

"The Omniscience of God"

Part 1

2 Kings 6:8-17

**Introduction:** Last week in our study of Elisha we looked at the floating axe head in 2 Kings 6:1-7. The miracle which we shall consider tonight is connected to what was happening in the previous verses. Before we step into our message tonight there are some thoughts we need to consider.

The message tonight is one of great comfort for we who are believers. As we pass through this world that is full of evil and wickedness we can become filled with anxiety and fear if we allow ourselves to focus upon the evil that is around us. The focus upon the evil in the world can often give to us several wrong perspectives:

1. It can appear that evil is far stronger than righteousness.
2. It can appear as though God has no control over what is happening in our society.

Now I do believe that God has removed the moral restraints from our nation. What Paul describes in Romans 1 we can plainly see in our society today.

**Romans 1:18-24, 26, 28**

*<sup>18</sup> For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;*

*<sup>19</sup> Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.*

*<sup>20</sup> For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:*

*<sup>21</sup> Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.*

*<sup>22</sup> Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,*

*<sup>23</sup> And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.*

*<sup>24</sup> Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:*

<sup>26</sup> For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:

<sup>28</sup> And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;

Our nation as a whole is experiencing the wrath of God and evidence of that is the removal of the moral restraints which results in a steady spiritual decline. But God has not abandoned His people, namely the church. He is still working to gather a bride and He is still in control of the events which affect the lives of His people. This we shall see tonight.

### I. The Timing

#### Notice 2 Kings 6:8

Here in this verse we see that the king of Syria decided to make war against Israel. This is such a contrast from what we looked at when he sought a healing for Naaman from the king of Israel. What was it that brought this on?

#### Notice 2 Kings 6:8 again.

It is the very first word in this verse that tells the story. The word "THEN" refers back to the setting of the miracle of the floating axe head.

#### Notice 2 Kings 6:1

We looked at this last week and we talked about how Israel was deep into idolatry but in the midst of the darkness God was still working and the school of the prophets was growing. Therefore, it should not be a shock when we read of the planned attack by the king of Syria. There is spiritual growth taking place and Satan despises spiritual growth and so he has now moved the heart of the king of Syria to attack Israel.

Let us also remember that the miracle of the floating axe head can be seen as a picture of salvation. The axe head represents man and our fall in Adam. In Adam we experienced a fall when he took the forbidden fruit. The Jordan River is a picture of death and so when the axe head fell into the river it pictures what happened to all mankind because we were in Adam and that is we died spiritually. The "stick" which can be translated "tree" represents the cross and how God used the death of His Son on the cross to lift us from death and placed us in the body of Christ where we have life.

So, this planned attack is a picture of what happens to the believer shortly after his or her conversion. The new believer finds that he has two natures and there begins within him a battle between the flesh and the Spirit.

Let us now consider the application for our lives.

**Application:**

When there is spiritual growth and a stepping out in faith we can be sure there will be spiritual attacks that will come upon the believer. Satan despises spiritual growth and he despises it when a believer is willing to step out in faith and exercise his or her gifts. So, when we do we can be sure that we are going to meet with opposition. Many times, that opposition comes from the people who we are the closest to because Satan knows they are the most difficult to stand up against. If the opposition comes from within your home and you take a stand then most likely there is going to be a major disruption of peace in your home life. If the opposition comes from a stranger, it is much easier to take a stand because you do not have to face that person on a daily basis and they do not have the ability to rob your life of peace like the family member would.

Therefore, when you are growing spiritually be on alert and recognize the battles for what they really are, they are spiritual attacks designed to hinder our growth or our service for the Lord. We must not allow the attacks to stop us because the attacks are proof that we are being effective for the Lord.

Let me give you one more application from this. The previous miracle of the floating axe head can also be seen as the retrieval of lost blessings which have been lost along the way in life. Blessings like joy, love for the Lord, love for God's Word, the desire to serve and the list would go on and on. When we stop and reflect upon the question "where fell it?" and realize where we lost the blessing and then confess what needs confessed and plead the merits of the cross we can retrieve the lost blessings. But let us fully understand that Satan hates happy believers because the joy within us as we enjoy the blessings of God is a major part of our testimony. So, as we seek to retrieve the lost blessings let us know there will be spiritual attacks by Satan.

**Notice 2 Kings 6:8 again.**

As the king of Syria made the choice to war against Israel he then took counsel with his servants. There is something very interesting here. There is no mention of Naaman! Let me remind you what is said about Naaman earlier.

**2 Kings 5:1-2**

*Now Naaman, captain of the host of the king of Syria, was a great man with his master, and honourable, because by him the LORD had given deliverance unto Syria: he was also a mighty man in valour, but he was a leper.*

<sup>2</sup> *And the Syrians had gone out by companies, and had brought away captive out of the land of Israel a little maid; and she waited on Naaman's wife.*

This was the Syrian king's right-hand man. Why then is he not mentioned here in chapter 6:8 when this war is about to be fought and counsel is being sought?

