

ENTITLEMENT OR REVELATION



Elisha the Prophet

Background

Elisha's name means "My God is Salvation"

Elisha's message - Give your attention to God

Nation was falling apart. Why? They turned away from God & worshipped idols and man-made gods.

They settled for Comfort, Pleasure, Convenience

Yet, there was still a small number of people worshipping the true God. There were 'schools of prophets' led by Elisha.

▶ Famine in the land



Owning land was all about wealth, position and good lifestyle.

Good land = good crops
= wealth and abundance

Poor land = poor crops
= lack and poverty



▶ Slow learning

▶



► 2 Kings 4:

Elisha returned to Gilgal, and there was a famine in the land. Now the sons of the prophets were sitting before him.

Then a man came from Baal Shalisha, and brought the man of God bread of the firstfruits: twenty loaves of barley bread, and newly ripened grain in his knapsack. And he said, "Give it to the people, that they may eat."

But his servant (Gehazi) said, "What? Shall I set this before one hundred men?"

He said again, "Give it to the people, that they may eat; for thus says the LORD: 'They shall eat and have some left over.'"

So he set it before them; and they ate and had some left over, according to the word of the LORD.

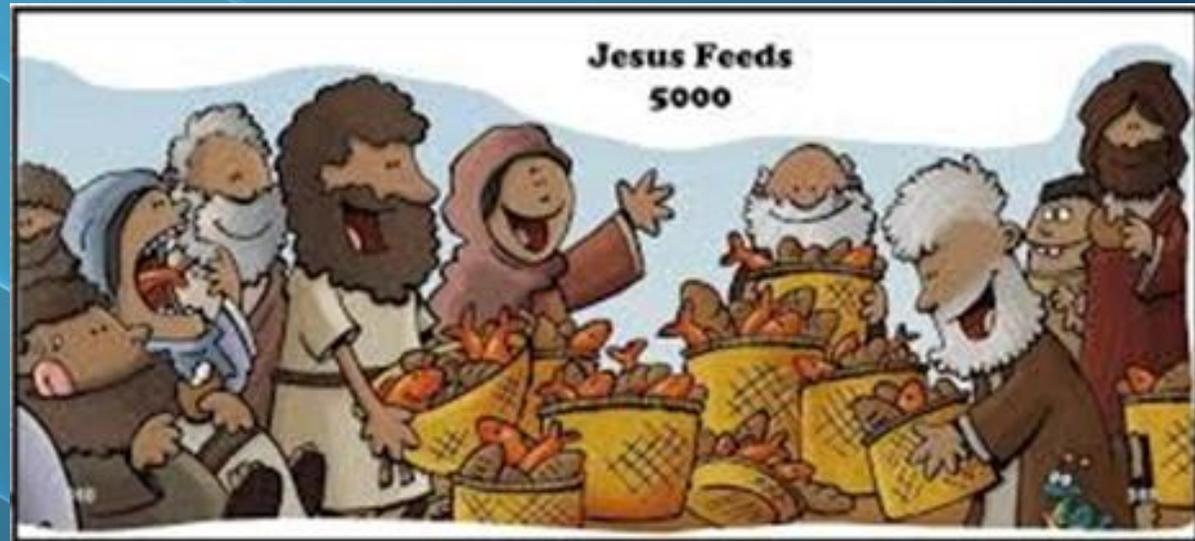
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► 2 Kings 5:

*Now Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Syria, was a great and honourable man in the eyes of his master, **because by him the LORD had given victory to Syria**. He was also a mighty man of valor, **but a leper**.*

And the Syrians had gone out on raids, and had brought back captive a young girl from the land of Israel. She waited on Naaman's wife.

Then she said to her mistress, "If only my master were with the prophet who is in Samaria! For he would heal him of his leprosy." And Naaman went in and told his master, saying, "Thus and thus said the girl who is from the land of Israel

▶ Miracle with Naaman the leper

Commander of the Syrian Army, mighty man of valour, fearless leader, *because by him the LORD had given victory to Syria.*

But he was an idol worshipper, and he had leprosy.

Slave girl – victim of war, human trafficking. She had faith in God's prophet and she spoke up.



▶ 2 Kings 5

So he departed and took with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten changes of clothing.

Then he brought the letter to the king of Israel, which said, Now be advised, when this letter comes to you, that I have sent Naaman my servant to you, that you may heal him of his leprosy.

And it happened, when the king of Israel read the letter, that he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to kill and make alive, that this man sends a man to me to heal him of his leprosy? Therefore please consider, and see how he seeks a quarrel with me."

So it was, when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, that he sent to the king, saying, "Why have you torn your clothes? Please let him come to me, and he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel."

