

Through the Bible

2 KINGS

Zac Poonen



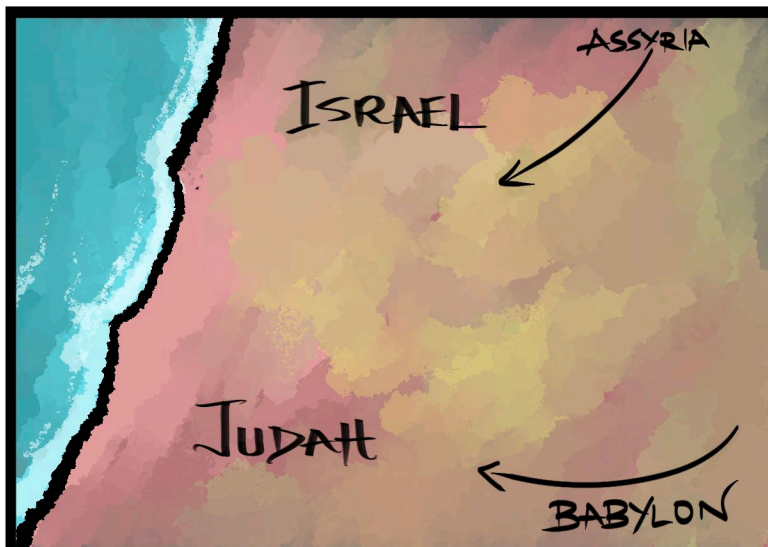
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CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

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2 KINGS



THIS BOOK CONTAINS THE REMAINING PART OF THE STORY OF THE **TWO** NATIONS -- ISRAEL AND JUDAH -- AND THE KINGS THAT RULED THEM. IN ISRAEL, ALMOST **ALL** THE KINGS WERE **BAD**. IN JUDAH, **SOME** WERE GOOD. WE ALSO READ HERE OF HOW **BOTH** NATIONS WENT INTO CAPTIVITY. THE **ASSYRIANS** CAME AND CAPTURED THE **NORTHERN** KINGDOM OF ISRAEL IN ABOUT 730 B.C. SOME OF THE ASSYRIANS INTERMARRIED WITH THE JEWS IN SAMARIA, AND THAT'S HOW THE **SAMARITANS** WERE BORN, WHOM THE OTHER JEWS DID NOT HAVE ANY DEALINGS WITH (IN JESUS' TIME).

ABOUT 150 YEARS LATER, THE **SOUTHERN** KINGDOM OF JUDAH WAS CAPTURED BY **BABYLON** (WHICH BECAME THE NEXT WORLD POWER AFTER ASSYRIA). THE **TRAGEDY** WAS THAT JUDAH DID NOT **LEARN** ANY LESSONS FROM THE **FAILURE** OF ISRAEL. A **WISE** MAN LEARNS FROM THE **MISTAKES** OF OTHERS.



AHAZIAH WAS THE NEW KING OF ISRAEL AND HE WAS VERY **ANGRY** WITH ELIJAH FOR REBUKING HIM FOR HIS **IDOLATRY**. SO HE SENT FIFTY SOLDIERS TO CAPTURE HIM. ELIJAH BROUGHT DOWN **FIRE** FROM HEAVEN AND KILLED ALL OF THEM. THIS HAPPENED A SECOND TIME WITH ANOTHER GROUP OF FIFTY TILL THE THIRD CAPTAIN **BEGGED** ELIJAH TO BE MERCIFUL TO HIM. IT WAS THESE INCIDENTS THAT JAMES AND JOHN REFERRED TO, WHEN JESUS CAME TO THIS **SAME** PLACE -- **SAMARIA** -- AND THE SAMARITANS DID NOT **RECEIVE** HIM. THEY WANTED TO CALL DOWN FIRE FROM HEAVEN LIKE ELIJAH DID. BUT JESUS **REBUKED** THEM SAYING, "YOU DON'T REALISE WHAT **SPIRIT** YOU HAVE. I HAVE COME TO **SAVE** MEN'S LIVES, NOT TO DESTROY THEM." (LUKE 9:55, 56). THERE WE SEE THE **DIFFERENCE** BETWEEN THE **NEW** COVENANT SPIRIT OF CHRIST AND THE SPIRIT OF THE OLD COVENANT PROPHETS.

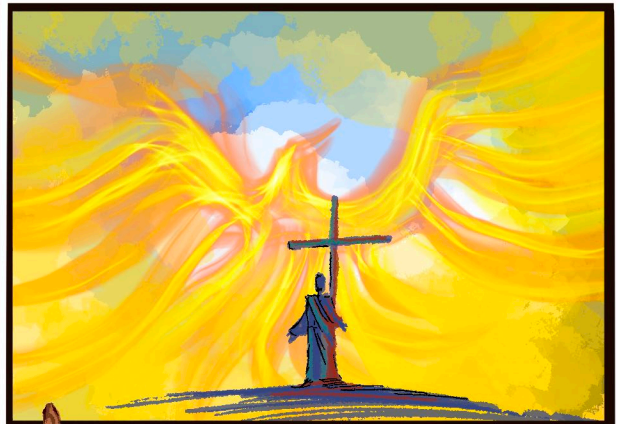


IN CHAPTER 2 WE SEE THE **PERSISTENCE** OF ELISHA, WHEN ELIJAH **TESTED** HIM. WHEN ELIJAH WAS ABOUT TO BE TAKEN UP TO HEAVEN, ELISHA WENT ALONG WITH HIM TO GILGAL. ELIJAH TOLD ELISHA TO STAY IN GILGAL BUT ELISHA **DIDN'T**. AT BETHEL AND JERICHO, THE SAME SCENE WAS REPEATED. ELIJAH THEN WENT TO JORDAN. WHEN THEY CAME TO THE RIVER JORDAN, ELIJAH STRUCK THE WATER, OPENED UP THE RIVER AND BOTH OF THEM WALKED ACROSS. THEN ELIJAH ASKED ELISHA "**WHY** HAVE YOU BEEN FOLLOWING ME? WHAT DO YOU **WANT**? WE ALSO CAN ASK OURSELVES - WHAT DO **WE** WANT? A BETTER INCOME, A CAR OR A NEW HOUSE? ELISHA HOWEVER SAID, "I WANT A DOUBLE PORTION OF YOUR **SPIRIT**" (2:9).



GOD WILL **TEST** US TOO, BEFORE HE COMMITS A MINISTRY TO US. HE WILL GIVE US A CERTAIN **EXPERIENCE** AND SEE IF WE ARE **CONTENT** WITH THAT. SOME CHRISTIANS ARE CONTENT, BUT OTHERS WILL SAY, "NO, LORD. I AM NOT SATISFIED."

GOD WILL LEAD THESE PEOPLE **FURTHER** AND GIVE THEM A DEEPER EXPERIENCE, MAYBE SOME **VISIONS** OR DO SOME **MIRACLE** THROUGH YOU. SOME WILL BE CONTENT WITH THAT. OTHERS WILL SAY, "LORD, I WANT THE SPIRIT THAT RESTED ON YOU TO REST ON ME TOO TO **TRANSFORM** ME INTO YOUR **LIKENESS**. I **WON'T** BE SATISFIED WITH ANYTHING **LESS** THAN THAT." I HAVE SEEN MANY CHRISTIANS WHO HAVE SETTLED FOR SOMETHING **LESS** THAN GOD'S BEST- BE LIKE ELISHA WHO **PRESSED** ON TO GOD'S BEST IN **HIS** GENERATION. HE GOT A **DOUBLE** PORTION OF THE ANOINTING, BECAUSE HE **PERSISTED**.



