

"The Famine and the Provision"

Part 5

2 Kings 6:24-7:20

Introduction: Tonight, as we return to our study in Elisha's life we shall see many lessons but the one Truth that really stands out in the miracle before us is that God's plans and promises cannot be foiled. We are living in a time today in which a knowledge of God's faithfulness is very important in order to have a peace within our hearts. Our nation is in a very dark state, it is divided, babies are being killed every day, transgenderism and homosexuality are held in high regard, (Chicago just elected their first openly gay mayor and many are overly thrilled) socialism creeps closer and closer, free speech is constantly under attack, drug abuse is out of control, and many politicians desire to legalize marijuana, and above all of this, God and His Word are being rejected and suppressed. The suppression of God's Word has taken our nation into a downward spiritual spiral deeper and deeper into the darkness. Based upon Romans chapter 1 God has lifted the moral restraints from this nation and we are being destroyed from the inside out. So, many believers are confused and are asking where is God amid all of this darkness? Is He still working in our nation?

God is still working in the USA in the lives of His people and He is still bringing people to salvation in Jesus Christ. As we get back to the miracle in 2 Kings 7 we shall see the ways in which God works when a nation has fallen into darkness. To begin with tonight I want to back up one more time to consider again why God choose to show grace and mercy to Israel at this time. One reason was because God has no pleasure in the death of the wicked.

Ezekiel 33:11

¹¹ Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?

There is yet something else here to consider.

Notice 2 Kings 6:32

Here we see that in the midst of the city was Elisha and the elders. The elders would have been those under the leadership of Elisha. Now here is the point we need to see; these men were SALT and LIGHT. Elisha and the elders were a preservative as well as a light in the midst of the darkness.

Matthew 5:13-16

¹³ *Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.*

¹⁴ *Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.*

¹⁵ *Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.*

¹⁶ *Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.*

Believers mixed in with the unrighteous of the world are used by God as a preservative. God often withholds judgment and brings blessing because there are believers in the midst.

Genesis 39:1-5

And Joseph was brought down to Egypt; and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him of the hands of the Ishmeelites, which had brought him down thither.

² *And the LORD was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian.*

³ *And his master saw that the LORD was with him, and that the LORD made all that he did to prosper in his hand.*

⁴ *And Joseph found grace in his sight, and he served him: and he made him overseer over his house, and all that he had he put into his hand.*

⁵ *And it came to pass from the time that he had made him overseer in his house, and over all that he had, that the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; and the blessing of the LORD was upon all that he had in the house, and in the field.*

The house and all that Potiphar owned was blessed by God because of Joseph.

Remember when Paul was on the ship headed to Rome and the storm came up and it was so severe that for over two weeks Paul and the men could not see the stars? That ship was broken to pieces by the storm but not one man was lost.

Acts 27:14-17, 21-24

¹⁴ *But not long after there arose against it a tempestuous wind, called Euroclydon.*

¹⁵ And when the ship was caught, and could not bear up into the wind, we let her drive.

¹⁶ And running under a certain island which is called Clauda, we had much work to come by the boat:

¹⁷ Which when they had taken up, they used helps, undergirding the ship; and, fearing lest they should fall into the quicksands, strake sail, and so were driven.

²¹ But after long abstinence Paul stood forth in the midst of them, and said, Sirs, ye should have hearkened unto me, and not have loosed from Crete, and to have gained this harm and loss.

²² And now I exhort you to be of good cheer: for there shall be no loss of any man's life among you, but of the ship.

²³ For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve,

²⁴ Saying, Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar: and, lo, **God hath given thee all them that sail with thee.**

In this world today, we who are saved are salt and light. When we are raptured away then great tribulation and judgment will come upon this world. Wherever God has placed us in this world we are important, and we do make a difference.

Now let us get back to the miracle.

I. The Responsibility of the Lepers

Notice 2 Kings 7:6-9

When the lepers arrived at the camp of the Syrians there was no Syrians around because God had used the sound effects to move the Syrians out. The lepers began to gather and to hide the spoils which they found and then in the midst of their efforts they all had the same thoughts. They began to fear that if they held their piece and did not disclose the good news to their fellow Israelites then surely, they would experience mischief of some kind in their own lives. There are several points to consider here.

- 1. We have the responsibility to share God's blessings with those who are less fortunate.**

This certainly refers to the Gospel message and the coming judgment of God upon mankind.

