

**"The Meeting"**

**2 Kings 8:1-6**

**Introduction:** In the verses that are before us today God has placed something that will be a true blessing to all that study the events. The miracle before us tonight seems to be very insignificant compared to what we have been looking at over the past 6 months in the life of Elisha. But it is far from being insignificant. This miracle will probably mean more to you than all the others.

Let us begin by looking at the text and then we shall consider the meaning of the miracle.

**Notice 2 Kings 8:1**

The woman here is the Shunammite woman whom we met back in 2 Kings 4.

**Notice 2 Kings 4:8**

This was the woman whom God called great. She had no children, but God chose to bless her and her husband with a child. As the child grew he one day went to the field with his father complaining about pain in his head and the little boy died. Elisha then raised him from the dead. The last time we saw her, and her son was in 2 Kings 4:37.

Now here in 2 Kings 8 we meet her again and we see that she was in the city in the midst of the famine.

**I. The Miracle**

**Notice 2 Kings 8:1**

The very first word of this verse is very important. It tells us that what we are about to look at happened right after the famine and the siege of 2 Kings 7 ended. I point this out because there are many commentators who want to place this passage back in 2 Kings 4 after her son was raised from the dead. But to do so is to ignore the word "then". This word is placed here by the Holy Spirit to help us to know that what we are about to look at took place right after the famine and the siege.

**Notice 2 Kings 8:1 again.**

Now we see that Elisha warns the woman that there will be ANOTHER famine that will last for seven years. This seems strange that there would be another famine immediately following the famine of chapter 7. So the question is, "How are we to view this?"

Let me explain. In the previous miracle there was absolutely no acknowledgement of God's hand of provision. The people of Samaria were not thankful to God for the famine coming to an end. He received no credit for the end of the famine and the end of the siege. Now

if we search the Scriptures we will find out that being unthankful is closely associated with being unholy.

**2 Timothy 3:1-2**

*This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.*

<sup>2</sup> *For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,*

It may not seem to be that important to some as to whether or not they acknowledge God and His provisions by being thankful. But it is very important. We should never hesitate to bow our heads and thank the Lord for our food or for His faithfulness in our lives. God's Word actually commands us to give thanks to the Lord.

**Psalm 136:1-3**

*O give thanks unto the LORD: for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.*

<sup>2</sup> *O give thanks unto the God of gods: for his mercy endureth for ever.*

<sup>3</sup> *O give thanks to the Lord of lords: for his mercy endureth for ever.*

When people do not obey this command God will visit His displeasure upon them. This is one of the reasons why God will lift His moral restraints from a nation and individuals and pours out His wrath upon them.

**Romans 1:18-21**

<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.*

Now let me get you back to our text. The people of Israel never seemed to give God the glory for the previous miracle. They were not thankful. Now when God brought chastening upon His people of Israel there were four severe judgments that He would use.

**Ezekiel 14:21**

<sup>21</sup> For thus saith the Lord GOD; How much more when I send my four sore judgments upon Jerusalem, the sword, and the famine, and the noisome beast, and the pestilence, to cut off from it man and beast?

The people refused to repent and acknowledge the mercy of God in the previous famine, so God will bring another, and this famine will last for seven years. So, here in verse one Elisha warns the Shunammite woman and tells her to go wherever she can and wait out the famine.

**Notice 2 Kings 8:2**

The woman exercised faith in the warning given to Elisha by God and she sojourned in the land of the Philistines for seven years. There is something here that is important for us to see. The Philistines were the enemies of Israel. It is a miracle in that she was able to sojourn there for seven years in safety. There is a verse in Proverbs that tells us what had happened in the seven years.

**Proverbs 16:7**

<sup>7</sup> When a man's ways please the LORD, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him.

This woman and her house lived in obedience to the Word of God and they walked in the will of God. Therefore, God opened doors and provided the safety she and her house needed for seven years while they sojourned in the land of the enemy.

**Application:**

There are two important lessons here for us:

- 1. It is possible to live a separated life in the midst of a crooked and perverse society.**

The king and the people of Samaria were unthankful and unholy. They were an ungodly people. They were deep into idolatry but the same was not true of the Shunammite woman. She was in the society, but she was not involved in the sinful practices of the society.

We too can live separated in the midst of our corrupt society. As a matter of fact, we are called to live separated lives regardless of the cost.

**Revelation 2:8-10**

<sup>8</sup> And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive;

<sup>9</sup> *I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan.*

<sup>10</sup> *Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: **be thou faithful unto death**, and I will give thee a crown of life.*

We are equipped to live separated and to escape the corruption.

## **2 Peter 1:3-4**

<sup>3</sup> *According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain **unto life and godliness**, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:*

<sup>4</sup> *Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, **having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust**.*

### **2. We too can expect Divine protection as we walk in the will of God.**

We do not need to fear those who rise up against us. God is able to make our enemies to be at peace with us and He is able to use them to minister to our needs as we serve Him.

## **2 Timothy 1:7**

<sup>7</sup> *For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.*

## **Notice 2 Kings 8:3**

While the woman and her house were absent for seven years someone took over her house and her land. So, the only way to get it back was to plead with the king and have him use his authority to evict those living in the house on her land. So, I can imagine that she had to gather all the legal paper work, the title deed and bill of sale. She then saturated the entire situation in prayer. She rehearsed repeatedly what she was going to say to the king and then she made her way to the palace. Let us keep in mind she must plead her cause to a wicked, ungodly king. This would be like you and me going before a dishonest politician in an attempt to get back what someone had taken from us. The chances of getting him to listen would be very slim and the chances of getting him to use his authority to get our possession back would be less yet.