ELIJAH IS A TYPE OF **CHRIST** HERE. AND THIS IS WHAT THE LORD SAYS TO US, "IF YOU CAN **SEE** ME IN HEAVEN AT THE **FATHER'S** RIGHT HAND HAVING **CONQUERED** EVERYTHING FOR YOU, AND **BELIEVE** IN ME, YOU CAN HAVE THE ANOINTING."

THE DOUBLE ANOINTING IS A **HARD** THING TO RECEIVE. BUT **YOU** CAN HAVE IT IF YOU WILL **LOOK** AT THE LORD **ALONE** AND **NOT** AT MEN. THAT'S THE WORD OF THE LORD TO YOU.

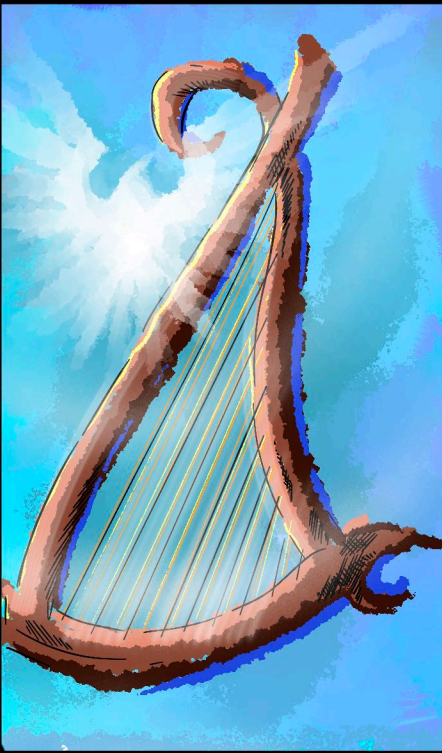
JESUS IS THE **BAPTISER** IN THE HOLY SPIRIT EVEN TODAY -- NOT ANY MAN. **EVEN** JOHN THE BAPTIST SAID, "I CAN **ONLY** BAPTISE YOU IN WATER. BUT **HE** WILL BAPTISE YOU IN THE **HOLY SPIRIT AND FIRE**." NO MAN CAN BAPTISE YOU IN THE HOLY SPIRIT. **JESUS CHRIST ALONE** IS THE BAPTISER. SO GO **DIRECTLY** TO HIM



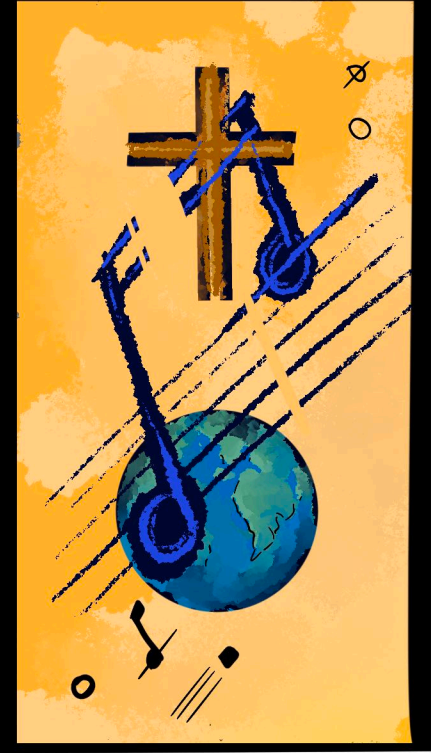
IN CHAPTER 3:11, WE SEE A **BEAUTIFUL** TITLE GIVEN TO THE PROPHET ELISHA BY OTHERS IN ISRAEL: "HE WHO USED TO POUR **WATER** ON THE **HANDS** OF ELIJAH." EACH TIME, AFTER ELIJAH HAD FINISHED EATING, ELISHA WOULD BRING SOME WATER AND POUR IT FOR ELIJAH TO WASH HIS HANDS. HE DID THAT JOB SO **REGULARLY** AND **FAITHFULLY** THAT OTHERS OBSERVED IT AND GAVE HIM THAT TITLE! THAT IS HOW ELISHA STARTED OUT ON HIS MINISTRY. GOD WILL TEST OUR FAITHFULNESS IN LITTLE THINGS BEFORE HE COMMITS A MINISTRY TO US. ELISHA WAS **NOT** KNOWN AS A GREAT PREACHER OR A GREAT PROPHET WHEN HE STARTED OUT. HE WAS KNOWN ONLY AS A SERVANT. **JESUS** TAUGHT US BY HIS **EXAMPLE** THAT WE SHOULD **WASH PEOPLE'S FEET** TILL THE **END** OF OUR LIVES.



ELISHA **SAW** ELIJAH AS HE WENT UP IN THE CHARIOT OF FIRE. HE TOOK THE **MANTLE** THAT HAD FALLEN AND RECEIVED THE **DOUBLE PORTION** OF THE **ANOINTING**. THERE WAS AN **IMMEDIATE PROOF** OF IT TOO. WHEN HE CAME TO THE RIVER JORDAN, HE **STRUCK THE WATER** AND **WALKED RIGHT ACROSS**. THE ANOINTING WILL BECOME MANIFEST IN OUR LIVES. WE **DON'T** HAVE TO **SHOUT** OR SCREAM OR EVEN **TELL** ANYONE OF OUR EXPERIENCE. OUR **LIFE** AND OUR **MINISTRY** WILL SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES -- **EVEN** TO PEOPLE WHO **CRITICISE** US.



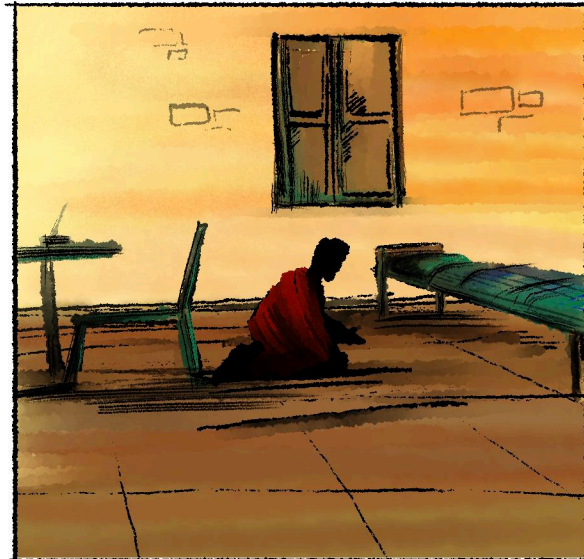
WHEN ELISHA WANTED TO SEEK THE MIND OF **GOD** SO THAT HE COULD PROPHECY, HE ASKED FOR SOMEONE TO PLAY A **HARP** (3:15). AS THE MUSICIAN BEGAN TO PLAY, THE HAND OF THE **LORD** CAME UPON ELISHA AND HE **PROPHESIED** POWERFULLY. **EVEN** A PROPHET NEEDS **HELP** AT TIMES FROM THE **MUSICIANS**. THAT'S WHY THOSE WHO **LEAD THE MUSIC** MUST BE **ANOINTED** AND HAVE A **GOOD CONSCIENCE**. SOME OF YOU MAY **NOT** BE CALLED TO BE PROPHETS, YOU MAY BE CALLED TO BE **MUSICIANS**. BE **ANOINTED** MUSICIANS. I DON'T THINK ELISHA WOULD HAVE BEEN INSPIRED THAT DAY, IF THE HARPIST HAD TRIED TO **IMITATE** SOME **WORLDLY** STYLE OF MUSIC. NO. THERE WAS SOMETHING **HEAVENLY** ABOUT THAT MUSIC. THERE IS MUSIC THAT IS **WORLDLY** AND MUSIC THAT IS **HEAVENLY**. YOU CAN **SENSE** WHEN MUSIC IS **HEAVENLY**, BECAUSE IT WILL **LIFT YOUR SPIRIT** TO **PRAISE GOD**. SOME MUSIC ONLY MAKES YOU **ADMIRE THE MUSICIANS!** YOU ARE AN ANOINTED MUSICIAN IF YOU CAN LEAD PEOPLE TO **PRAISE** GOD AND CAN BRING THE SPIRIT OF **PROPHECY** INTO A MEETING.



