

Freedom's Gate

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Reach for your Destiny

By Anne Pranger

about Elisha in 1 Kings 19:16-21. God told Elijah to anoint Elisha as prophet in his place. Shortly thereafter Elisha left his father and mother to follow Elijah to become his servant.

2 Kings chapter 2 is the story of Elijah "getting ready to be taken up" in a chariot of fire. Three times Elijah told Elisha that he was going to a certain place and for him to stay behind. Each time Elisha responded with, "As the Lord lives, and as your soul lives, I will not leave you!"

A Double Portion |

Finally, they reached the Jordan where Elijah knew he would soon be leaving. Since Elisha would not leave him and followed him wherever he went, here Elijah stopped and said, "Ask! What may I do for you, before I am taken away from you?" Elisha responded with, "Please let a double portion of your spirit be upon me."

Now right before they got to the Jordan, God performed His last miracle through Elijah. Let's look at it in 2 Kings 2:8: "Now Elijah took his mantle, rolled it up, and struck the water; and it (the water) was divided this way and that, so that the two of them crossed over on dry ground." Wow! No wonder Elisha wanted a double portion! Of course this wasn't the first miracle he had seen done at the hands of this prophet. Since he had been Elijah's servant, he was with him everywhere he went. He had heard of the many miracles done at the hands of this man and he was with him when fire came down from heaven and consumed two captains and the fifty men that were with each (2 Kings 1:9-12). So watching the waters part at this man's command was exciting, but not surprising to him. He knew it was the power of God and he was going to get in on it!

The Arrow of the Lord's Deliverance |

Let's move ahead to 2 Kings 13:14-21. "Elisha had become sick with the illness of which he would die. Then Joash the king of Israel came down to him and "wept over his face.." Elisha's response to the king was, "Take a bow and some arrows." The king did as he requested. Then the prophet spoke to the king to "Put your hand on the bow." Joash did so and Elisha put his hands on the king's hands and then he told the king to open the east window and shoot the arrow. The king shot the arrow and Elisha called it the **arrow of the Lord's deliverance** and the arrow of deliverance from Syria. Then he told him that he "**must strike the Syrians until you have destroyed them!**" (Verses 14-17).

Our story continues. Elisha then told the king to take the arrows and strike the ground and Joash struck the ground three times and stopped. Verse 19 says, "And the man of God (Elisha) was angry with him and said, "You should have struck five or six times; then you would have struck Syria till you had destroyed it! But now you will strike Syria only three times." Then Elisha died and they buried him.

"Where is the God of Elijah?" Those were the words spoken by Elisha as he took the mantle of Elijah (that had fallen when he was caught up by a whirlwind into heaven) and struck the water.

We first hear

Violent About the Kingdom |

This past August the Lord had me meditating on this story. I read it over and over. As I did, the Lord began to speak to me and give me revelation about the kingdom of God.

I have always wondered why Elisha got angry when the king only struck three times. After all, he didn't tell him to strike more. So, when the Lord led me to read this story, I asked Him why he got angry. The Spirit spoke and said, "Go back and read it again."

I saw it! 2 Kings 13:17 – Elisha called it the arrow of the Lord's deliverance and said to the king, "You must strike **until** you have destroyed them." It appears, in only striking three times, that Joash was only "appeasing" the prophet and his whole heart was not in it. He was not **violent about the kingdom** (Matthew 11:12).

Get the Message |

While pondering on this story, I found myself wondering **why** King Joash didn't "get the message." First of all, I noticed that his initial reaction to Elisha was one of weeping, not dominion! I find very interesting the words that he spoke when he saw Elisha on his deathbed: "O my father, my father, the chariots of Israel and their horsemen!" Those were the **exact words** that Elisha had spoken when Elijah went up in a chariot to heaven (2 Kings 2:12). He either had heard Elisha tell of that moment, or the Spirit transmitted it to him, but it is obvious there is a connection in those words.

In my spirit, I could see Elisha laying there and hearing those words. Perhaps he was thinking, "I remember those words well and the scene; maybe I can turn this man's sorrow into dominion and victory." Thus he told him to take the arrows and shoot....

In verse 16, we see that Elisha put his hands **on** the king's hands. I believe that was an act to impart a "double portion!" Why do I believe that? Because that is exactly what Elisha had requested from Elijah at his departing and he had said those same words. He **had** received that double portion and he was trying to give that same blessing to Joash.

