

## 2 Kings Chapter 06 Commentary

**2Ki 6:1 ¶ "And the sons of the prophets said unto Elisha, Behold now, the place where we dwell with thee is too strait for us. 2 Let us go, we pray thee, unto Jordan, and take thence every man a beam, and let us make us a place there, where we may dwell. And he answered, Go ye. 3 And one said, Be content, I pray thee, and go with thy servants. And he answered, I will go."**

Remember that Elisha has a school for prophets. The number of prophets in the school has outgrown the facility they live in. The first definition for strait is "**a tight place**," meaning they have outgrown the facility and need more room. They approach Elisha, presenting their difficulty, and ask permission to go to the river Jordan, to cut timber and make a larger place to live by the river Jordan. Elisha gives them leave to go. Then, one of them requests that Elisha go with them, and he said he would go.

We can witness with this in a way. The churches we were raised up in had a lot of man-made rules. These rules made the way of life in these churches to "**strait**" for us. When we would not submit to their manmade rules, they cast us out of the fellowship. Thus, we had to go our way, and God led us to a new church home in a few years. Our new church home did not have man-made rules, but lived by the word of God, as laid down in the King James bible. Thus, our way was no longer to strait.

In today's world and language: if the congregation of the church body has grown too large for the facility to hold them, and they need more room, they build a new facility, which is large enough to fit the growth.

Do you realize that every New Testament Church body is a school? It is a place where we learn about our Saviour and King. It is a place where we are taught to follow the instructions of the Master Builder, Jesus Christ, as recorded in the King James Bible, the textbook of the New Testament Church, the WORD of GOD, seen in one of many places in **Jude 1:20-21; 20 "But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, 21 Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life."** Also, seen in **Col 3:15-17; 15 "And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. 17 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him."** It is easily seen we are to be assisting, and communicating with one another, in growing in the knowledge of the truth, and our faith and trust in the finished work of our Redeemer. Therefore, we are all students in the school of the knowledge of God, and the King James Bible.

Notice, they asked Elisha to go with them. This teaches us we ought to always be praying that God would be with us, in all our endeavors in Christ.

**4 "So, he went with them. And when they came to Jordan, they cut down wood. 5 But as one was felling a beam, the axe head fell into the water: and he cried, and said, Alas, master! for it was borrowed. 6 And the man of God said, Where fell it? And he shewed him the place. And he cut down a stick, and cast it in thither; and the iron did swim. 7 Therefore said he, Take it up to thee. And he put out his hand, and took it."**

One of the sons of the prophets was felling a tree and the axe head came off and fell into the water. He cries to Elisha for help, knowing if he could not recover the axe head he would have to replace it, and he has borrowed it because he couldn't afford one to start with. Elisha tells him to show him the place where it fell into the water. Once shown the place: Elisha cuts a stick and cast it on the spot, and the axe head came up to the stick. The iron swam from the bottom of the river to the surface. Elisha tells the man to take the axe head up, which he does.

What can we learn from this? We learn that the man is very poor, and he has to borrow the tools needed to help build a build a larger facility. He is not lazy because he does borrow the tool needed and works. This tells us; howsoever poor, and inadequate, we may feel; we should do what we can to help in building up the children of God (the New Testament Church body) on earth, and especially; the individual congregation, in which we are enrolled as students of Christ. However, it also teaches us; we need the help of the man of God to assist in the work. All that we have in this world of earthly possession is not ours, alas it is borrowed, for it all belongs to God. Likewise, all that we have in this world of spiritual blessings is borrowed, for it is given to us by Jesus, through the Holy Spirit power, to enable us to assist in the work of building up the children of God on earth.

Well, what about the axe head? This demonstrates that sometimes, when we are working, our axe head may come off and fall into the water. What do you mean? Sometimes, we may get off the path of "**thus saith the LORD**" and need to call upon our Saviour, the man of God, to get us back on the right path. You see: this man lost his axe head and now he was of no use in building the place to live. If we stray from the truth of God, our axe head has come off and is out of sight in the sin muddied waters of life. Thus, we are of no use in building up the house of God on earth. However, when we realize that we have lost the ability to do any good, and we have a debt that we cannot pay, we can turn to our Saviour and beg for his assistance. Our Saviour is kinder than Elisha was, in that He forgives our mistakes, gives us our tools back, and gives us the ability to carry on the work he has assigned to us.

Well, what about the stick that was cut and that made the iron to swim? That stick is representative of Jesus. In his mortality, He was nailed to the tree of the cross and drowned into the waters of sinful life. However, unlike the man who lost his axe head, Jesus had power to lay down his life and take it up again. The power of God making the iron to swim, is a picture that Jesus's shed blood did that, which is impossible with men.