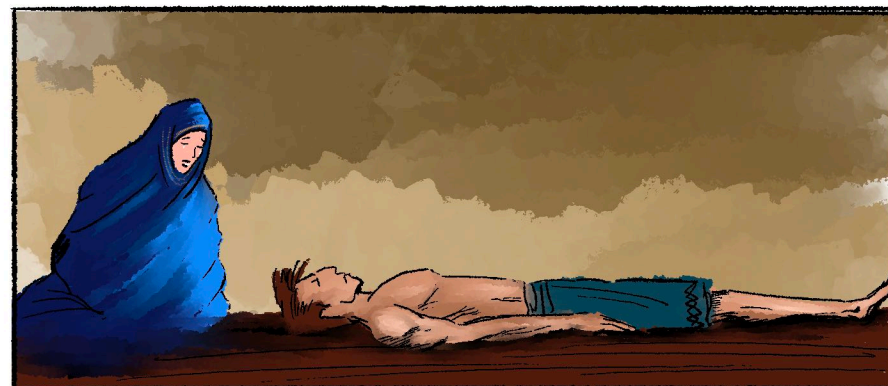
WE THEN READ OF A WIDOW IN DEBT. ELISHA ASKED HER WHAT SHE HAD IN HER HOME. SHE REPLIED, "**NOTHING**, EXCEPT A JAR OF OIL." SHE CALLED THE JAR OF OIL "**NOTHING**" AND YET THE SOLUTION TO ALL HER PROBLEMS LAY RIGHT THERE. THE LORD ASKED **MOSES** SOMETHING SIMILAR IN THE DESERT, "**WHAT** DO YOU HAVE IN YOUR HAND." HE ONLY HAD A **SHEPHERD'S STAFF**. SO IT WAS WITH THE WIDOW'S BOWL OF FLOUR IN **ZAREPHATH**. WE TOO MAY HAVE SOME ABILITY THAT WE DON'T **VALUE** AND SAY, "I CAN'T DO ANYTHING WITH THAT." **BUT THAT MAY BE THE VERY THING THE LORD WANTS TO USE!** THIS JAR OF OIL HERE IS A PICTURE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. ELISHA TOLD HER "GO INTO YOUR ROOM, **SHUT** THE DOOR, AND KEEP POURING FROM YOUR JAR INTO THESE VESSELS. **DON'T LET OTHER PEOPLE SEE THIS MIRACLE. DO IT IN SECRET.**" (VERSE 3). A MAN OF GOD MUST HAVE A **SECRET** WALK WITH GOD WHERE HE HAS DEALINGS WITH GOD, BEFORE HE CAN STAND UP IN **PUBLIC**. **SHUT** THE DOOR AND **EXPERIENCE** THE HOLY SPIRIT !



WE READ IN CHAPTER 4:8--37 OF ANOTHER WOMAN -- A PROMINENT, **RICH**, WEALTHY AND INFLUENTIAL WOMAN -- WHO WAS ALSO BLESSED BY ELISHA'S MINISTRY. GOD DOES NOT CHOOSE **ONLY** THE POOR AND THE ILLITERATE AND THE UNEDUCATED TO BLESS. HE HAS **NO PARTIALITY**. HE CHOSE AN ILLITERATE **PETER**, BUT HE ALSO CHOSE A **HIGHLY EDUCATED PAUL**. PETER DID NOT **KNOW** MUCH OF THE SCRIPTURES, BUT PAUL WAS A **SCHOLAR** IN THE SCRIPTURES. THERE WERE SOME **RICH** WOMEN WHO SUPPORTED **JESUS** AND HIS DISCIPLES FINANCIALLY, AND JESUS ACCEPTED THEIR LARGE GIFTS, **BECAUSE** THEY WERE **GODLY** WOMEN (LUKE 8:3). HERE WAS A WEALTHY WOMAN WHO DECIDED TO SUPPORT ELISHA. SHE WAS A **GODLY** WOMAN TOO, BECAUSE WHEN SHE SAW THIS MAN VISITING THEM OCCASIONALLY, SHE SAID TO HER HUSBAND, "I **PERCEIVE** THIS IS A HOLY MAN OF GOD." HOW DID SHE RECOGNISE ELISHA AS A HOLY MAN OF GOD WITHOUT EVEN **LISTENING** TO A SINGLE **SERMON** OF HIS?



SHE JUST **OBSERVED** THE WAY HE CONDUCTED HIMSELF AT THE **DINING** TABLE. WHAT AN **EXAMPLE** FOR US! IT IS THE **LITTLE** THINGS THAT IDENTIFY A **GODLY** MAN -- THE WAY HE SITS AND TALKS TO PEOPLE, THE WAY HE **EATS** HIS FOOD AND THE WAY HE **CONDUCTS** HIMSELF IN **ORDINARY** MATTERS. WE DON'T HAVE TO **LISTEN** TO HIS SERMONS. SO THIS WOMAN DECIDED TO MAKE A LITTLE GUEST-ROOM IN THEIR HOUSE FOR ELISHA TO **STAY** IN -- WITH A BED, A TABLE, A CHAIR AND A LIGHT. ELISHA HAD **NEVER** EVEN **SUGGESTED** THAT HE NEEDED ANY OF THESE THINGS. BUT SHE WAS A **THOUGHTFUL**, CONSIDERATE WOMAN. GOD TAKES **CARE** OF HIS SERVANTS BY PROVIDING SUCH PLACES OF **REST** FOR THEM, WITHOUT THEIR EVEN **EXPECTING** IT. BUT ELISHA WAS NO **DEBTOR**. ELISHA **PRAYED** AND SHE HAD A SON.