## **Notice 2 Kings 8:4**

Now the scene changes. We are now taken inside the palace to listen to a conversation between Gehazi and the king. Now earlier Gehazi had been infect with leprosy and here we

see he went from serving a man of God, Elisha, to serving a very corrupt king. Apparently Gehazi's leprosy was not so severe that he had to be placed outside the camp, so he is permitted to stay within the city. The interesting thing here is that the king asks Gehazi to tell him of the miracles of Elisha.

**Notice 2 Kings 8:5**

Gehazi tells the king how Elisha raised the Shunammite's son from the dead and just as he tells the king the story she walks in.

**Notice 2 Kings 8:6**

The king then restores all the woman had lost even the fruit that had been grown in the fields while she was gone.

So, what is the miracle here?

The miracle is seen in the timing of the woman arriving at the palace at just the right time.

Why has God recorded this miracle?

This miracle is here because it is one we can all relate to and it is a reminder that God performs miracles in all of our lives when we walk into a situation and the timing is perfect. Many would right this off as "LUCK" or as "COINCIDENCE". But God wants us to know that these times are orchestrated by Him. We will never see a person raised from the dead, we will never see into the spiritual world, we will never see someone parts the waters of the Jordan and we will never see someone caught up in a chariot of fire, but I am sure we have all been in a situation where the timing was perfect.

God wants us to know that these are miracles too! The Bible is full of such miracles that many would dismiss as coincidence. Let me show you a few examples.

**1. Divine Insomnia**

In the book of Esther there was a man named Haman who despised the Jews. He especially hated Mordecai because Mordecai would not bow down to him. He therefore had gallows built to hang Mordecai upon but before he could carry out his plan God kept the king awake one night. In his sleeplessness he had the book of records read to him and discovered that Mordecai had foiled a plan by two men to assassinate the king. But nothing had ever been done for Mordecai.

**Esther 6:1-3**

*On that night could not the king sleep, and he commanded to bring the book of records of the chronicles; and they were read before the king.*

<sup>2</sup> And it was found written, that Mordecai had told of Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's chamberlains, the keepers of the door, who sought to lay hand on the king Ahasuerus.

<sup>3</sup> And the king said, What honour and dignity hath been done to Mordecai for this? Then said the king's servants that ministered unto him, There is nothing done for him.

It was then that Haman came to see the king about hanging Mordecai.

### **Esther 6:4-10**

<sup>4</sup> And the king said, Who is in the court? Now Haman was come into the outward court of the king's house, to speak unto the king to hang Mordecai on the gallows that he had prepared for him.

<sup>5</sup> And the king's servants said unto him, Behold, Haman standeth in the court. And the king said, Let him come in.

<sup>6</sup> So Haman came in. And the king said unto him, What shall be done unto the man whom the king delighteth to honour? Now Haman thought in his heart, To whom would the king delight to do honour more than to myself?

<sup>7</sup> And Haman answered the king, For the man whom the king delighteth to honour,

<sup>8</sup> Let the royal apparel be brought which the king useth to wear, and the horse that the king rideth upon, and the crown royal which is set upon his head:

<sup>9</sup> And let this apparel and horse be delivered to the hand of one of the king's most noble princes, that they may array the man withal whom the king delighteth to honour, and bring him on horseback through the street of the city, and proclaim before him, Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delighteth to honour.

<sup>10</sup> Then the king said to Haman, Make haste, and take the apparel and the horse, as thou hast said, and do even so to Mordecai the Jew, that sitteth at the king's gate: let nothing fail of all that thou hast spoken.

The timing here was Divine and Haman was the one who was hanged on his own gallows.

## **2. God Directs the Steps.**

### **Proverbs 16:9**

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

### **Ruth 2:1-3**

*And Naomi had a kinsman of her husband's, a mighty man of wealth, of the family of Elimelech; and his name was Boaz.*

*<sup>2</sup> And Ruth the Moabitess said unto Naomi, Let me now go to the field, and glean ears of corn after him in whose sight I shall find grace. And she said unto her, Go, my daughter.*

*<sup>3</sup> And she went, and came, and gleaned in the field after the reapers: and her hap was to light on a part of the field belonging unto Boaz, who was of the kindred of Elimelech.*

It was not by chance or luck that Ruth ended up in the field of Boaz but it was Divine guidance. Notice the words of A. W. Tozer:

*"To the child of God, there is no such thing as an accident. He travels an appointed way. The path he treads was chosen for him when as, yet he was not, when as yet he had existence only in the mind of God.*

*Accidents may indeed appear to befall him, and misfortune stalk his way; but these evils will be so in appearance only and will seem evils only because we cannot read the secret script of God's hidden providence and so cannot discover the ends at which He aims.*

*When true faith enters, chance and mischance go out for good. They have no jurisdiction over them that are born of the Spirit.... The man of true faith may live in the absolute assurance that his steps are ordered by the Lord."*

**Conclusion:**

I will end with the words of Morgan:

*"Our lives become a daily series of small miracles, and His care is seen in the so-called coincidences that occur every day. God in His grace orchestrates apparently random incidents and events in our lives into a series of everyday miracles which, taken together, fulfill for us His preplanned and precious will."*