

## CRYSTALLIZAITON –STUDY OF 1 AND 2 KINGS, Week 3

**Elisha Being a Type of Christ in His Ministry of Grace in Life  
and as a Man of God Behaving Himself as God's Representative, as the Acting God**

Scripture Reading: 2 Kings 2:19-22; 4:1—6:7

**Day 1**

**2 Kings 2:21** And he went out to the source of the water and threw salt there; and he said, Thus says Jehovah, I have healed this water; there will not be any more death or barrenness from there.

**Romans 5:17** For if, by the offense of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.

**I. Elisha is a type of Christ in doing miracles of grace in life—2 Kings 4:9; Luke 4:27:**

- A. In the fulfillment of the types and figures in the Old Testament, Christ is the real Elisha; as the real Elisha, the **Lord Jesus is a sweet and pleasant prophet**, a prophet of blessing—2 Kings 4:9; Luke 4:27; 7:11-17.
- B. Elisha is a type in the Old Testament who **represented God's New Testament economy in grace**:
  - 1. Grace is God doing everything for us by **giving Himself to us as our enjoyment**—John 1:1, 14-17.
  - 2. This grace issues in the divine life, which is rich and high, even unto **making us co-kings with Christ**—Rom. 5:17.
- C. The significance of the miracle performed by **Elisha in healing the water** at Jericho and of the miracle performed by the Lord Jesus in changing water into wine is the same—the **changing of death into life**—2 Kings 2:4, 19-22; John 2:1-11.
- D. **Elisha's calling things not being** as being was the same thing in principle that the Lord Jesus did when **He fed the multitudes**—2 Kings 4:1-7, 8-17, 42-44; Matt. 14:14-21; 15:32-39.

**Day 2**

**2 Kings 4:40-41** And they poured out the stew for the men to eat. And while they were eating some of the stew, they cried out and said, O man of God, there is death in the pot. And they were not able to eat it. And he said, Then bring some flour. And he threw it into the pot and said, Pour it out for the people that they may eat. And there was nothing harmful in the pot.

- E. **Elisha's resurrecting the dead from death**, giving life to the dead, is the **same as what the Lord Jesus did**, both physically and spiritually—2 Kings 4:18-37; Luke 7:11-17; John 11:41-44; 5:25.
- F. **Elisha's nullifying the poison** of the wild gourds with flour is the same in principle as the **Lord Jesus' healing His disciples** of the leaven of the Pharisees with Himself as the fine flour—2 Kings 4:41; Matt. 16:12.
- G. **Elisha's causing an axe head that had fallen into the water to float** by means of a wooden stick signifies **Christ's recovering through His cross in resurrection** the lost power of sinners that had fallen into the death water—2 Kings 6:6; Eph. 2:1-6.

## Day 3

**2 Kings 13:14** Now when Elisha was ill with his illness by which he eventually died, Joash the king of Israel went down to him and wept over him and said, My father! My father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!

**2 Kings 13:21** And it so happened that as the people were burying a man, they saw a band; and they cast the man into the grave of Elisha. And as soon as the man touched the bones of Elisha, he came to life and stood up on his feet.

- H. Elisha performed miracles of divine healing for others, but, in the will of God, **he himself was not healed by a miracle**; this was the experience of Paul and his fellow workers—2 Kings 13:14:
1. Paul left Trophimus at Miletus in sickness without exercising healing prayer for him and did not exercise his healing gift to cure Timothy of his stomach sickness—2 Tim. 4:20; 1 Tim. 5:23; Acts 19:11-12.
  2. Paul and his co-workers were under the **discipline of the inner life** in that time of suffering rather than under the power of the outward gift:
    - a. The former is a matter of **grace in life**; the latter is a matter of gift in power—miraculous power.
    - b. In the decline of the church and in one's suffering for the church, the gift of power is not needed as much as the grace in life—2 Tim. 4:22.
- I. Elisha was deceased in his body yet still **ministered in the spirit** to enliven one of the dead—2 Kings 13:21:
1. Even the dead Elisha could **enliven people**.
  2. This is a picture of **Christ in resurrection**—John 11:25; Acts 2:24; Phil. 3:10:
    - a. **Whoever touches Him is enlivened**.
    - b. Regeneration involves a spiritually dead person touching the dead and **resurrected Christ and being enlivened**—cf. John 5:25; Eph. 2:1-6a.

Elisha was a type of Christ in doing miracles of grace in life. Elijah did some great miracles, such as closing up the heavens so that it might not rain and calling down fire from heaven to consume the burnt offering and the water that had been poured upon it. However, when Elisha came in to replace him, he did not perform wonders. Instead, **Elisha did miracles of grace in life**.

Many Christians pay attention to miracles, but they neglect the matters of grace and life or speak of them in a very shallow way. Paul emphasized grace very much in the book of Romans. In Romans justification by grace is unto the reigning in life. Grace in life is, therefore, a crucial matter in Romans.

