

## 2 Kings 6

King James Version (KJV)

**6** And the sons of the prophets said unto Elisha, Behold now, the place where we dwell with thee is too strait for us. (too strait = too small)

(There were three schools – Gilgal, Bethel and Jericho. The number of students was growing so they needed to add some space to those schools)

<sup>2</sup>Let us go, we pray thee, unto Jordan, and take thence every man a beam, and let us make us a place there, where we may dwell. And he answered, Go ye. (The school that they wanted to expand must have been the one in Jericho, because it was close to Jordan)

<sup>3</sup>And one said, Be content, I pray thee, and go with thy servants. And he answered, I will go.

<sup>4</sup>So he went with them. And when they came to Jordan, they cut down wood.

<sup>5</sup>But as one was felling a beam, the axe head fell into the water: and he cried, and said, Alas, master! for it was borrowed. (They couldn't afford to buy an axe)

<sup>6</sup>And the man of God said, Where fell it? And he shewed him the place. And he cut down a stick, and cast it in thither; and the iron did swim.

<sup>7</sup>Therefore said he, Take it up to thee. And he put out his hand, and took it. (These miracles were done to show the students that there is a God in Heaven. HE has total control over nature itself; because He created it in the first place)

<sup>8</sup>Then the king of Syria warred against Israel, and took counsel with his servants, saying, In such and such a place shall be my camp. (This camp was within Israel's borders. It gave the Syrians a place to launch attacks from)

<sup>9</sup>And the man of God sent unto the king of Israel, saying, Beware that thou pass not such a place; for thither the Syrians are come down. (Elisha sent word to King Jehoram - Don't leave this area unguarded, because the Syrians are planning an ambush)

<sup>10</sup> And the king of Israel sent to the place which the man of God told him and warned him of, and saved himself there, not once nor twice. (Israel's troops got there before Syria could establish a foothold in any location, several times)

<sup>11</sup> Therefore the heart of the king of Syria was sore troubled for this thing; and he called his servants, and said unto them, Will ye not shew me which of us is for the king of Israel? (Who was warning Israel? Benhadad started thinking that there was a spy among them)

<sup>12</sup> And one of his servants said, None, my lord, O king: but Elisha, the prophet that is in Israel, telleth the king of Israel the words that thou speakest in thy bedchamber. (God, through Elisha, was warning Israel. HE knows our thoughts)

<sup>13</sup> And he said, Go and spy where he is, that I may send and fetch him. And it was told him, saying, Behold, he is in Dothan. (Dothan = two wells; it was approx. 12 miles north of Samaria)

(Dothan is also where Joseph's brothers sold him to the Ishmaelite caravan) Genesis-37

<sup>14</sup> Therefore sent he thither horses, and chariots, and a great host: and they came by night, and compassed the city about. (This idiot wants to fight against God. No man's armies can defeat Almighty God)

(The king of Syria is about to learn the hard way that there is a God of Heaven and Earth. HIS name is Yahoveh)

<sup>15</sup> And when the servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, behold, an host compassed the city both with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! how shall we do? (There were thousands of enemy troops surrounding the whole city. They were looking for Elisha)

<sup>16</sup> And he answered, Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them. (Elisha's faith in God never wavered)

(Those who are with Elisha are God and His army of angels)

<sup>17</sup> And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha. (God's army was with Elisha)

NOTE: (This is the same army that will return with Jesus when He comes at the Second Advent. HE will return as King of kings, Lord of lords) Revelation-19:11-16, John-1:1

<sup>18</sup> And when they came down to him, Elisha prayed unto the LORD, and said, Smite this people, I pray thee, with blindness. And he smote them with blindness according to the word of Elisha. (It was either that, or he would have to kill them all. Elisha asked for mercy on these Syrian troops. They were just following their king's orders)

NOTE: (God opened the spiritual eyes of Elisha's servant while He closed the physical eyes of the Syrian army)

<sup>19</sup> And Elisha said unto them, This is not the way, neither is this the city: follow me, and I will bring you to the man whom ye seek. But he led them to Samaria. (The Syrians were all blind. Elisha led them by the hand. There were thousands of soldiers following each other by the hand)

