

# This Episode In The Life Of Elisha Is **Important** to Children Of God Today

- The one thing that Politics and Religion have in common is that God oversees both
- We live in a world of SUPER POWERS which share different philosophies on how their countries should behave
- We live in a world where our own weapons may be one of our worst enemies environmentally
- But the Book of Daniel says that God is in control

"..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."

Daniel 2:21

- In 2 Kings 5, Naaman, Syria's chief captain was cured from leprosy by God working through Elisha
- But the healing and conversion of Naaman, had in no way removed or softened the heart of Benhadad, King of Syria, against Israel
- He certainly knew that his chief captain had been miraculously cured, but failed to derive any lesson from it concerning Israel or Israel's God
- The point is that when God has manifested Himself in obvious ways, man may choose to ignore Him

# This Is the Point!

#### **Our Success Should Increase Our Faith!**

 When God works magnificently in the lives of our brothers and sisters, it should increase our faith in Him (Promotions, successful surgeries, success through the storms of our lives, and others)

#### **BUT ALSO:**

- When death calls one close to us, it should remind us to "set your house in order."
- Some, however, will continue to live immoral lives, in spite of God reminding us of our own finality

- As a result of the king's arrogance, Ben-hadad continued to plan warlike expeditions against God's people, for the expressed purpose of capturing the king of Israel
- 2 Kings 6: 8 says that the king of Syria would set up his camp in places where he and his counsellors thought the King of Israel might travel to be able to capture him
- But one element he failed to calculate was that God was in heaven, watching him watch for the king of Israel (God's child)



# Proverbs 15:3

"The eyes of the Lord are in every place, Beholding the evil and the good."

- God would tell the prophet Elisha where the enemy was setting a trap for the king, and Elisha would tell the king; therefore he would relocate his camp to avoid capture
- You see it's not what man may do, but what God may or may not allow man to do
- Man may concoct his schemes against a child of God; but if God wants to deliver His child, He will

With an arrangement like that, children stay faithful!

Don't Concoct Your Scheme Against God!

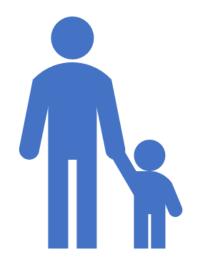


- 2 Kings 6:11 says that Ben-hadad the king of Syria became extremely upset. However cunning his scheme was, it always gave the same result
- He had only one explanation for failing to capture the king of Israel: "somebody in my army is tipping off the king of Israel about our plans!"
- But Ben-hadad was told, it is not one of us, but the prophet Elisha



- What Ben-hadad didn't realize was that Elisha was just doing his appointed work
- If Elisha didn't prophesy to Israel the danger of what was near, he was of little use
- If a prophet doesn't warn God's people about danger and destruction, what good is he?

### Preachers of God's Word Are The Same Way!



- A preacher without effective preaching is of little use
- I may have to get a little close to you at times
- It is not to pick on you, but to warn you of God's judgement when you're involved in unrighteous behavior. I don't want you to feel comfortable when you are wrong
- One reason parents are parents is to warn their children of destructive behaviors through their own experiences (good parents can't sit idly by and watch their children go down the tubes)

## The Plan Of Salvation

Hear the Gospel Acts 15:7

Believe the Gospel Acts 15:7

Repent Of Sins Acts 17:30

Confess Christ Acts 8:37

Be Baptized Acts 8:38