Receive the Blessing |

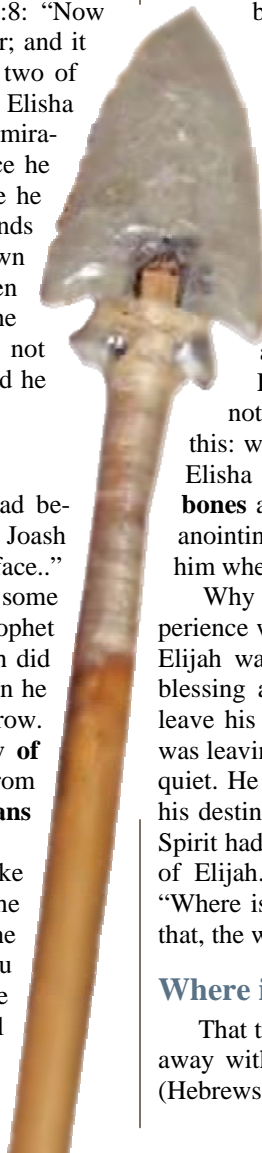
So, why didn't Joash receive that blessing? I think there are a couple of reasons that are at least obvious to me. One – he wouldn't lay aside the sorrow of Elisha being sick (and maybe even wondered **why** this man of God was sick at all), and he let the enemy oppress him and it blocked the impartation. Two – he was content to let Elisha be the "Man of God with his prophetic words" and not desire any of that for himself. What is most amazing is this: we read in verses 20 and 21 of chapter 13 that awhile after Elisha had died, that a dead man was let down on top of his **bones** and he revived – came back to life! There was that much anointing in his dead bones! Think of how much was flowing in him when he was alive!

Why was Elisha angry? I think the answer is found in his experience with Elijah's departure. Read 2 Kings 2:1-14. Elisha knew Elijah was leaving, but he was not sorrowing. He was after the blessing and the double portion. So much so, that he would not leave his side. When the sons of the prophets (who also knew he was leaving) tried to talk with him about it, he would tell them to be quiet. He **refused** to let other voices (even "spiritual" voices) take his destiny from him. He pressed on – stayed focused on what the Spirit had put inside of him. He got what he was after – the mantle of Elijah. The first thing he did was strike the water and say, "Where is the God of Elijah?" When he struck the water and said that, the water was divided and Elisha crossed over.

Where is the God of Elijah? |

That true story was under the old covenant which has been done away with! Imagine! We have a **better covenant**, the word says (Hebrews 8:6). So, let me ask you a question; "Where **is** the God of

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Beautiful - to God be the glory. JF

I love the new website. I look forward to using it a lot. JH

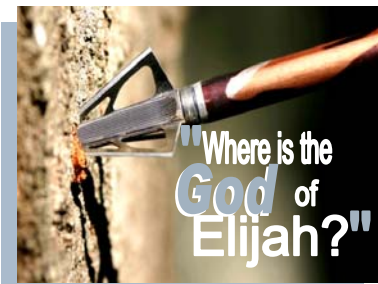
Wow! The website looks great. I'm passing it on to everyone I know. JP

Wow! So exciting. I know someone who will be excited about posted outlines for teaching. They have been asking. LH

Continued from Front...

Elijah?" **He is IN you and you are IN Him!** Do you think that God can do the same miracles through us that He did through Elijah and Elisha? Of course He can and He wants to! Let me say it again! **WE HAVE A BETTER COVENANT!**

God is ready if you are. He is always on! He has recently said these words to me, "Take the lid off. I will take you as high as you want to go. I'm ready if you are."



Well, Body of Christ, are you ready for the supernatural to be the norm in your life? I am and I intend to have it! I have taken the lid off and I am going higher in Him. I am after the "double" portion and pressing upward (Isaiah 61:7; Philipians 3:14). I **am** daily expecting and receiving the supernatural in my life!

Celebrate with Thanks! |

We are coming up on Thanksgiving holiday. Why not celebrate with extravagant thanks and praise to our God for this amazing covenant we have with Him. Let's say to Him, "Father, we are ready! We take the lid off and we are ready to live in the supernatural."

Where is the God of Elijah? He is in you and you are in Him!

Identity in Christ

Getting right with God always begins with settling once and for all the issue that God is your loving Father and you are His accepted child. That's the foundational truth of your spiritual identity. You are a child of God, you are created in His image, you have been declared righteous by Him because of your faith in Christ. As long as you believe that and walk accordingly, your daily experience of practical Christianity will result in growth. But when you get your eyes off your identity, and try to produce in your daily experience the acceptance God has already extended to you, you'll struggle. We don't serve God to gain His acceptance; we **are** accepted, so we serve God. We don't live for Him in order to be loved; we **are** loved, so we reckon ourselves dead for Him.

That's why you are called to live by **His** faith (Galatians 2:20, KJV). The essence of the victorious Christian life is believing what is already true about you. Do you have a

choice? Of course! Satan will try to convince you that you are an unworthy, unacceptable, sin-sick person who will never amount to anything in God's eyes. Is that who you are? No, you are not! You are a saint whom God has declared righteous. Believing Satan's lies will lock you in to a defeated, fruitless life. But having faith in God's truth about your identity will set you free.

Get the firm unshakeable conviction deep in your heart of who you are in Christ. The truest thing about you is what God **says** about you. Have faith in it, confess it and never confess or say otherwise, no matter how you may think or feel at the time. If you have been genuinely born again, then you may stand on what God says, because then it applies to you. Knowing and frequently reaffirming who you are in Christ is your basis and ground for overcoming every spiritual conflict. "No weapon formed against you will prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment **you** shall condemn.

This is the heritage of all God's servants, and their righteousness is from Me, says the Lord." (Isaiah 54:17)

~ James Chacko