

The Power and PRESENCE of God ~ 2 Kings 6 - 7

→Scripture Reading - 2 Kings 6:13-17

INTRODUCTION

God Cares for... HOTC

- the **DESPERATE** - 2 Kgs. 4:1-7
- the **HEARTBROKEN** 2 Kgs. 4:8-37
- the **HUNGRY** 2 Kgs. 4:38-44
- God Gives Grace to the **HUMBLE** 2 Kgs. 5:1-27

God's Presence and Knowledge ~ 2 Kings 6:8-17

⁹ But immediately Elisha, the man of God, would warn the king of Israel, "Do not go near that place, for the Arameans are planning to mobilize their troops there." ¹⁰ So the king of Israel would send word to the place indicated by the man of God. Time and again Elisha warned the king, so that he would be on the alert there. ¹¹ The king of Aram became very upset over this. He called his officers together and demanded, "Which of you is the traitor? Who has been informing the king of Israel of my plans?" ¹² "It's not us, my lord the king," one of the officers replied. "Elisha, the prophet in Israel, tells the king of Israel even the words you speak in the privacy of your bedroom!" ¹³ "Go and find out where he is," the king commanded, "so I can send troops to seize him." And the report came back: "Elisha is at Dothan." ¹⁴ So one night the king of Aram sent a great army with many chariots and horses to surround the city.

→MAP Dothan

¹⁶ Don't be afraid!" Elisha told him. "For there are more on our side than on theirs!... ¹⁷ Then Elisha prayed, "O LORD, open his eyes and let him SEE!" The LORD opened the young man's eyes, and when he looked up, he saw that the hillside around Elisha was filled with horses and chariots of fire.

→ANGEL

IMPLICATION

Elisha's Servant Learned... Swindoll

- Enemy Armies are **NO PROBLEM** for God
- God's Army is **NOT** always **VISIBLE**
- We are **NEVER** Outnumbered
- God is **ALWAYS** Victorious

Psalm 34:4-7 (NLT) ⁴ I prayed to the LORD, and He Answered me. He Freed me from all my fears...

⁶ In my desperation I prayed, and the LORD listened; He saved me from all my troubles. ⁷ For the angel of the LORD is a guard; HE surrounds and defends ALL who fear Him.

FEAST for the ENEMY ~ 2 Kings 6:18-23

¹⁸ As the Aramean army advanced toward him, Elisha prayed, "**O LORD, please make them blind.**"

→MAP - from Dothan to Samaria is around 10 miles

²² "Of course not!" Elisha replied. "Do we kill prisoners of war? Give them food and drink and send them home again to their master." ²³ So the king made a great feast for them and then sent them home to their master. **AFTER THAT**, the Aramean raiders stayed away from the land of Israel. (NLT)

IMPLICATION

Matthew 5:43-44 (NIV) You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' ⁴⁴ But I tell you: ...Love your enemies and Pray for those who persecute you...

Romans 12:17-21 (NIV) Do NOT repay anyone evil for evil... ¹⁸ If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. ¹⁹ Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. [20] On the contrary: If your enemy is hungry, FEED him; if he is thirsty, give him something to DRINK. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." ²¹ Do NOT be overcome by evil, but OVERCOME evil with good.

What are we supposed to DO?

- PRAY for those who persecute you
- Do what is RIGHT
- Do NOT take REVENGE Let God
- FEED Your Enemy
- Overcome EVIL with GOOD

The DEADLY Siege ~ 2 Kings 6:24 - 7:2

²⁴ Some time later, however, King Ben-hadad of Aram mustered his entire army and besieged Samaria. ²⁵ As a result, there was a great famine in the city. The siege lasted SO LONG that a donkey's head sold for eighty pieces of silver, and a cup of dove's dung sold for five pieces of silver. ²⁶ One day as the king of Israel was walking along the wall of the city, a woman called to him, "Please help me, my lord the king!" ²⁷ He answered, "If the LORD doesn't help you, what can I do? I have neither food from the threshing floor nor wine from the press to give you." ²⁸ But then the king asked, "What is the matter?" She replied, "This woman said to me: 'Come on, let's eat your son today, then we will eat my son tomorrow.' ²⁹ So we cooked my son and ate him. Then the next day I said to her, 'Kill your son so we can eat him,' but she has hidden her son." ³⁰ When the king heard this, he tore his clothes in despair. And as the king walked along the wall, the people could see that he was wearing burlap under his robe next to his skin.

A holy God was NOT inspiring such atrocities. But He had removed His restraint on evil and allowed human depravity to take its ugly course. HOTC

³¹ "May God strike me and even kill me if I don't **separate Elisha's head** from his shoulders this very day," the king vowed. ³² Elisha was sitting in his house with the elders of Israel when the king sent a messenger to summon him. But before the messenger arrived, Elisha said to the elders, "A murderer has sent a man to cut off my head. When he arrives, shut the door and keep him out. We will soon hear his master's steps following him." ³³ While Elisha was still saying this, the messenger arrived. And the king said, "**All this misery is from the LORD!** Why should I wait for the LORD any longer?"

^{7:1} Elisha replied, "Listen to this message from the LORD! This is what the LORD says: (NLT)

Sharing the GOOD NEWS ~ 2 Kings 7:3-17

³ Now there were **four men with leprosy sitting** at the entrance of the city gates. "Why should we sit here waiting to die?"

⁸ When the men with leprosy arrived at the edge of the camp, they went into one tent after another, eating and drinking wine; and they carried off silver and gold and clothing and hid it. ⁹ Finally, they said to each other, "This is not right. This is a day of GOOD NEWS, and we aren't sharing it with anyone!"

¹¹ Then the gatekeepers shouted the news to the people in the palace. ¹² The king got out of bed in the middle of the night and told his officers, "I know what has happened. The Arameans know we are starving, so they have left their camp and have hidden in the fields. They are expecting us to leave the city, and then they will take us alive and capture the city."

¹³ One of his officers replied, "We had better send out scouts to check into this..."

¹⁵ ... The scouts returned and told the king about it.

¹⁶ Then the people of Samaria rushed out and plundered the Aramean camp. So it was true that six quarts of choice flour were sold that day for one piece of silver, and twelve quarts of barley grain were sold for one piece of silver, just As the LORD had promised. ¹⁷ The king appointed his officer to control the traffic at the gate, but he was knocked down and trampled to death as the people rushed out. So everything happened EXACTLY as the man of God had predicted when the king came to his house. (NLT)

TAKE AWAY ??

⁹ Finally, they said to each other, "This is not right. This is a day of GOOD NEWS, and we aren't sharing it with anyone!"

One Poor Beggar Telling Another Poor Beggar WHERE to Find FOOD!

Romans 1:16-17 (NIV) ¹⁶ I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.

¹⁷ For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from FIRST to LAST, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."

What are some way that we can share the GOOD News?

Truth of the Gospel is best shared in the Context of Relationship

Sharing the GOOD News...

- Pray for Opportunities/ prepare the soil
- Plant a thought about Jesus Christ/ sew the seed
- Explain the facts/ water, weed,
- Gently Nudge/ harvest

***We CANNOT KEEP THE GOOD NEWS TO OURSELVES!**