



1

The ministry of Elisha 2 Kings 2:19-13:20

- The floating axe head 6:1-7
 - The "school of the prophets" was growing and needed a bigger building.
 - Elisha was considered the head of this school
 - These men were willing to do the work but wanted Elisha to go with them.
 - Metal tools or weapons were very precious in those days. Losing the axe head would be equivalent of dropping someone's chainsaw in the river today.

2

The ministry of Elisha 2 Kings 2:19-13:20

- The floating axe head 6:1-7
 - The fact that the man borrowed the axe revealed that he could neither afford to own one nor then could he afford to replace it.
 - This was another occasion for God to reveal that He was at work among His people.

3

The ministry of Elisha 2 Kings 2:19-13:20

- God's deliverance of Elisha from the Syrians 6:8-23
 - Elisha provided the king of Israel with intelligence related to the movements of the king of Syria.
 - The king of Syria assumed a traitor in his camp but was informed that Elisha knew of his secret conversations.
 - The king of Syria learned Elisha's location in Dothan.

4

The ministry of Elisha 2 Kings 2:19-13:20

- God's deliverance of Elisha from the Syrians 6:8-23
 - He dispatched a large force of horses and chariots who surrounded the city under the cover of darkness.
 - Elisha's servant saw this show of force early in the morning and was alarmed.

5

The ministry of Elisha 2 Kings 2:19-13:20

- God's deliverance of Elisha from the Syrians 6:8-23
 - Elisha assured his servant that the forces that were with the were greater than those who came against them.
 - He prayed and the servant was able to see God's fighting force all around Elisha.
 - God struck the Syrian army with blindness.

6

The ministry of Elisha 2 Kings 2:19-13:20

- God's deliverance of Elisha from the Syrians 6:8-23
 - Elisha led the army into the capital city of Samaria.
 - The king of Israel asked Elisha if he should kill them.
 - Elisha instead directed that they be fed and sent away.

7

The ministry of Elisha 2 Kings 2:19-13:20

- The Siege of Samaria by Syria 6:24-33
 - Although the small raids ended Ben-hadad laid siege to Samaria.
 - The massive walls and strong gates around a city such as Samaria made them impervious to military assault.
 - The solution was to surround a city in such a way that all supplies were cut off.

8

The ministry of Elisha 2 Kings 2:19-13:20

- The Siege of Samaria by Syria 6:24-33
 - Although the small raids ended Ben-hadad laid siege to Samaria.
 - The goal was to bring the people to a point of desperation leading to surrender.
 - God had given specific and vivid warning that this situation would happen as a result of their rebellion and subsequent turn to idolatry. (Deuteronomy 28:52-57)

9

The ministry of Elisha 2 Kings 2:19-13:20

- The Siege of Samaria by Syria 6:24-33
- Although the small raids ended Ben-hadad laid siege to Samaria.
 - This siege had reached the point where people were resorting to cannibalism. A donkey head was bringing over \$700 and two liters of dove dung \$50.
 - Since Elisha had probably rightly identified the siege as execution of God’s judgment, the king sought to kill Elisha.

10

Lessons

- Doing God’s work does not mean we are immune to adverse circumstances.
- God is persistent in making His presence known.
- We are never outnumbered.
- Do not exact judgment on those to whom God has extended mercy.

11

Lessons

- Take the warnings in scripture seriously.
- You cannot stop the activity of God by killing his messengers.
- God is not the problem.

12