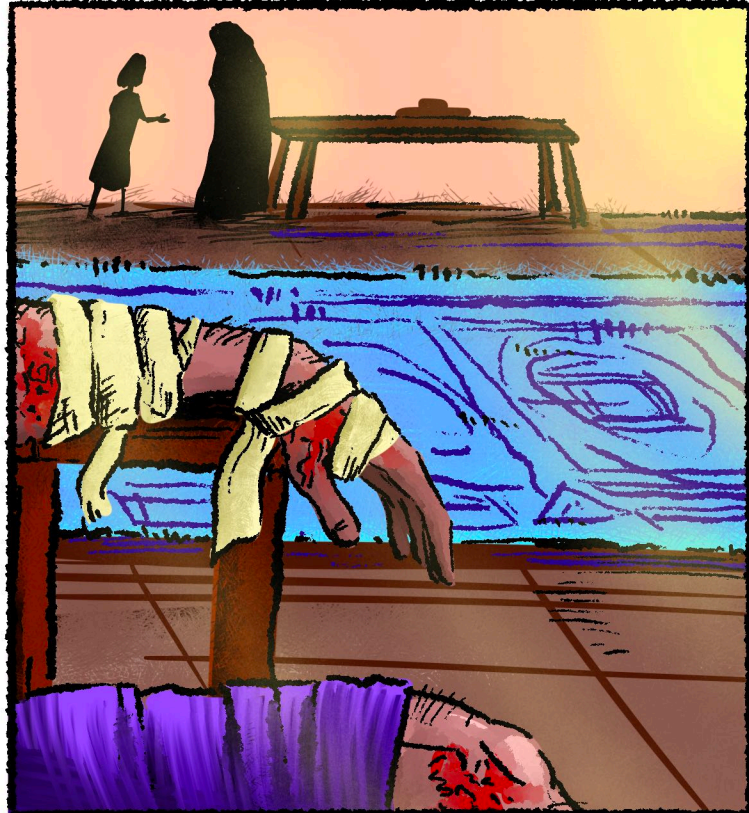


THAT CHILD GREW UP, AND ONE DAY BECAME **SICK** AND **DIED** (4:20). THINK OF THE **FAITH** OF THIS MOTHER THAT SHE DID **NOT BURY** THE CHILD IMMEDIATELY, BUT SAID, "LET ME FIRST CONTACT THE MAN OF **GOD**" (4:25). SO SHE WENT TO MEET ELISHA. WHEN ELISHA SAW HER FROM A DISTANCE, HE TOLD GEHAZI TO ASK HER, "IS IT WELL WITH YOU? IS IT WELL WITH YOUR HUSBAND? IS IT WELL WITH YOUR CHILD?" (VERSE 26). LISTEN TO THE **ANSWER** OF **FAITH** THAT SHE GAVE CONCERNING HER DEAD CHILD: "IT IS WELL." WHAT **FAITH** THAT WAS! ELISHA WENT AND PRAYED FOR THAT CHILD AND RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD. IT'S **AMAZING** TO SEE WHAT THAT MOTHER'S **FAITH** DID FOR THAT CHILD. **ACCORDING** TO HER **FAITH** SHE **RECEIVED**. THAT IS WHY SHE FINDS MENTION IN THE **GALLERY** OF THE **HEROES** OF **FAITH**: "WOMEN RECEIVED BACK THEIR DEAD BY **RESURRECTION** AND GAINED THE **APPROVAL** OF **GOD** BY THEIR **FAITH**" (HEBREWS 11:35, 39). IF THAT MOTHER DID NOT HAVE **FAITH**, SHE WOULD HAVE BURIED HER CHILD. **WHAT MIRACLES** THE LORD DOES WHEREVER HE FINDS SOMEONE WITH **FAITH**!





CHAPTER 4:38--44: HERE WE READ OF A TIME WHEN A **POISONOUS** VINE WAS ACCIDENTALLY SLICED UP AND PUT INTO THE FOOD THAT WAS BEING COOKED. THEY TOLD ELISHA ABOUT IT. HE THREW SOME FLOUR INTO IT AND THE FOOD WAS MADE **HEALTHY**. THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY **ANOTHER** MIRACLE -- THE FIRST INSTANCE OF **MULTIPLYING** OF **FOOD** IN THE BIBLE. THE LOAVES OF BREAD WERE **INSUFFICIENT** FOR THE HUNDRED PEOPLE. BUT ELISHA **MULTIPLIED** THE FOOD AND THERE WAS SOME **LEFT OVER** AS WELL, AFTER **EVERYONE** HAD EATEN TO THE **FULL!**



NAAMAN FIRST OF ALL WENT TO THE **KING** WHO SENT HIM TO **ELISHA**. SEE HOW ELISHA TREATED THIS **MIGHTY** GENERAL. A **TRUE** MAN OF **GOD** DOESN'T **CARE** WHETHER A MAN IS A **GREAT** MAN OR A **SMALL** MAN. ELISHA SHOWED **MORE HONOUR** TO THAT **POOR** WIDOW WHEN SHE CAME TO HIM WITH HER FINANCIAL NEED. BUT WHEN THE **GREAT** SYRIAN GENERAL (WHO WAS USED TO PEOPLE **BOWING** DOWN BEFORE HIM) CAME, ELISHA DID **NOT EVEN** GO TO **MEET** HIM. NAAMAN, THE GENERAL OF THE **WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL** ARMY, HAD TO **STAND** OUTSIDE THE PROPHET'S HUT. ELISHA **COULDN'T CARE LESS** WHO NAAMAN WAS. HOW I WISH **INDIA** HAD PROPHETS LIKE THAT. WHAT A **DIFFERENT** BRAND OF **CHRISTIANITY** WE WOULD HAVE HAD IN OUR LAND, IF WE HAD PROPHETS, WHO DON'T CARE FOR THE **FACE** OF **MAN**, BUT WHO LIVE BEFORE **GOD'S** FACE **ALONE**. ELISHA WANTED TO HELP NAAMAN. BUT HE HAD TO **HUMBLE** NAAMAN'S **PRIDE** FIRST.

CHAPTER 5: HERE WE COME TO THE STORY OF **NAAMAN**. GOD USED A **LITTLE** ISRAELITE SLAVE-GIRL TO LEAD NAAMAN TO **FAITH** IN THE GOD AND **HEALING** FROM HIS LEPROSY. MAYBE WE DON'T HAVE THE **ABILITY** TO GIVE SOMEONE THE GOSPEL. BUT, LIKE THE SLAVE-GIRL, GOD CAN USE YOU TO **LEAD** A PERSON TO **SOMEONE ELSE** WHO CAN GIVE THEM THE **GOSPEL**.



HE SENT HIS **SERVANT** GEHAZI TO GO AND TELL NAAMAN, "GO AND **WASH** SEVEN TIMES IN THE RIVER **JORDAN**" (VERSE 10). THE RIVER JORDAN WAS A **DIRTY, MUDDY** RIVER. NAAMAN WAS **FURIOUS** AND SAID, "I THOUGHT HE WOULD SURELY **COME OUT** TO ME AND CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD HIS GOD, WAVE HIS HAND OVER THE PLACE AND CURE THE LEPROSY. WHY SHOULD I GO TO THIS **FILTHY** RIVER OF JORDAN? ARE NOT THE RIVERS OF **DAMASCUS**, BETTER THAN THIS?" HE WAS SO **ANGRY**. A PROPHET HAS TO **IRRITATE** PEOPLE AT TIMES IN ORDER TO DEFLATE THEIR PRIDE. GOD GIVES SOME PROPHETS THIS MINISTRY, TO SHOW THEM THAT THEY WERE **NOTHING** IN **GOD'S** EYES. GOD **DOESN'T CARE** FOR A MAN'S **POSITION** OR **HONOUR**.

