

Elisha - Heeding the Sure Word of Prophecy

II Kings 6:1 - 7:20

ELIJAH
& ELISHA

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Introduction:

I. THE BORROWED AX - *How God Restores that Which We Have Lost* (6:1-7)

A. The Building Project (vs. 1-4)

“go to the Jordan...take from there a beam...so [Elisha] went with them...they cut down trees”

B. The Ax Head Falls (vs. 5)

“the ax head fell into the water; and he cried out and said, ‘Alas, my master! For it was borrowed.’ ”

C. The Ax Head Floats (vs. 6-7)

“he cut off a stick and threw it in there, and made the iron float...so he put out his hand and took it”

II. THE BLINDED ARMY - *How God Delivers Us from Our Enemies* (6:8-23)

A. The God Who Sees (vs. 8-14)

“the king of Aram was warring against Israel...the man of God sent word to the king of Israel”

“Will you tell me which of us is for the king of Israel?”

“Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the words that you speak in your bedroom.”

“behold, he is in Dothan”

B. The God Who Protects (vs. 15-17)

“the attendant of the man of God”

“ ‘Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.... ‘O LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see.’ ”

“the LORD opened the servant’s eyes and he saw”

C. The God Who Shows Mercy (vs. 18-23)

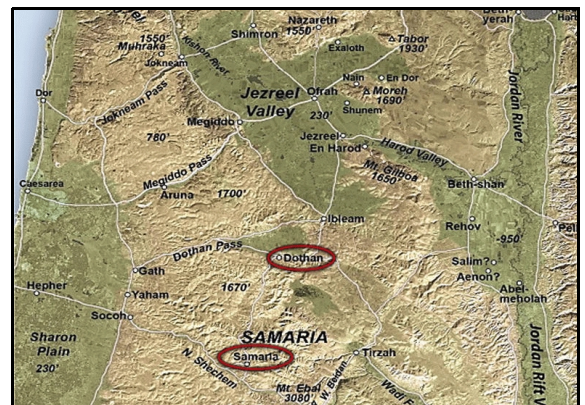
“Strike this people with blindness, I pray.’ So He struck them with blindness according to the word of Elisha.”

“ ‘This is not the way, nor is this the city....’ And he brought them to Samaria.”

“ ‘O LORD, open the eyes of these men, that they may see.’ So the LORD opened their eyes and they saw; and behold, they were in the midst of Samaria.”

“Shall I kill them?” “You shall not kill them.... Set bread and water before them.”

“And the marauding bands of Arameans did not come again into the land of Israel.”



III. THE BESIEGED CITY - *How God Provides for Us in Time of Need* (6:24 - 7:20)

A. The God Who Keeps His Covenant (vs. 24-33)

“Ben-Hadad king of Aram gathered all his army and went up and besieged Samaria...”

“If the LORD does not help you, from where shall I help you?”

“ ‘So we boiled my son and ate him.’ [The king] tore his clothes...he had sackcloth beneath on his body.”

“May God do so to me and more also, if the head of Elisha the son of Shaphat remains on him today.”

“Do you see how this son of a murderer has sent to take away my head? ...Behold, this evil is from the LORD; why should I wait for the LORD any longer?”

B. The God Who Fulfills His Promises (vs. 1-20)

1) The Prophecy from the Lord (vs. 1-2)

“Listen to the word of the LORD...”

“If the LORD should make windows in heaven, could this thing be?”

“You will see it with your own eyes, but you will not eat of it.”

2) The Panic in the Enemy Camp (vs. 3-11)

“there were four leprous men at the entrance of the gate...let us go over to the camp of the Arameans...they came to the outskirts of the camp...[and] there was no one there”

“the Lord had caused the army of the Arameans to...[flee] for their life”

“We are not doing right...let us go and tell the king’s household.”

3) The Plunder by the People (vs. 12-16)

“they have gone from the camp to hide themselves in the field....”

“all the way was full of clothes and equipment which the Arameans had thrown away in their haste”

“so the people went out and plundered the camp of the Arameans”

“a measure of fine flour was sold for a shekel and two measures of barley for a shekel”

4) The Passing of the Royal Officer (vs. 17-20)

“the people trampled on him at the gate, and he died just as the man of God had said”

Conclusion:

Food for Thought:

- 1) Why do you think the floating ax head story was included in Scripture?
- 2) Read vs. 16 again. Do you recognize this truth in your own life? Why or why not?
- 3) God’s rule over history is seen in the fulfillment of His Word/Scripture. What promises of God bring you comfort in difficult times?
- 4) To what extent should natural disasters be linked to wickedness in our culture?