▶ 2 Kings 5

Then Naaman went with his horses and chariot, and he stood at the door of Elisha's house. And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored to you, and you shall be clean." But Naaman became furious, and went away and said, "Indeed, I said to myself, 'He will surely come out to me, and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, and wave his hand over the place, and heal the leprosy.' Are not the Abanah and the Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?" So he turned and went away in a rage.

... So he went down and dipped seven times in the Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God; and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.

▶ Miracle with Naaman the leper

Healing a skin disease by
bathing in a polluted river?

*It was God's way, to show it
was all by the grace of God*



► 2 Kings 5

And he returned to the man of God, he and all his aides, and came and stood before him; and he said, "Indeed, now I know that there is no God in all the earth, except in Israel; now therefore, please take a gift from your servant." But he said, "As the LORD lives, before whom I stand, I will receive nothing." And he urged him to take it, but he refused.

But Gehazi, the servant of Elisha the man of God, said, "Look, my master has spared Naaman this Syrian, while not receiving from his hands what he brought; but as the LORD lives, I will run after him and take something from him." So Gehazi pursued Naaman. When Naaman saw him running after him, he got down from the chariot to meet him, and said, "Is all well?" And he said, "All is well. My master has sent me, saying, 'Indeed, just now two young men of the sons of the prophets have come to me from the mountains of Ephraim. Please give them a talent of silver and two changes of garments.' "

So Naaman said, "Please, take two talents." And he urged him, and bound two talents of silver in two bags, with two changes of garments, and handed them to two of his servants; and they carried them on ahead of him.



When he came to the citadel, he took them from their hand, and stored them away in the house; then he let the men go, and they departed.



Now he went in and stood before his master. Elisha said to him, "Where did you go, Gehazi?"

And he said, "Your servant did not go anywhere."

Then he said to him, "Did not my heart go with you when the man turned back from his chariot to meet you? Is it time to receive money and to receive clothing, olive groves and vineyards, sheep and oxen, male and female servants?"

Therefore the leprosy of Naaman shall cling to you and your descendants forever." And he went out from his presence leprous, as white as snow.



► 2 Kings 6

Now the king of Syria was making war against Israel; and he consulted with his servants, saying, "My camp will be in such and such a place." And the man of God (Elisha) sent to the king of Israel, saying, "Beware that you do not pass this place, for the Syrians are coming down there." Then the king of Israel sent someone to the place of which the man of God had told him. Thus he warned him, and he was watchful there, not just once or twice.

Therefore the heart of the king of Syria was greatly troubled by this thing; and he called his servants and said to them, "Will you not show me which of us is for the king of Israel?"



► 2 Kings 6

And one of his servants said, "None, my lord, O king; but Elisha, the prophet who *is* in Israel, tells the king of Israel the words that you speak in your bedroom."

So he said, "Go and see where he *is*, that I may send and get him."

And it was told him, saying, "Surely *he is* in Dothan."



Therefore he sent horses and chariots and a great army there, and they came by night and surrounded the city.

*And when the **servant of the man of God** arose early and went out, there was an army, surrounding the city with horses and chariots.*

*And his servant said to him, "Alas, my master! **What shall we do?**"*



So he answered, "Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them."

And Elisha prayed, and said, "LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see." Then the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw.

And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

Eyes open



► **Eyes closed – eyes opened**

So when the Syrians came down to him, Elisha prayed to the LORD, and said, "Strike this people, I pray, with blindness." And He struck them with blindness according to the word of Elisha.

Now Elisha said to them, "This is not the way, nor is this the city. Follow me, and I will bring you to the man whom you seek." But he led them to Samaria.

So it was, when they had come to 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 there they were, inside Samaria!



► **Eyes closed – eyes opened**

Now when the king of Israel saw them, he said to Elisha, "My father, shall I kill them? Shall I kill them?"

But he answered, "You shall not kill them. Would you kill those whom you have taken captive with your sword and your bow? Set food and water before them, that they may eat and drink and go to their master."

Then he prepared a great feast for them; and after they ate and drank, he sent them away and they went to their master.

So the bands of Syrian raiders came no more into the land of Israel.



And Elisha prayed, and said, "LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see." Then the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw.

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Revelation

Eyes open



2 Tim 1:7

- ▶ *For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.*
- ▶ Romans 8:31-32
- ▶ *What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?.*

▶ Mathew 16: 15-17

He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"

Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.

- ▶ One servant says 'I'm **entitled**', I'm owed, and goes away empty.
- ▶ The other servant says 'save me' and receives **Revelation**.
- ▶ Father open our eyes to the truth of your Word.