

## 2 Kings Chapter 06 Verses 01-17; Bible Study

**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 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.