

"The Omniscience of God"

Part 2

2 Kings 6:8-17

Introduction: Last week in our study of Elisha we were looking at 2 Kings 6:8-17 and it is in this section that we were able to see the omniscience of Almighty God. When we say that God is omniscient it means that God is all-knowing. He knows the thoughts and the intents of each individual before we ever carry out any plans which have been made.

Psalm 139:1-4

O lord, thou hast searched me, and known me.

² *Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off.*

³ *Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways.*

⁴ *For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O LORD, thou knowest it altogether.*

1 Chronicles 28:9

⁹ *And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the LORD searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever.*

Hebrews 4:12-13

¹² *For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

¹³ *Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.*

This very Truth plus much more is seen in the text that is before us. Let me give you a review of what we looked at last week and then we shall continue where we stopped.

I. **The Timing**

Notice 2 Kings 6:8

This planned attack came after we read of the spiritual growth in the school of the prophets in 6:1-7. As we said last week, anytime there is spiritual growth or there is an

exercise of faith you and I can be sure that Satan is going to launch an attack because he despises both spiritual growth and faith.

Notice 2 Kings 6:8 again.

The king of Syria knew a place where the king of Israel often frequented and so it was at that very place that he planned to ambush Israel.

This is an important reminder to all of us that Satan knows our ways, he knows our habits, he knows our weaknesses and if he can he will use any of this against us. Therefore, we must walk close to our Lord for He alone has the knowledge of what Satan is planning to destroy His people. It is so very important that God is included in our plans as we pass through this world.

II. **The Warning**

Notice 2 Kings 6:9

God revealed to Elisha what the king of Syria was planning, and Elisha then sent word to the king of Israel to warn him. This is proof that God knows the plans of the enemy. It also is a reminder that God often uses spiritual leaders to warn His people about dangerous situations. All of this helps us to see the need to seek the will of God and to heed the Biblical advice that is given to us.

Hebrews 13:17

*¹⁷ 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.*

James 4:7-8, 13-15

⁷ Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

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

¹³ 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:

¹⁴ 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.

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

This now brings us back to where we stopped last week.

Notice 2 Kings 6:10

The king of Israel had little confidence in the warning of Elisha, so he sent men to the place of ambush multiple times.

Application:

There are two lessons which we can gather from what the king of Israel did here.

1. **He questioned a warning that was given from God.**

Let us understand that when God gives us a warning from His Word it is not for us to question but it is ours to heed to the warning. Too many times there are believers who are just like the king of Israel here and when they know the warnings of God they still proceed to the place of danger just because they want to see if it is really that dangerous. To put it very clearly, they toy with the dangers which they have been warned about. Let us learn that when God warns us then it is wise for us to stay completely clear of the area where an ambush could possibly take place. Let us never underestimate the power of the enemy. He has power to deceive, power to control the mind and power to lure his subjects into sin.

Jude 1:9

⁹ Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee.

Here we see that Michael the archangel would not enter into a battle with Satan but instead he rebuked him in the name of the Lord. I believe he avoided the battle because of the power of Satan. In 2 Corinthians we can see a warning concerning the deceptiveness of Satan and his fallen angels.

2 Corinthians 11:13-15

¹³ For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.

¹⁴ And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

¹⁵ Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

Now, let me explain one way in which this would apply to our lives today. There is certain literature in our society that is completely contrary to the Word of God. It is wise for us to stay completely clear of these authors and their books for if we even expose our minds

to the content it places us in danger of being deceived and lured into a false teaching in which the end result can be getting trapped in a fortress of false doctrine.

2 Corinthians 10:4-5

⁴ *(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of **strong holds**;))*

⁵ *Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;*

The words STRONG HOLDS literally mean FORTRESSES. Those who fall into false teaching often find themselves locked up in fortresses that only the Word of God can destroy.

Now let me get you to the second lesson here.

2. He searched out the words of Elisha.

There is room here to commend the king for he was not familiar with Elisha although he should have been. So, he saw fit to send his men to the place of ambush to see if what Elisha had said was true.