We are all like the axe head fallen into water, we are all sunken down out of sight and drowning in the sinful waters of our inherited sin nature. Jesus's life, death, and resurrection, made it possible for us to be rescued from death in trespasses and sins, via the tree of the cross. Remember Elisha told the man to reach forth and take the axe head up out of the water. Likewise, Jesus tells us to take up our cross and follow Him, as instructed in **Mt 16:24 ¶ "Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me."** Likewise, Jesus admonishes us of not taking up our cross in **Lu 14:27 "And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple."** This man wanted to bear his cross but had lost the tool to do it. What is our tool? Christ in us, the Word of God.

Another thought for this text is that these sons of the prophets desired to work to improve their position, but they would do nothing without the permission of their master, Elisha. Whenever, we are desirous to do something to make improvement of our situation, as children of God, we should first seek permission from our King, Jesus Christ, and we should pray that He would go with us. We should examine our hearts, to see if the desires are of the inherited sin nature, or if they are desires to bring glory and honor to God. If they are for the satisfaction of the inherited sin nature, our axe head has come off and we are rendered useless. However, if they are to bring glory and honor to the name of our God and Saviour, we shall have the assistance needed to be useful in the work set before us.

What wonderful admonitions, and instructions, we see, for the newborn child of God, in this scene.

**8 ¶ "Then the king of Syria warred against Israel, and took counsel with his servants, saying, In such and such a place shall be my camp. 9 And the man of God sent unto the king of Israel, saying, Beware that thou pass not such a place; for thither the Syrians are come down. 10 And the king of Israel sent to the place which the man of God told him and warned him of, and saved himself there, not once nor twice. 11 Therefore the heart of the king of Syria was sore troubled for this thing; and he called his servants, and said unto them, Will ye not shew me which of us is for the king of Israel?"**

The king of Syria desires to make war upon Israel and her king. Every time he makes plans, Elisha tells the king of Israel what the king of Syria's plans are, and thus he escapes out of the king of Syria's grasp. This happens several times and the king of Syria inquires, who is the spy that is telling Israel all his plans.

How can this apply to us today? We have one who is bent on making war against us, Satan and his armies, and it is only through the Holy Spirit of God, who keeps us informed that we may avoid his traps. We have the Word of God, and it is our safety net. It tells us the plans of Satan and his minions, and how we may avoid them. If we fully follow the first commandment of God, we shall escape all the snares of our enemy.

**12 "And one of his servants said, None, my lord, O king: but Elisha, the prophet that is in Israel, telleth the king of Israel the words that thou speakest in thy bedchamber. 13 ¶ And he said, Go and spy where he is, that I may send and fetch him. And it was told him, saying, Behold, he is in Dothan. 14 Therefore sent he thither horses, and chariots, and a great host: and they came by night, and compassed the city about. 15 And when the servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, behold, an host compassed the city both with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! how shall we do? 16 And he answered,**

**Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them. 17 And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha."**

One of his servants answers the king of Syria. He tells him; there is no spy in the camp, but it is Elisha the prophet of God, who tells the king of Israel even the words you speak in your bedchamber. Well, what does this have to do with us today? Our heavenly Father knows everything that Satan plans, just as He knows the very intents and thoughts of our hearts. Jesus our Saviour has prayed for us that God would keep and protect us in this world, just as Elisha keeps the king of Israel informed and protects him.

He sends them to find out where Elisha is. They tell him that Elisha is in Dothan. The king of Syria sends a great host by night to compass the city so that they may capture Elisha and bring him to the king of Syria. The servant of Elisha rises early and sees this great host and comes and asks his master: what shall we do? Elisha tells him to fear not; for there are more with us than there are of them. Elisha prays to God to open his servant's eyes, and the vast host of God are revealed unto him.

How does this apply to us? **Heb 12:22-24; 22 "But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, 23 To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, 24 And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel."** Also, remember the seven angels of the seven churches spoken of in Revelation, which testify that the heavenly hosts guard God's New Testament Church. Forget not; God uses His angels to protect and keep his people today. Remember, Joseph was warned in a dream by an angel to go into Egypt to keep Christ safe, and many others of the saints of God were protected by the angles sent to them.