The answer is because the heart of Naaman had been changed and he now knew of the love and the grace of Israel's God. He had been healed by the God of Israel. He was now a different man and it seems that he would have nothing to do with fighting against Israel. If all of this is the case with Naaman then he is truly an Old Testament picture of the New Testament believer.

### **2 Corinthians 5:17**

<sup>17</sup> *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*

The fact that Naaman is not mentioned certainly gives the idea that his life was now different and so he is the picture of how every believer's life should be changed after they have been saved. Our priorities change, our desires change, our view of this world changes, our view of our fellow man changes, and our perspective on life changes. For someone to say they are saved and there is no change is evidence they are not truly saved.

### **Matthew 7:21-23**

<sup>21</sup> *Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.*

<sup>22</sup> *Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?*

<sup>23</sup> *And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.*

Those who work iniquity are those who live like there is no Law or no Bible. In other words, they are people who lives have never been changed because they professed salvation but were never really saved.

### **Notice 2 Kings 6:8 again.**

As the king of Syria consulted with his servants he made it known that he was going to set up an ambush in a certain place where he could easily attack the king of Israel. It seems that he picked a place where he knew the king of Israel would frequent. He apparently knew the routines and the ways of the king of Israel.

Application:

There is within this a very solemn warning for you and I who know Jesus Christ as Savior. Our enemy knows much about us. He knows our everyday routines and he knows the very weaknesses which we battle with. He also knows how close or how far away from the Lord we are, so he knows when we are vulnerable, and he knows when we are strong in the Lord. Let us look at an example of this with Israel.

### **Exodus 17:8-13**

*<sup>8</sup> Then came Amalek, and fought with Israel in Rephidim.*

*<sup>9</sup> And Moses said unto Joshua, Choose us out men, and go out, fight with Amalek: to morrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in mine hand.*

*<sup>10</sup> So Joshua did as Moses had said to him, and fought with Amalek: and Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill.*

*<sup>11</sup> And it came to pass, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed: and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed.*

*<sup>12</sup> But Moses hands were heavy; and they took a stone, and put it under him, and he sat thereon; and Aaron and Hur stayed up his hands, the one on the one side, and the other on the other side; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun.*

*<sup>13</sup> And Joshua discomfited Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword.*

This was the very first battle Israel faced after the crossing of the Red Sea. They were attacked by Amalek and let me show you how the attack unfolded.

### **Deuteronomy 25:17-18**

*<sup>17</sup> Remember what Amalek did unto thee by the way, when ye were come forth out of Egypt;*

*<sup>18</sup> How he met thee by the way, and **smote the hindmost of thee**, even **all that were feeble behind thee**, when **thou wast faint and weary**; and he feared not God.*

Amalek attacked those who were far behind the Cloud and Moses. He attacked those who were feeble and weary.

Our enemy knows when we are exhausted, he knows when we are the most vulnerable, and he knows our weaknesses. Therefore, we must be sure we learn to rest when rest is needed, and we must be sure we stay clear of the places where our enemy can use our weaknesses against us.

II. The Warning

Notice 2 Kings 6:9

God had made known to Elisha the plans of the king of Syria and Elisha sent word to the king of Israel to warn him. There are several practical lessons here for us.

1. **God uses spiritual leaders to warn His people of the dangers ahead.**

I point this out because it is so important that when we are facing a crossroads or some decision in life that we seek the counsel of God's spiritual leaders.

Hebrews 13:17

*<sup>17</sup> Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: **for they watch for your souls**, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.*

Proverbs 11:14

*<sup>14</sup> Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety.*

2. **God knows the plans the enemy has made to destroy us.**

I point this out because within this statement we can certainly see the need to walk in close fellowship with the Lord. We need His guidance and we need His wisdom for we cannot see beyond the moment we are in, but God knows our lives from the beginning to the end.

When Jesus taught His disciples to pray he explained that there was one thing they needed to pray for that pertains to what we are looking at here.

Matthew 6:9-13

*<sup>9</sup> After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.*

*<sup>10</sup> Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.*

*<sup>11</sup> Give us this day our daily bread.*

*<sup>12</sup> And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.*

*<sup>13</sup> **And lead us not into temptation**, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.*

The phrase "LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION" is the surrender of our plans. To pray this is to say to God, "I have my plans all laid out but if You see something out in the

future that will cause me to stumble or fall then I give You permission to redirect my plans."

**Psalm 17:5**

*<sup>5</sup> Hold up my goings in thy paths, that my footsteps slip not.*

I am reminded of the words of James here.

**James 4:7-8, 13-15**

*<sup>7</sup> Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*

*<sup>8</sup> Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.*

*<sup>13</sup> Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain:*

*<sup>14</sup> Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.*

*<sup>15</sup> For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.*

**Conclusion:**

We will pick this up here next week. As we close I will leave you with a verse that fits this context so well.

**Psalm 37:23-24**

*<sup>23</sup> The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way.*

*<sup>24</sup> Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth him with his hand.*