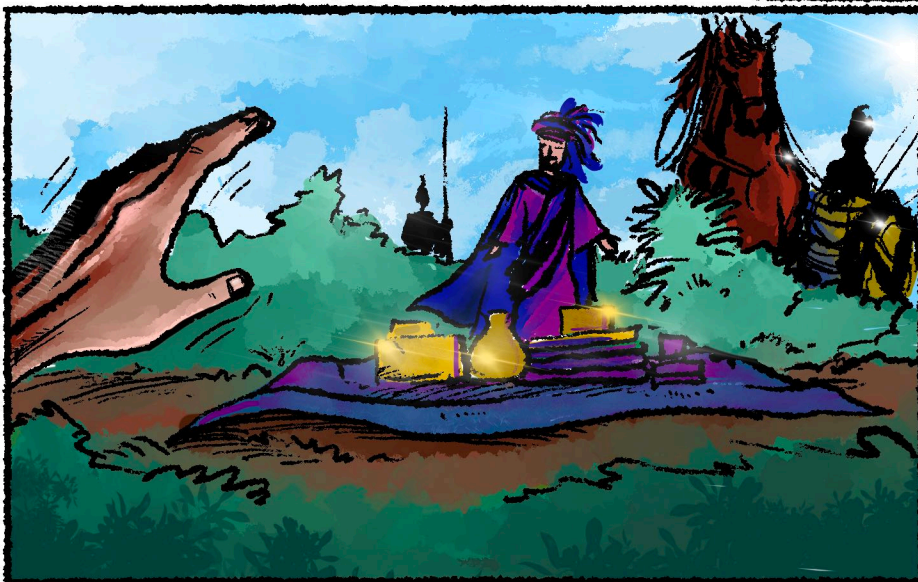


WE MUST **NOT** STOP UNTIL WE BECOME LIKE LITTLE CHILDREN, BECAUSE THE **KINGDOM OF HEAVEN** BELONGS TO SUCH. NAAMAN'S FLESH BECAME LIKE THAT OF A **LITTLE CHILD** AND HE WAS **CLEAN**. WHEN **OUR** FLESH BECOMES LIKE THAT OF A LITTLE CHILD, WE TOO WILL BE **CLEAN**. BUT NOT UNTIL THEN.



NAAMAN WAS **IRRITATED** WITH ELISHA. BUT ONE OF HIS **SERVANTS** HAD SOME **SENSE** AND SAID, "MASTER, HE HAS ASKED YOU TO DO SUCH A **SIMPLE** THING. WHY DON'T YOU **TRY** IT?" SO NAAMAN AGREED TO DIP HIMSELF IN THE RIVER JORDAN. IMAGINE THE **GREAT** GENERAL TAKING OFF HIS CLOTHES AND EVERYONE SEEING HIS **LEPROSY**. HE HAD TO **HUMBLE** HIMSELF AND **OBEY**. WHEN WAS HE TO STOP? ONLY WHEN HIS FLESH HAD BECOME **CLEAN** AND **CLEAR** LIKE A **LITTLE CHILD'S**. WHEN WE ARE **HUMBL**ED BY SOME CIRCUMSTANCE OR PERSON, THE WORD OF THE LORD TO US IS: "GO **DOWN** AND **HUMBLE** YOURSELF, UNTIL YOU BECOME LIKE A **LITTLE CHILD**."

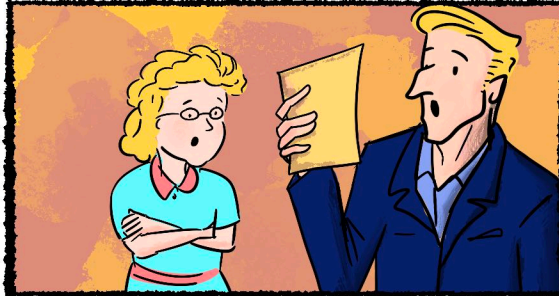
ALL OF US ARE TOO **BIG** IN OUR OWN EYES. WE ARE NOT LIKE LITTLE CHILDREN. LOOK INTO THE EYES OF A LITTLE BABY. IT HAS NO FEELING OF **SELF-IMPORTANCE**. THAT'S THE PLACE GOD WANTS TO BRING US ALSO TO -- THE PLACE OF **NOTHINGNESS**. WHEN WE COME TO THE PLACE WHERE WE REALISE THAT WE ARE **NOTHING**, THEN WE TOO WILL BE **CLEAN**. UNTIL LET US KEEP GOING **DOWN** IN **HUMILITY**



NAAMAN THEN CAME BACK TO **ELISHA**, **AMAZED** AT, AND **GRATEFUL** FOR THE MIRACLE-WORKING POWER OF ISRAEL'S GOD. HE BROUGHT A LOT OF **MONEY** AND **CLOTHES** TO GIVE TO ELISHA. BUT ELISHA SAID, "AS THE LORD LIVES I WILL TAKE **NOTHING**" (VERSE 16). THE BIBLE SAYS THAT WE MUST RECEIVE **NO** MONEY FROM **UNBELIEVERS** (3 JOHN 7). NO UNBELIEVER HAS THE **RIGHT** TO SUPPORT A **SERVANT** OF GOD. ONLY GOD'S PEOPLE HAVE THE **RIGHT** AND **PRIVILEGE** TO SUPPORT GOD'S SERVANTS. ELISHA DID **RECEIVE** GIFTS FROM **GODLY** PEOPLE. WE JUST SAW THAT A **RICH** WOMAN PROVIDED A ROOM FOR HIM TO STAY IN. BUT HE WOULD RECEIVE NOTHING FROM NAAMAN. THIS IS WHERE **MANY** SERVANTS OF GOD HAVE **MISSED** OUT ON **GOD'S WILL** FOR THEIR LIVES.

BUT ELISHA'S SERVANT GEHAZI, SAID, "WHAT A **FOOL** MY MASTER IS! HE DIDN'T **ASK** FOR THE MONEY (OR SEND OUT ANY PRAYER LETTERS!). THE MONEY WAS OFFERED **FREELY** AND HE **STILL** SAYS, 'NO.' WELL, IF MY MASTER DOESN'T TAKE IT, I WILL." **GREEDY** GEHAZI WAS NOT CONCERNED ABOUT THE FACT THAT IT WAS AN **IDOL-WORSHIPPER** WHO WAS OFFERING MONEY TO GOD'S SERVANT. HE RAN AFTER NAAMAN FOR THE MONEY (VERSE 21) -- JUST LIKE A LOT OF PREACHERS **TODAY** RUN AFTER **RICH** PEOPLE. THEN GEHAZI COOKED UP A **LIE** AND ASKED FOR CLOTHES AND MONEY FOR " **STUDENTS** WHO HAD COME " NAAMAN BELIEVED THE LIE AND GAVE HIM MORE THAN HE ASKED FOR.