<sup>20</sup> And it came to pass, when they were come into Samaria, that Elisha said, LORD, open the eyes of these men, that they may see. And the LORD opened their eyes, and they saw; and, behold, they were in the midst of Samaria. (When God opened their eyes, they were in Samaria – surrounded by the army of Israel)

<sup>21</sup> And the king of Israel said unto Elisha, when he saw them, My father, shall I smite them? shall I smite them? (My father = my counselor; a term of respect and honor)

(At least, this time the king of Israel asked Elisha what is God's wish towards these Syrian soldiers)

<sup>22</sup> And he answered, Thou shalt not smite them: wouldest thou smite those whom thou hast taken captive with thy sword and with thy bow? set bread and water before them, that they may eat and drink, and go to their master. (Feed them and let them return unarmed to Syria. They earned a valuable lesson that day. Don't even try to fight against God)

<sup>23</sup> And he prepared great provision for them: and when they had eaten and drunk, he sent them away, and they went to their master. So the bands of Syria came no more into the land of Israel. (These were bands of raiders. They were not the Syrian army)

<sup>24</sup> And it came to pass after this, that Benhadad king of Syria gathered all his host, and went up, and besieged Samaria. (This was the king of Syria and all his armies. The last raids were just smaller bands under a captain)

(The king of Syria didn't learn anything from what just happened to the bands of raiders that he had sent to Israel)

<sup>25</sup> And there was a great famine in Samaria: and, behold, they besieged it, until an ass's head was sold for fourscore pieces of silver, and the fourth part of a cab of dove's dung for five pieces of silver. (dove's dung = chick peas or garbanzo beans – per Smith's Bible Dictionary) (a cab = roughly one quart dry measure)

NOTE: (In times of famine, the price of food goes up quickly. An ass's head is not choice meat. It was pretty much all the meat that was left because of the famine)

<sup>26</sup> And as the king of Israel was passing by upon the wall, there cried a woman unto him, saying, Help, my lord, O king.

<sup>27</sup> And he said, If the LORD do not help thee, whence shall I help thee? out of the barnfloor, or out of the winepress? (barnfloor = threshing floor)

<sup>28</sup> And the king said unto her, What aileth thee? And she answered, This woman said unto me, Give thy son, that we may eat him to day, and we will eat my son to morrow. (God prophesied that this could happen if Israel turned their backs on Him. HE would no longer protect them) Leviticus-26:29, Deuteronomy-28:53

<sup>29</sup> So we boiled my son, and did eat him: and I said unto her on the next day, Give thy son, that we may eat him: and she hath hid her son. (By this time, there was no food. The people of Samaria were resorting to cannibalism)

Amos-8:11 (The famine of the end times will not be for food; it will be to hear the Word of God)

<sup>30</sup> And it came to pass, when the king heard the words of the woman, that he rent his clothes; and he passed by upon the wall, and the people looked, and, behold, he had sackcloth within upon his flesh. (Sackcloth was a sign of mourning and despair. But did he pray to God and repent? NO. He is putting on a show for his subjects)

<sup>31</sup> Then he said, God do so and more also to me, if the head of Elisha the son of Shaphat shall stand on him this day. (He wanted to kill Elisha. Elisha probably had advised him to repent; so that God would deal with the Syrians. Instead, he was holding Elisha responsible for what the Syrians were doing to Israel)

<sup>32</sup> But Elisha sat in his house, and the elders sat with him; and the king sent a man from before him: but ere the messenger came to him, he said to the elders, See ye how this son of a murderer hath sent to take away mine head? look, when the messenger cometh, shut the door, and hold him fast at the door: is not the sound of his master's feet behind him? (Ahab was a murderer. His son Jehoram was no better. Jehoram will come up behind the assassin)

<sup>33</sup> And while he yet talked with them, behold, the messenger came down unto him: and he said, Behold, this evil is of the LORD; what should I wait for the LORD any longer? (Messenger = king – bad translation. The two words are very similar in the Hebrew. This was a copyist error – Melek vs Malak) (It was correctly stated in Chapter-7 verses 2 & 17. The word is king)

The lesson: (Jehoram is blaming God for this siege. He brought this on to himself with his idol worship and his other sins. The people are also guilty of the same sins, so they drew God's chastisement)  
(Never blame God for what you have done to yourself. Repent and get back into God's graces and your life will improve quickly. By the same token, don't even think about conning God. Be sincere in your repentance)