**Grace is God doing everything for us by giving Himself to us as our enjoyment.** This grace issues in the divine life, which is rich and high, even unto making us co-kings with Christ. However, among today's Christians it is not likely that one will hear a message telling the believers that God's grace issues in the divine life for us to reign as kings. (*Life-Study of 1 and 2 Kings, chapter 13*)

## Day 4

**Exodus 7:1** And Jehovah said to Moses, See, I have made you God to Pharaoh; and Aaron your brother will be your prophet.

**1 Samuel 2:35** And I will raise up for Myself a faithful priest, who will do according to what is in My heart and in My mind; and I will build him a sure house; and he will go before My anointed continually.

**Jeremiah 15:1** And Jehovah said to me, Even if Moses and Samuel were to stand before Me, My soul would not turn toward this people. Send them out of My sight and let them go.

## II. Like Moses, Samuel, and Paul, Elisha, a man of God, behaved as **God's representative**, as the **acting God**, on the earth—2 Kings 4:9:

### A. Jehovah told Moses that He had made him God to Pharaoh—Exo. 7:1a:

1. In Moses God had one to **represent Him and to execute His will**; Moses never spoke to Pharaoh on his own but always **spoke what the Lord had told him to say**—3:16-18; 5:1.
2. Actually, Pharaoh was not listening to Moses, God's ambassador, and dealing with him; he was **listening to God and dealing with God**.

### B. Samuel was the representative of God to rule over His people on earth; as such, **Samuel was the acting God**—1 Sam. 1:11; 2:35; 7:3; 8:22:

1. Samuel could be the acting God because **his being and God's heart were one**—2:35:
  - a. **He was a man according to God's heart**; that is, he was a copy, a duplicate, of God's heart.
  - b. Samuel's living and working were for the **carrying out of whatever was in God's heart**.
2. Samuel was **God's oracle and God's administration**, and thus, he was the **acting God**.

Samuel would never have cooperated with God if he had been a self-seeking person. As we will see in the next message, the day before Saul came to Samuel, God revealed to Samuel what He wanted him to do. God said to him, "At about this time tomorrow I will send to you a man from the land of Benjamin, and you shall anoint him as the leader over My people Israel" (9:16). When Saul and his servant came to Samuel, **Samuel did exactly as God had instructed. He did not care to gain anything for himself or for his children**.

Now we can see why Samuel was so useful in the hand of God. **He had no self-seeking nor any thought of self-gain**. Instead, as a Nazarite, who allowed no razor to come upon his head and who did not drink any wine, **he was absolutely for God**. He was happy to go wherever God wanted him to go and to do whatever God wanted him to do. **He was a man according to God, a man according to God's heart**. Therefore, he was a man whom God could use to carry out His economy.

We should not think that Samuel did not have any kind of human concept. One day Jehovah said to him, "Fill your horn with oil, and go; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite; for I have selected for Myself a king among his sons" (16:1b). When Samuel heard this, he said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me" (v. 2a). This indicates that Samuel was very human and had human concepts. Nevertheless, **he was not a self-seeking person**. All of his seeking was for God and for God's elect. He cared for God and for His interest and profit, and He prayed for God's people. (*Life-Study of 1 and 2 Samuel, chapter 7*)

## Day 5

**2 Corinthians 11:2** For I am jealous over you with a jealousy of God; for I betrothed you to one husband to present you as a pure virgin to Christ.

**Acts 27:24** Saying, Do not fear, Paul; you must stand before Caesar. And behold, God has granted you all those who are sailing with you.

### C. In his ministry Paul, a man of God, was the **acting God in comforting the believers**, in conducting himself in the **simplicity of God**, in expressing the **jealousy of God**, and in being an **ambassador of Christ** to carry out the ministry of reconciliation—2 Cor. 1:3-4, 12; 11:2; 5:20:

1. All during the apostle Paul's long and unfortunate imprisonment-voyage, the Lord kept him in His ascendancy and enabled him to live a life far beyond the realm of anxiety—Acts 27:13—28:9:
  - a. This life was fully dignified, with the highest standard of human virtues expressing the most excellent divine attributes, a **life that resembled the one that the Lord Jesus Himself** had lived on the earth years before.
  - b. This was Jesus living again on earth in **His divinely enriched humanity**.
  - c. This was the **wonderful, excellent, and mysterious God-man**, who lived in the Gospels, continuing to live in the Acts through one of His many members.
2. The New Testament believers can be the same as Paul in **functioning as the acting God**—1 Tim. 1:16.

It is very important for us to see that **God is always in our circumstances**. We may say that the circumstances are actually God coming to us in disguise. Apparently we are in a particular circumstance; actually that **circumstance is God coming to us and God with us**. In verse 24 Paul says, “Each one, brothers, in what state he was called, in this let him remain with God.” Notice the words “with God.” They indicate that when we take our circumstances we take God. Both within the circumstances and behind them, God is present.

Once again we see that Paul had an excellent spirit, a spirit which was **submissive, content, and satisfied**. Paul did not have any complaints. In his spirit he was very submissive and content with his situation. No matter how he was treated, he did not complain. To him, **every situation was of the Lord**, and he would not initiate anything to change it. Paul could say, “To me, everything works for good. This is the reason I don’t want to change anything. I know that when I take my circumstances, I take my God. In every situation is my God, the One whom I love and the One to whom I belong absolutely.” What an excellent spirit is displayed in this attitude!