**18 "And when they came down to him, Elisha prayed unto the LORD, and said, Smite this people, I pray thee, with blindness. And he smote them with blindness according to the word of Elisha. 19 And Elisha said unto them, This is not the way, neither is this the city: follow me, and I will bring you to the man whom ye seek. But he led them to Samaria. 20 And it came to pass, when they were come into Samaria, that Elisha said, LORD, open the eyes of these men, that they may see. And the LORD opened their eyes, and they saw; and, behold, they were in the midst of Samaria."**

Oh, my friends! You speak of the wonders of God's might and power. Behold this scene before us. This host of Syrians is blinded by God at the request of Elisha; yet they can see to follow Elisha as he leads them to Samaria. They see, but do not understand what is happening to them, because their minds are blinded. This is the very picture of man in depraved nature, who has eyes that see not, ears that hear not, and hearts that understand not. Prophetic of what would happen when Jesus came to earth as seen in **Joh 12:38-40; 38 "That the saying of Esaias the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spake, Lord, who hath believed our report? and to whom hath the arm of the Lord been revealed? 39 Therefore they could not believe, because that Esaias said again, 40 He hath blinded their eyes, and hardened their heart; that they should not see with their eyes, nor understand with their heart, and be converted, and I should heal them."** These, by the miraculous working of God: do not, and cannot, believe in God, because their minds are blinded to God.

Elisha leads them to Samaria to the king. Remember, they started out seeking the king of Israel and then they sought for Elisha. The king of Israel was their end goal. Elisha prays and God opens their eyes and behold they are in Samaria, the home of the king of Israel, who they really wanted from the beginning.

Well preacher, you seem to be confused. These whose eyes were blinded and then opened are Syrians. Let me ask you a question: When Jesus came to earth, in his prepared body, and did his public ministry, who could see Him for who he truly was? Not even his own people Israel, and especially the Gentiles.

Where did these Syrians find themselves when their eyes were opened? They were in Samaria, the capital of idolatrous Israel. But Israel was the nation of God's people who were to bear his name on the earth. Yes, but what have they done? They had turned from God to idolatry, which put them in the same boat as the Syrians, who were also idolaters. Who is bearing the name of God in Israel at this time? Elisha, God's prophet, who is Christ in a type, and the sons of the prophets, who Elisha was teaching. Israel was not bearing the name of God by their idolatrous actions.

What were you before your eyes were opened to the truth of salvation by the grace of God, through Jesus Christ, of whom Elisha is a type? You were part of an idolatrous nation who did not believe in God, in the heart of the enemy's capital, in an idolatrous world, which is called in **Re 17:5 "BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH."** I declare unto you; as a part of the New Testament Church, if your eyes have been opened, by the grace of God and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, you can see that you are as we see in **1Co 6:11; 9 ¶ "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, 10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God."** Thank you, King Jesus for your finished work of washing us clean in the eyes of God the Father and keeping us known as the people of God bearing His name here.

**21 "And the king of Israel said unto Elisha, when he saw them, My father, shall I smite them? shall I smite them? 22 And he answered, Thou shalt not smite them: wouldest thou smite those whom thou hast taken captive with thy sword and with thy bow? set bread and water before them, that they may eat and drink, and go to their master. 23 And he prepared great provision for them: and when they had eaten and drunk, he sent them away, and they went to their master. So, the bands of Syria came no more into the land of Israel."**

Now, we see the miraculous salvation of God manifested. The king of Syria asks of Elisha; shall I slay these Syrians? Elisha tells him that you would not slay those whom you have taken captive, therefore, feed them and send them home to their master. We are then told that the Syrians came no more into the land of Israel.

We see demonstrated here the principle we are commanded to follow in the New Testament age in **Ro 12:21; 19 "Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. 20 Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. 21 Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good."** Thank you, King Jesus for choosing us, cleansing us from sin, giving us new life in yourself, giving us eyes that see, ears that hear, and hearts that understand. Keep us from the evil of this world, we pray, in your Holy Name, Amen!

**24 ¶ "And it came to pass after this, that Benhadad king of Syria gathered all his host, and went up, and besieged Samaria. 25 And there was a great famine in Samaria: and, behold, they besieged it, until an ass's head was sold for fourscore pieces of silver, and the fourth part of a cab of dove's dung for five pieces of silver. 26 And as the king of Israel was passing by upon the wall, there cried a woman unto him, saying, Help, my lord, O king. 27 And he said, If the LORD do not help thee, whence shall I help thee? out of the barn floor, or out of the winepress? 28 And the king said unto her, What aileth thee? And she answered, This woman said unto me, Give thy son, that we may eat him today, and we will eat my son tomorrow. 29 So we boiled my son, and did eat him: and I said unto her on the next day, Give thy son, that we may eat him: and she hath hid her son. 30 And it came to pass, when the king heard the words of the woman, that he rent his clothes; and he passed by upon the wall, and the people looked, and, behold, he had sackcloth within upon his flesh. 31 Then he said, God do so and more also to me, if the head of Elisha the son of Shaphat shall stand on him this day."**

Verse 23 above **"So, the bands of Syria came no more into the land of Israel."** We see that this did not last very long, for Benhadad comes and sets siege against Samaria, where the king of Israel dwelled. We are not told if the famine is because of the siege, or there was a famine in all the land of Israel. We are told in **2Ki 8:1 ¶ "Then spake Elisha unto the woman, whose son he had restored to life, saying, Arise, and go thou and thine household, and sojourn wheresoever thou canst sojourn: for the LORD hath called for a famine; and it shall also come upon the land seven years. 2 And the woman arose, and did after the saying of the man of God: and she went with her household, and sojourned in the land of the Philistines seven years."** Knowing that all scripture is not in chronological order, this is very probable that Benhadad had made this incursion into Israel and this siege upon Samaria during this time of famine.