Application:

In this sense the king is a good example for us. When we hear a preacher or a teacher we are not to take their words as the truth but instead we are to search the Scriptures when we hear something that causes a caution flag to go up.

1 John 4:1-3

Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

² *Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God:*

³ *And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.*

In John's day there were those who were teaching that Jesus Christ was not human which would have disqualified Him to be the Savior of man. So here in these verse John exhorts his readers to TRY THE SPIRITS because he knew the spirit of the anti-Christ was already in the world which meant there were false teachers spreading false doctrine.

Peter also warned his readers.

2 Peter 2:1-3

*But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who **privily** shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.*

² *And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.*

³ *And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.*

This very warning is for us also. Therefore, we MUST be as the Bereans.

Acts 17:10-11

¹⁰ *And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea: who coming thither went into the synagogue of the Jews.*

¹¹ *These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and **searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.***

The Bereans searched the Scriptures daily to check the teaching of Paul and so they set the example for us that we must be very careful that we do not just accept something because a well-known teacher taught it, but we must search the Scriptures for they are the final Authority.

Notice 2 Kings 6:11-12

The king of Syria suspected his own men of leaking the information of the ambush to the king of Israel, but he soon discovered that it was coming from Elisha.

When I read this, I am reminded of a verse from 1 Corinthians.

1 Corinthians 2:14

¹⁴ *But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*

The king of Syria had no idea that he was fighting against the God of Israel. He did not know that it was God who had foiled his plans. All of this reminds me of what is unfolding in our world today. Things have changed so much over the past 10 years and many in our world have no idea that behind the scenes God is working out His plans. They have no idea that they can only go as far as He permits, and they can only exercise the amount of

authority which God permits. They have suppressed the Truth and so they cannot see the direction which the world is headed which is a path leading directly to the kingdom of the anti-Christ. The rapid change in our society is working into the plan of God so as to set the stage for the Tribulation period. But the world has no idea. They have no clue that God is controlling what is going on.

Let me remind you of the words of king Neb after he had come to his senses.

Daniel 4:34-37

³⁴ *And at the end of the days I Nebuchadnezzar lifted up mine eyes unto heaven, and mine understanding returned unto me, and I blessed the most High, and I praised and honoured him that liveth for ever, whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom is from generation to generation:*

³⁵ *And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?*

³⁶ *At the same time my reason returned unto me; and for the glory of my kingdom, mine honour and brightness returned unto me; and my counsellors and my lords sought unto me; and I was established in my kingdom, and excellent majesty was added unto me.*

³⁷ *Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honour the King of heaven, all whose works are truth, and his ways judgment: and those that walk in pride he is able to abase.*

Then there are Daniel's words in chapter 2.

Daniel 2:20-21

²⁰ *Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his:*

²¹ *And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding:*

III. **The Location of the Miracle**

Notice 2 Kings 6:13-14

When the king heard where Elisha was located he sent his army to have him captured.

Application:

The application here is one that we must not miss. In the actions of the king of Syria we see the persistence of the enemy. Now, I want to show you again what James said.

James 4:7-8

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

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

We are told that if we resist the Devil he will flee from us but let us never think that he will give up easily. He will flee but he will be back for he is persistent. As we resist him we can be sure that when he leaves he will eventually launch another attack from a different direction or in another form. Satan's ways never change, they just get packaged in different wrappers.

Notice 2 Kings 6:14 again.

It is very important to notice that the king of Syria sent his army in the NIGHT. This is the very way our enemy attacks. He hates the light, so he will come in the cover of the darkness. There is a verse that comes to mind here.

Psalm 119:105

¹⁰⁵ *Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.*

Since God's Word is Light and Satan loves the darkness then we MUST walk in the Light of the Word in order to expose the attacks of Satan.

Conclusion:

In closing I will remind you of how we are to defend against the persistent enemy.

Ephesians 6:12-13, 17

¹² *For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.*

¹³ *Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.*

¹⁷ *And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:*