Ezekiel 3:17-19

¹⁷ Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me.

¹⁸ When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand.

¹⁹ Yet if thou warn the wicked, and he turn not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul.

2 Corinthians 5:18-20

¹⁸ And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;

¹⁹ To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

²⁰ Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

We do not just have the responsibility to share the blessings of the Gospel but also material blessings with the less fortunate.

1 Timothy 6:17-19

¹⁷ Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;

¹⁸ That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate;

¹⁹ Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

There will be a day of reckoning when we answer for what God entrusted to us.

Matthew 25:4, 15, 19

⁴ For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods.

¹⁵ And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey.

¹⁹ After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them.

2. God moved the hearts of these lepers to carry the news back to the people of Israel.

The point we need to understand is that God had made a promise that in twenty-four hours the famine and the siege would end. These lepers could not remain silent for they **MUST** carry the good news back to the Israelites for their announcement would bring to pass the promise of God.

Application:

Let us understand that God can use anyone He desires to see that His promises are fulfilled. He is sovereign over people and He can move hearts to see that His promises are fulfilled.

Proverbs 21:1

The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will.

Proverbs 16:1, 9

¹The preparations of the heart in man, and the answer of the tongue, is from the LORD.

⁹ A man's heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps.

Daniel 4:35

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?

Let me show to you what Isaiah wrote that is very interesting.

Isaiah 44:24-28

²⁴ Thus saith the LORD, thy redeemer, and he that formed thee from the womb, I am the LORD that maketh all things; that stretcheth forth the heavens alone; that spreadeth abroad the earth by myself;

²⁵ That frustrateth the tokens of the liars, and maketh diviners mad; that turneth wise men backward, and maketh their knowledge foolish;

²⁶ That confirmeth the word of his servant, and performeth the counsel of his messengers; that saith to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be inhabited; and to the cities of Judah, Ye shall be built, and I will raise up the decayed places thereof:

²⁷ That saith to the deep, Be dry, and I will dry up thy rivers:

²⁸ That saith of Cyrus, He is my shepherd, and shall perform all my pleasure: even saying to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be built; and to the temple, Thy foundation shall be laid.

This was written of Cyrus more than a hundred years before he was born. God would use him to end the captivity and to rebuild Jerusalem.

As we look around in our world it looks at times as though it is all out of control, but the reality is God is working. He has people in places of power for a purpose and He is working to fulfill His plan and promises.

II. The Wisdom of a Servant

Notice 2 Kings 7:10-13

The king was very skeptical about the news and he believed it was a trap set by the Syrians. For this reason, he seems to have been determined to not even check the Syrian's camp. But there was a servant there who believed the news was worthy of checking. He therefore encouraged the king to send several men with 5 horses to investigate the news. It was God who also stirred this servant's heart to encourage the king to send men to the camp of the Syrians. When I read verse 13 I am reminded of the importance of those whom the world sees as insignificant. Let me refresh your mind and mine concerning something that happened in chapter 5.

2 Kings 5:1-4

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.

² 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.

³ And she said unto her mistress, Would God my lord were with the prophet that is in Samaria! for he would recover him of his leprosy.

⁴ And one went in, and told his lord, saying, Thus and thus said the maid that is of the land of Israel.

The unnamed little maid spoke only a few words but had a great impact upon the king. I point all of this out to help you and me see that our words can change an entire situation and even a life. They may be few but when we use our words to encourage others or speak the Truth of god's Word we have no idea the impact we can have. Remember also it may not be at that very time that we see the impact. We may never know on this side of eternity how God used our Words.

III. The Promises Fulfilled

Notice 2 Kings 7:14-20

We see in this text that the famine ended just as God had said and the man who doubted the Word of God was permitted to see the end of the famine but as God had said he was not permitted to eat thereof for he was trampled in the gate.

Conclusion/Application:

What can we take with us from this miracle?

1. **When times become dark God is still in control.**

There is never a time that we face in which our God is not in control.

Daniel 2:20-22

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:

²² He revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him.

2. **God can use whomever He desires to meet the needs of His people.**

God can move anyone heart to give to a needy situation.

3. **Situations that look hopeless can be turned around in a short period of time.**

This famine ended in twenty-four hours from the time of Elisha's proclamation.

4. **God's promises will be fulfilled right down to every detail.**

Matthew 5:17-18

¹⁷ Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.

¹⁸ For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

5. God's warnings are to be heeded.