Suffering As An opportunity For Service rather than Self-pity.

- Lesson #8 Pursue His Plan until He tells you to Stop I Cor. 15:58.
Persistence what a jewel !!

- Lesson #9 Last Half Most important.
Finish Strong. Phil. 3: 12-14

Running yesterday 40th birthday !!

The most important thing is that you Finish !!

- Jesus in His resurrection Body:

- John 20:21: "Jesus, therefore, said to them again, "Peace be with you; as the Father has sent me, I also send you."

- Luke 9:23: "And He was saying to them all, "If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself, and Take up his Cross daily, and follow me"

So Send I You

E. Margaret Clarkson

John W. Peterson



1. So send I you to la - bor un - re - ward - ed, To serve un -
 2. So send I you to bind the bruised and bro - ken, o'er wan-d'ring
 3. So send I you to lone - li - ness and long - ing, With heart a -
 4. So send I you to leave your life's am - bi - tion, To die to
 5. So send I you to hearts made hard by ha - tred, To eyes made



paid, un-loved, un-sought, un-known, To bear re - buke, to suf - fer
 souls to work, to weep, to wake, To bear the bur - dens of a
 hung - 'ring for the loved and known, For-sak-ing home and kin-dred,
 dear de - sire, self - will re - sign, To la - bor long and love where
 blind be-cause they will not see, To spend, tho' it be blood, to



scorn and scoff-ing; So send I you to toil for me a - lone.
 world a - wea - ry; So send I you to suf - fer for My sake.
 friend and dear one; So send I you to know My love a - lone.
 men re - vile you; So send I you to lose your life in Mine.
 spend and spare not; So send I you to taste of Cal - va -



ry. "As the Fa - ther hath sent Me, so send I you."