

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

Dec. 3

MONDAY

When Gehazi returns home, he hides the silver and clothing he got from Naaman, and goes to where Elisha is, to serve him - as if nothing has happened. He lies to Elisha about what he had done, but Elisha knows, and he pronounces the disease of Naaman upon Gehazi for his sin.

READ: II Kings 5:24-27

How foolish for Gehazi to think that he could lie to a prophet of God and get away with it! How foolish for any of us to think that we can hide anything from God. He knows every secret thought. Our only hope is to have thoughts that we don't care if He finds out. Because He will! So we must think thoughts which are right and good, so that no wicked thing be found in us.

TUESDAY

The group of prophets Elisha led decided to build a bigger meeting place, so they went over by the Jordan River to chop down trees. In doing so, one axhead flew off the handle and landed in the river. The axman was distressed, telling Elisha that the ax was borrowed. So, Elisha cut a stick, threw it in the water, and the axhead floated! Of course, the axman picked it up.

READ: II Kings 6:1-7

Axhead Floats - that was the headline in the JERUSALEM JOURNAL that day. The reading public may have laughed the story away, but the one who borrowed the axhead knew it was true. And others who were part of that group of prophets. The rest of the world, even to this day, has tried to explain away the miracle of the floating axhead. They don't get it but we do: God will do whatever He chooses and the laws of nature won't stop Him. He made them!

WEDNESDAY

The king of Aram (or Assyria) sent his troops to various locations to set a trap for the army of Israel. But each time, Elisha warned the king of Israel where the trap was laid, and he avoided the area. The king of Aram was angry at this, of course, and accused his staff of being spies

READ: II Kings 6:8-11

Why does God give Elisha this information to pass on to King Joram? Surely it is this: that it is not God's plan to have Aram battle Israel at this time, and so God is carrying out a different set of purposes. We can rejoice today in that knowledge - that God's purposes are not derailed by the plans of man. Not even the plans of a king. God will have His way. God's purposes will triumph.

THURSDAY

The king's staff tells him that Elisha is the problem: he knows everything, they say. So the king orders his troops to Dotham to get rid of Elisha. When one of Elisha's servants looked out the window in the morning, he saw that they were surrounded by the Aram army and chariots and horses, and he feared.

READ: II Kings 6:12-15

Sometimes, evil can seemingly appear out of nowhere. What should have been a beautiful sunrise turns out to be a hillside of enemies bent upon destruction. That such a thing happens should be no surprise to us. This world is not a friend to God, and evil abounds. Let us not be surprised by evil making its appearance in our lives - even unexpectedly. Let us meet it head on with a determination to overcome by the blood of the Lamb!

FRIDAY

Don't be afraid, Elisha tells his servant. Our side is stronger. And he asks God to allow his servant to see the forces of Heaven. God does that and he sees the hills full of chariots and horses. As the enemy troops advanced, Elisha prayed that God would blind them. He did. And when they stumbled before him, Elisha told them that he would lead them to find the one they were searching for. Then he led them to Samaria!

READ: II Kings 6:16-19

Lord, open our eyes to see what great and wondrous things You have done for us, and what glorious and amazing things You have in store for us! Open our eyes to see your care and provision for us. Open our eyes to see the Lord Jesus as He mediates to the Father on our behalf. Open our eyes to see the spiritual riches in Christ Jesus which You have made available to us. Open our eyes to see the Lord - high and lifted up!

SATURDAY

Having led the blinded Assyrian army into Samaria, Elisha asked the Lord to restore sight to them. God does that, and they immediately recognized their predicament, being in an enemy city, at the mercy of their enemy. King Joram asked Elisha if he should destroy them. Elisha told him to feed them instead! He did so and sent them home.

READ: II Kings 6:20-23

King Joram seems eager to kill them all but Elisha dictates a kinder treatment. *So, they came no more to Israel*, we read, which suggests that the kind treatment was at least partially the reason they came no more. Kind treatment will do that. It will change how people feel about you. Try it. #110