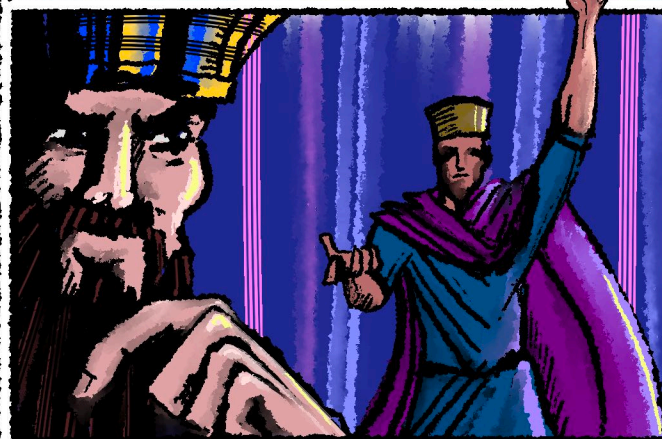


IT IS EASY TO **JUSTIFY** FALSE REPORTS ABOUT GOD'S WORK, WHEN **COVETOUSNESS** RULES YOUR HEART. WE SEE THE SAME TYPE OF LYING IN REPORTS **TODAY**. IF YOU COULD READ ALL THE REPORTS SENT FROM **INDIA** TO **AMERICA**, YOU WOULD THINK INDIA IS **BLANKETED** WITH **CHRISTIAN REVIVALS** EVERYWHERE! WE WHO LIVE HERE IN INDIA KNOW THAT **NOTHING** OF THE SORT IS HAPPENING. BUT MANY **GOOD-HEARTED** BELIEVERS IN AMERICA BELIEVE THESE TALES AND SEND **MONEY SACRIFICIALLY** TO THESE **CROOKS** IN INDIA WHO WRITE SUCH REPORTS! **GEHAZI** COLLECTED THE MONEY, HID IT IN HIS HOUSE AND CAME AND STOOD BEFORE **ELISHA**, WITH AN **INNOCENT** FACE. BUT **ELISHA** WAS A MAN OF GOD AND COULD **NOT** BE **FOOLED**. **ELISHA** HAD OBTAINED A **DOUBLE PORTION** OF **ELIJAH'S** ANOINTING, AND **GEHAZI** COULD HAVE GOT A **DOUBLE PORTION** OF **ELISHA'S**. THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN **FOUR** TIMES THE ANOINTING THAT **ELIJAH** HAD! BUT WHEREAS **ELISHA** HAD PURSUED AFTER **ELIJAH** PERSISTENTLY FOR THE ANOINTING, **GEHAZI** PURSUED AFTER **NAAMAN** FOR HIS MONEY. **ELISHA** GOT THE **ANOINTING** **ELIJAH** HAD AND **GEHAZI** GOT **NAAMAN'S** **LEPROSY**. **SPIRITUAL LEPROSY** IS SEEN **TODAY** !



WE SEE ANOTHER MIRACLE THAT **ELISHA** DID IN CHAPTER 6. WHEN CERTAIN BIBLE- SCHOOL STUDENTS WERE DOING SOME CONSTRUCTION WORK, AN AXE THAT THEY HAD BORROWED FELL INTO THE RIVER. THEY CAME AND TOLD **ELISHA** ABOUT IT. HE PROMPTLY THREW A STICK INTO THE RIVER AND THE IRON-AXE FLOATED SURFACE! HERE AGAIN WE SEE THE PRINCIPLE OF **RESURRECTION** .

LET US LOOK AT ANOTHER INCIDENT NOW THAT SHOWS US WHAT **TRUE PROPHECY** IS. THE KING OF **ARAM** WAS **FIGHTING** AGAINST ISRAEL AND HE TOLD HIS SERVANTS THAT HE WOULD BE SETTING UP HIS ARMY CAMP IN A CERTAIN PLACE (6:8). BUT **GOD** SHOWED THE KING'S PLAN TO **ELISHA** -- AND **ELISHA** **WARNED** THE KING OF ISRAEL ABOUT IT. THUS THE KING OF ISRAEL PROTECTED HIS ARMY FROM **ARAM** **MORE** THAN **ONCE**. THE KING OF **ARAM** **WONDERED** **HOW** THIS WAS HAPPENING, AND SUSPECTED THAT **SOMEONE** IN HIS CAMP WAS **SPYING** FOR ISRAEL. BUT **SOMEONE** WHO KNEW THE **TRUTH** TOLD THE KING THAT THERE WAS A **PROPHET** IN ISRAEL WHO WAS **WARNING** ISRAEL'S KING ABOUT THE MOVEMENTS OF THE **ARAMEAN** ARMY.



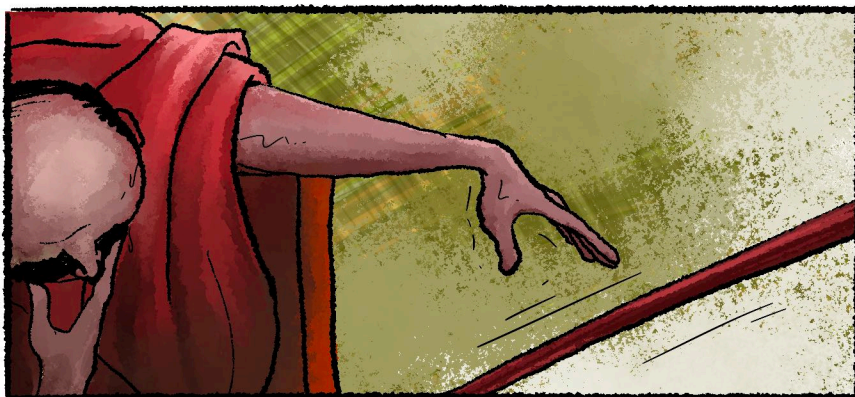
THIS IS THE PURPOSE OF **TRUE PROPHECY** **TODAY** IN THE **CHURCH** TOO. WHAT DID **ELISHA** DO? HE **WARNED** ISRAEL THAT THE **ENEMY** WOULD BE COMING TO A CERTAIN PLACE **NEXT WEEK** AND TO **PREPARE** FOR THAT. THIS IS WHAT **PROPHECY** IN THE **CHURCH** SHOULD DO TOO. **WEEK** AFTER **WEEK**, THE SPIRIT OF **PROPHECY** IN THE MEETINGS OF THE **CHURCH** SHOULD **WARN** **GOD'S** PEOPLE WHERE THE **ENEMY** WILL COME. IT IS **WONDERFUL** TO HAVE A **PROPHET** IN A **CHURCH** WHO CAN **WARN** PEOPLE THROUGH THE **WORD** WHAT THEY NEED TO BE **PREPARED** TO **FACE**. THAT IS WHY THE BIBLE SAYS, "**EARNESTLY** DESIRE TO **PROPHECY**" (1 CORINTHIANS 14:1)



IN 6:24--29 WE READ OF A GREAT SHORTAGE OF FOOD IN SAMARIA, BECAUSE THE **ARAMEAN** ARMY WAS SURROUNDING THE CITY. BUT OUTSIDE THE CITY THERE WERE FOUR **LEPERS** (WHO, BEING LEPERS, WERE NOT ALLOWED INSIDE THE CITY) (7:3). THEY DECIDED TO GO TO THE ARAMEAN CAMP AND ASK FOR FOOD. WHEN THEY REACHED THE ENEMY CAMP, THEY DISCOVERED THAT THE SOLDIERS THERE HAD ALL **FLED**, BECAUSE OF THE **LORD**, SO THESE LEPERS FOUND **PLENTY** OF **FOOD** THERE. BUT THEN THEY SAID, "WE MUST **TELL** **OTHERS** ABOUT THIS. WE MUST **NOT** KEEP THIS **GOOD** NEWS TO **OURSELVES**." SO THEY WENT AND TOLD THE **GOOD** NEWS TO THE CITY OF SAMARIA AND THUS THE **CITY** WAS **SAVED** FROM DEATH. THIS IS WHY WE MUST PREACH THE **GOSPEL** TO OTHERS TOO.

