

2 Kings Chapter 06 Verses 18-33; Bible Study

2Ki 6:18 "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!