Samaria was practically starving to death and were eating things that were polluted and had even turned to cannibalism, as we see the woman crying to the king upon the wall. After hearing her story the king put on sackcloth and went mourning, not for the sins he and Israel were committing in idolatry, but for the situation

they were in. His very first thought is to kill Elisha the prophet of God, because it was he that had prophesied that God was sending a great famine of seven years upon Israel for their idolatry. The scripture does not testify to this but there would be no other reason for Benhadad to want to take off Elisha's head, declaring that it is Elisha's fault for the situation they are in. Otherwise, Benhadad may have believed that Elisha could have prayed to God and caused the Syrians to leave and the famine to end.

**32 "But Elisha sat in his house, and the elders sat with him; and the king sent a man from before him: but ere the messenger came to him, he said to the elders, See ye how this son of a murderer hath sent to take away mine head? look, when the messenger cometh, shut the door, and hold him fast at the door: is not the sound of his master's feet behind him? 33 And while he yet talked with them, behold, the messenger came down unto him: and he said, Behold, this evil is of the LORD; what should I wait for the LORD any longer?"**

To get who the messenger is we must go to the next chapter verses 1 & 2.

**2Ki 7:1-2; 1 ¶ "Then Elisha said, Hear ye the word of the LORD; Thus, saith the LORD, Tomorrow about this time shall a measure of fine flour be sold for a shekel, and two measures of barley for a shekel, in the gate of Samaria. 2 Then a lord on whose hand the king leaned answered the man of God, and said, Behold, if the LORD would make windows in heaven, might this thing be? And he said, Behold, thou shalt see it with thine eyes, but shalt not eat thereof."**

If you wish to see a man in whom is the Spirit of the Living God, just look at Elisha. Remember in the previous chapter how Elisha was telling the king of Israel the plans of the king of Syria? Now, we see Elisha telling those with him the words of the king of Israel before they even get to him. He also tells these elders that the king of Israel is son of a murderer, because of his murder of Naboth, and has sent to take off my head. He tells them to stop the man sent at the door and hold him fast for his king is right behind him.

As we look at the context and the first 2 verses of the next chapter, we can understand that the messenger is the one that the king of Israel has sent to take off Elisha's head. How do we know this? The messenger that is held at the door says "**Behold, this evil is of the LORD; what should I wait for the LORD any longer?**" They are holding him until the king of Israel gets there to hear the words of Elisha and the king remove the death sentence.

The man is right in saying: "**this evil is of the Lord.**" Because God has sent the famine, and the Syrians to besiege Samaria, to bring Israel to repentance and turn them unto himself again. The king and Israel are so far from God, and their hearts are so hardened by idolatry, that they cannot see that they are the cause. The cause is their idolatry, for which God has sent these judicial judgments upon them, to bring them to repentance.

"**Behold, this evil is of the LORD; what should I wait for the LORD any longer?**" We believe that by now the king is here and has heard the conversation between Elisha and the king's messenger. However, we point out that this whole declaration may have been from the king of Israel, with both the messenger and the king being present. Why? The king, who probably has been advised by Elisha to wait upon the Lord, now says: why should I wait for God any longer? Meaning: there is no way that even God can deliver us out of this terrible situation. To which Elisha answers in **2Ki 7:1 ¶ "Then Elisha said, Hear ye the word of the LORD; Thus, saith the LORD, Tomorrow about this time shall a measure of fine flour be sold for a shekel, and two measures of barley for a shekel, in the gate of Samaria."**

It is very obvious that Israel and their king have gotten so far away from God that they have forgotten what wonders God is able to perform. How often do we, through our actions and speech, forget what wonders God is able to perform. How often do we fail to magnify the name of our God and Saviour? This is why God and Jesus both gave the same first commandment, which is **Mt 22:37-38; 37 "Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. 38 This is the first and great commandment."** What do you mean? If we fulfill the first commandment; we will never turn from God: we will never turn to idolatry: we will never hate our brother nor forget **Mt 10:28 "And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."** We will never forget that Jesus is our eternal Saviour: we will never forget that we have an eternal inheritance in the immortal heaven, and that we, finally, shall ever be with the Lord, Hallelujah! Amen!