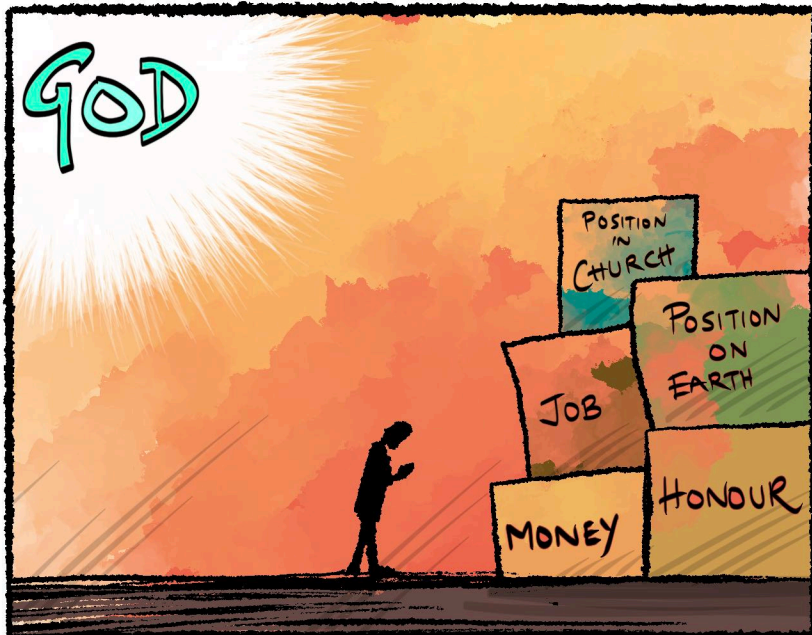


IN CHAPTER 9, WE READ OF THE **DEATH** OF **JEZEBEL**, THE WIFE OF AHAH. SHE WAS SOMEONE WHO HAD **OPPOSED** THE TRUE **PROPHETS** OF **GOD** **CONSISTENTLY**, AND HER NAME HAS NOW BECOME A **SYMBOL** OF THOSE WHO **OPPOSE** GOD'S SERVANTS. IN REVELATION 2:20, THE LORD TOLD THE ELDER OF THE CHURCH IN **THYATIRA**, "YOU ARE PERMITTING YOUR WIFE JEZEBEL TO LEAD MY SERVANTS **ASTRAY**" IF YOU ARE A PROPHET OF GOD LIKE ELIJAH, YOU WILL HAVE TO **CONFRONT** THESE JEZEBELS AND PUT THEM IN THEIR **PROPER** PLACE. WE READ HERE THAT QUEEN JEZEBEL WAS **THROWN** DOWN FROM THE TOP OF A BUILDING AND SHE DIED.

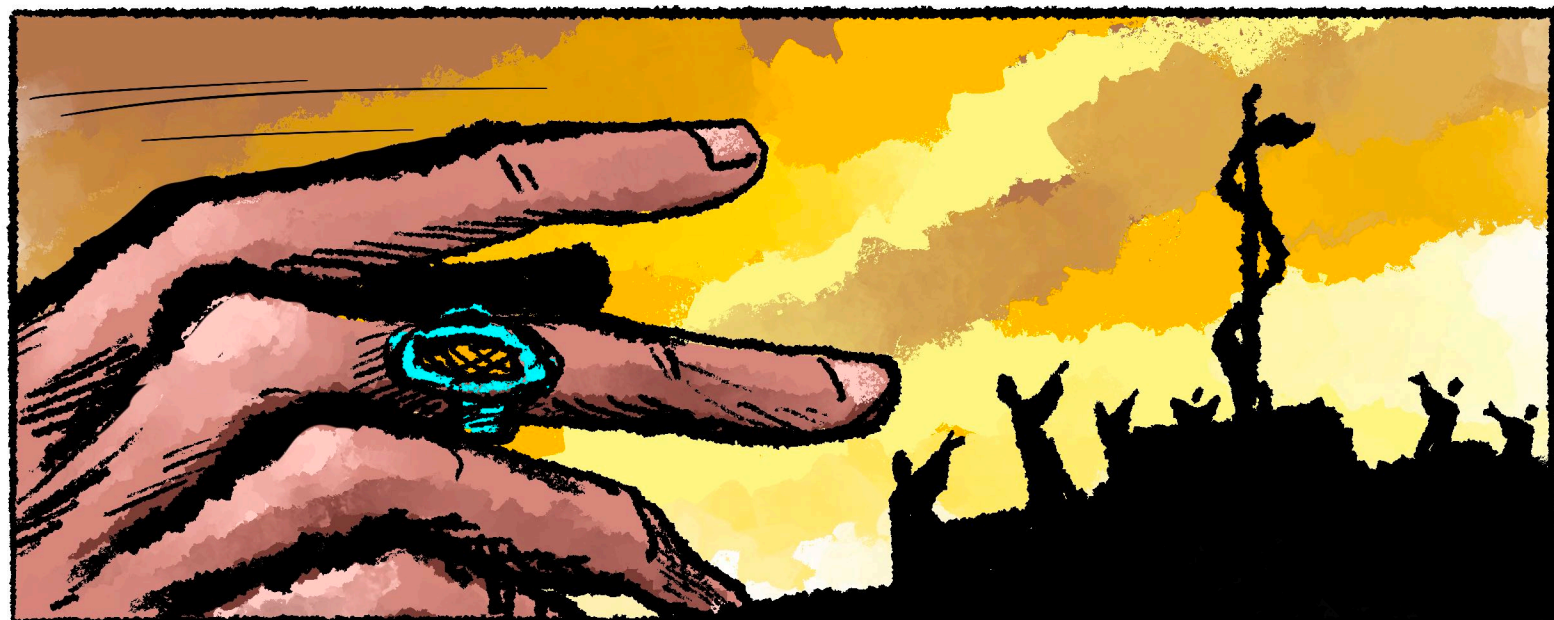


IN CHAPTER 13:14, WE READ THAT **ELISHA** WAS **SICK** AND DIED OF THAT SICKNESS. WHY DIDN'T ELISHA CLAIM EXODUS 15:26 ("I THE LORD AM YOUR HEALER")? A MAN LIKE ELISHA HAD ENOUGH **FAITH** TO RAISE THE **DEAD**. SO IF HE WAS **NOT** HEALED, IT WAS CERTAINLY **NOT** DUE TO LACK OF FAITH! WHY GOD PERMITS **SICKNESS** IN THE **BODIES** OF HIS **SERVANTS** IS WITH SOME **PURPOSE** THAT WILL **GLORIFY** GOD. THE MOABITES WERE LATER **BURYING** A MAN IN THAT **VERY SAME GRAVE**, AS SOON AS THE DEAD MAN CAME IN CONTACT WITH **ELISHA'S BONES**, HE **AROSE** FROM THE **DEAD** (13:20, 21). SO ELISHA HAD MORE **ANointing** IN HIS **DEAD BONES** THAN MANY PREACHERS HAVE TODAY WHEN THEY ARE **ALIVE!!**