The way we answer others or respond to a situation **always indicates the kind of spirit we have**. Suppose a brother is very happy in the morning. When his wife calls him for breakfast, he says, “Praise the Lord!” His response reveals his spirit. But suppose his spirit is heavy when his wife calls him. He may respond in a very different way, in a way which indicates that he is not happy. His reaction may indicate that he is unhappy with his wife and that he has a problem with the Lord. The principle here is that **our answers and responses always express our spirit**. (*Life-Study of 1 Corinthians, chapter 42*)

### Day 6

**1 Corinthians 6:17** But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit.

**Philippians 1:21** For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

**2 Corinthians 1:21-22** But the One who firmly attaches us with you unto Christ and has anointed us is God, He who has also sealed us and given the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge.

### III. As God’s chosen, redeemed, and regenerated people who are one with God, who are constituted with God, who live God, who express God, who move with God, and who represent God, we may **function as the acting God**—Eph. 1:4-5:

- A. As God’s chosen, redeemed, and regenerated people, we should be **one with God**—1 Cor. 6:17:
  1. The basic principle of the Bible is that in His economy God is **making Himself one with man and is making man one with Him**—John 15:4.
  2. God desires that the **divine life and the human life be joined together** to become one life that has one living—1 Cor. 6:17.
- B. We need to be **constituted with God**—Eph. 3:17a; Col. 3:10-11:
  1. God’s economy is to **dispense Himself into our being** so that our being may be constituted with His being to be one constitution with His being—Eph. 3:17a; 4:4-6.
  2. In the divine life and by the working of the law of the divine life, **God will be wrought into us**, and we will be constituted with Him in His life and nature—Rom. 8:2, 6, 10-11, 29.
- C. As those who are one with God and constituted with God, we should **live God**—Phil. 1:21a:
  1. According to His economy, God’s intention is to **impart** His element, His substance, and the ingredients of His nature into our being **so that we may live Him**—Rom. 8:2, 6, 10-11.
  2. Our daily life should actually be God Himself and thus be a **life of constantly living God**—1 Thes. 2:12; 1 Cor. 10:31.
- D. We should **express God**—Gen. 1:26; 2 Cor. 3:18; Rom. 8:29; Col. 3:10:
  1. God’s eternal purpose is to **work Himself into us as our life so that we may express Him**—Eph. 1:11; 3:11; 2 Tim. 1:9.
  2. God’s aim in His economy is that we would be **one with Him and live Him for His corporate expression**—1 Cor. 6:17; Phil. 1:21a; Eph. 1:22-23.

- E. As those who express God, we should **move with God**—Josh. 1:1-9; 6:1-16:
1. God needed the children of Israel to **cooperate with Him in His move** in His economy as the great wheel—1:1-9; 6:1-16.
  2. We need to be **one with God in His heart's desire and in His move on earth**—Eph. 1:5, 9; Rev. 14:1-4.
- F. As we move with God, we should **represent God**—Gen. 1:26-28:
1. In order to represent God with authority, **we must express God in life**; because Aaron had the resurrection life to express God, he had the authority to represent God—v. 26; 2:9; Num. 17:1-8.
  2. The proper way to work for God is to **represent God**—Exo. 7:1-2.
- G. If we are one with God, constituted with God, live God, express God, move with God, and represent God, we can **function as the acting God**:
1. **God is able** to make us the same as He is in life, nature, expression, and function to carry out His economy—Col. 3:4; 2 Pet. 1:4; Eph. 3:9.
  2. In his ministry Elisha the prophet, as a man of God, behaved himself as God's representative, as the acting God; **today we, the believers in Christ, can be the same, functioning in His economy as the acting God**—2 Kings 4:9; 1 Tim. 6:11; 2 Tim. 3:17.

One day, as the people were ready and waiting for God's instruction, God came in to call Joshua and to tell him to take the lead so that he and the children of Israel could enter into the good land and possess it. Joshua took the word from Jehovah and charged the children of Israel to perform God's commission. The land-takers had to prepare themselves to move with God in His move. In order to take the good land, they had to enter into a **full coordination with God in His move**. If the children of Israel had looked at themselves, they would have said that there was no possibility. But their possibility was the unique God, who needed His elect people to **cooperate with Him in His move to carry out His economy**, in His desire to move in His economy as the great wheel. Here God seemed to be saying, "Israel, My elect, you must know that there is no need for you to do anything. Simply cooperate with Me. I am motivating the wheel to run. You need to be one with Me. Go in to possess the land, and I will slaughter the idol worshippers through you. Without you I cannot do anything."

This is the principle of incarnation. In particular, this is the principle of incarnation for the destruction of the satanic power in its usurpation of the earth. This means that in order for God to regain the earth from the usurping hand of the enemy, **we need to be in full cooperation and coordination with Him in the principle of incarnation. We need to be one with God in His heart's desire and in His move on earth**. Today God wants to save people, but in order to do this, He needs us to be one with Him according to the principle of incarnation. (*Life-Study of Joshua, chapter 2*)