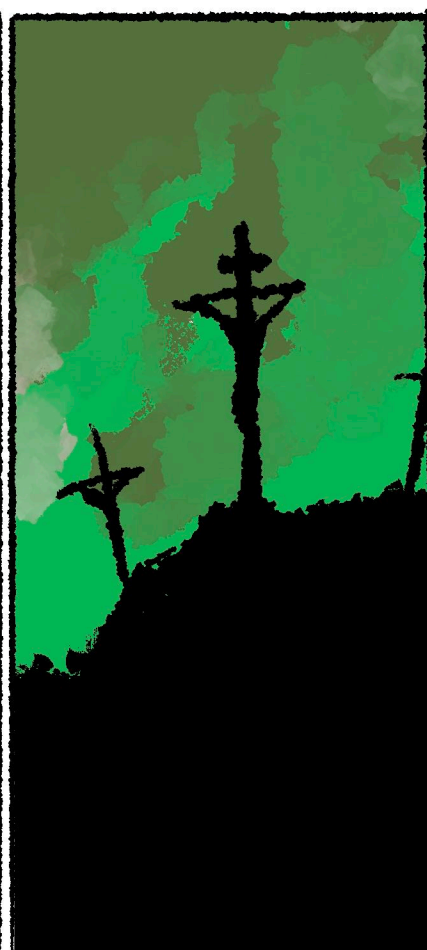




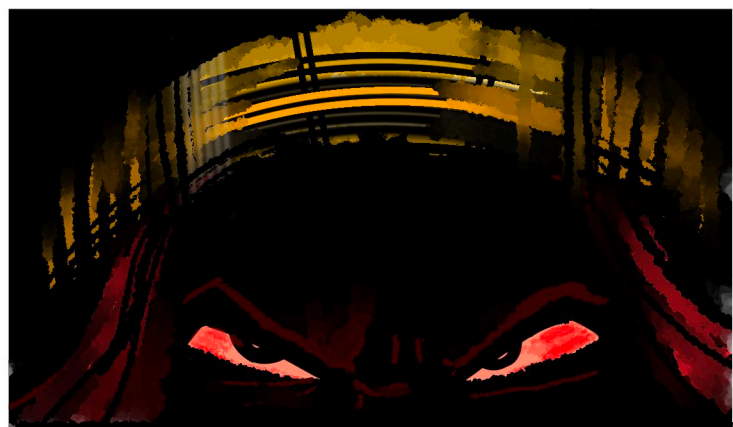
IN CHAPTER 17, WE READ ABOUT **ISRAEL'S CAPTIVITY**, WHICH TOOK PLACE ABOUT 730 YEARS BEFORE CHRIST. THE **ASSYRIANS** CAME, CAPTURED ISRAEL AND TOOK THEM AWAY. IT IS WRITTEN ABOUT THESE ASSYRIANS IN 17:33 THAT **"THEY FEARED THE LORD AND SERVED THEIR OWN GODS."** IT IS THIS **COUNTERFEIT "FEAR OF THE LORD"** THAT IS FOUND IN MUCH OF **CHRISTENDOM TODAY** TOO. **MOST** CHRISTIANS TODAY HAVE A CERTAIN RESPECT FOR GOD, BUT **ACTUALLY** SERVE THEIR **OWN** GODS OF **MONEY**, THEIR **JOB**, THEIR OWN **HONOUR**, THEIR **EARTHLY POSITION**, THEIR **POSITION IN THE CHURCH**, ETC.



IN CHAPTER 18 WE READ ABOUT KING **HEZEKIAH** OF JUDAH. HEZEKIAH'S FATHER, **AHAZ**, HAD BEEN VERY **WICKED** BUT HE WAS DIFFERENT. IN 18:4, WE READ THAT THE PEOPLE OF JUDAH WERE STILL **WORSHIPPING** THE **BRONZE SERPENT** THAT **MOSES** HAD MADE IN THE WILDERNESS MORE THAN **700** YEARS EARLIER. HEZEKIAH WAS THE ONE WHO **FINALLY** BROKE THIS **SUPERSTITION** IN JUDAH AND **DESTROYED** IT. CONSIDER THE MANY **GODLY** MEN IN ISRAEL DURING THOSE 700 YEARS, **JOSHUA**, **SAMUEL**, **DAVID** .. THEY DID NOT HAVE **LIGHT** ON THIS- EVEN A **BRONZE SERPENT** THAT HAD **ONCE** BEEN MADE AT THE **COMMAND** OF **GOD**, WAS **NOT** **ACCEPTABLE** AS AN **IDOL**. BUT EVEN **DAVID** DID NOT HAVE **LIGHT** ON THIS **ELEMENTARY TRUTH**. **GOD** GAVE THAT **UNDERSTANDING** TO A **LESSER KING**. SOMETIMES **ORDINARY** BELIEVERS CAN HAVE **LIGHT** ON **TRUTHS** IN SCRIPTURE THAT MORE WELL-KNOWN CHRISTIANS DON'T HAVE **LIGHT** ON.



IN CHAPTER 19, WE READ THAT AFTER THE KING OF **ASSYRIA** HAD CAPTURED ISRAEL, HE CAME AGAINST THE SOUTHERN KINGDOM OF **JUDAH** AS WELL. **HEZEKIAH** THEN CRIED OUT TO THE **LORD** FOR **HELP** (19:15). THAT NIGHT A **SINGLE ANGEL** CAME AND **DESTROYED 185,000** ASSYRIAN SOLDIERS (VERSE 35). **JESUS** TOLD PETER IN GETHSEMANE THAT HE COULD CALL **72,000** ANGELS TO HELP HIM, IF HE WANTED. **72,000** ANGELS COULD HAVE DESTROYED **13 BILLION PEOPLE (72,000 X 185,000)** -- **MORE THAN TWICE THE WORLD'S POPULATION TODAY!!** SUCH IS **GOD'S** ABILITY TO DEFEND HIS PEOPLE AGAINST THE **MIGHT** OF THE **WORLD**. THIS IS WHY **JESUS** NEVER HAD ANY **FEAR**. WE NEED **NEVER** LIVE IN ANY **FEAR** EITHER.



AFTER THAT, **HEZEKIAH** FACED ANOTHER **PROBLEM**. HE WAS MORTALLY **ILL**, AND THE **LORD** TOLD HIM, "SET YOUR HOUSE IN ORDER. YOU ARE GOING TO **DIE**, AND NOT **LIVE**" (20:1). WHEN **GOD** TELLS US THAT IT'S TIME FOR US TO **DIE**, WE **MUST** BE **WILLING** TO LEAVE THE **EARTH IMMEDIATELY**. FOR **GOD ALONE KNOWS** WHAT IS **BEST** FOR US. SO, WHEN **GOD** TELLS US THAT IT'S TIME TO GO, WE SHOULD NOT WANT TO STAY ON IN THIS ROTTEN WORLD ANY LONGER. TO DEPART AND TO BE WITH **CHRIST** IS **FAR BETTER**. BUT **HEZEKIAH** WAS **UNWILLING** TO GO AND **PLEADED** FOR A **LENGTHENING** OF HIS LIFE. THE **LORD GRANTED** HIS REQUEST AND ADDED ANOTHER 15 YEARS TO HIS LIFE. BUT WHAT **HAPPENED** DURING THOSE 15 YEARS? HE PRODUCED A SON, **MANASSEH**. **MANASSEH** WAS 12 YEARS OLD WHEN HE BECAME KING (21:1). HE WAS OBVIOUSLY BORN DURING THOSE EXTRA 15 YEARS THAT **HEZEKIAH** HAD BEEN GRANTED. HE **REIGNED** FOR 55 YEARS AND WAS THE **WORST** KING THAT **JUDAH** EVER HAD (2 CHRONICLES 33:9). AND HE WAS BORN, **BECAUSE HEZEKIAH** WAS **UNWILLING** TO **DIE**, WHEN **GOD** TOLD HIM THAT HIS TIME ON **EARTH** WAS UP. THE SECOND BOOK OF **KINGS** **BEGINS** WITH **ELIJAH** BEING TAKEN UP TO **HEAVEN** AND ENDS WITH THE PEOPLE OF **JUDAH** BEING TAKEN TO **BABYLON**. WHAT A **CONTRAST!** WE TOO CAN CHOOSE TO GO, EITHER TO **HEAVEN**, OR TO **BABYLON**. IT ALL DEPENDS ON WHOM WE **CHOOSE** TO **PLEASE**.