

Wednesday Night **BIBLE STUDY**

Wednesday September 14, 2022 – First Baptist Church Buda
Midweek Prayer Meeting & Bible Study



FINAL EPISODES IN THE LIFE OF ELISHA – PART 1

“Under Siege”

2 Kings 6:24 – 2 Kings 7:2

We have been in our study on the life of Elisha for weeks now, so much of Elisha life and ministry should be firmly planted in our minds. Let me give you several highlights of where we have been in our study of the Elisha...

Highlights from Elisha: A Persevering Faith:

- (1) Our study began with an introduction to Elisha and his call to the ministry... remember he was known at the “miracle” prophet.**
- (2) We have focused some of our study on the passing of the “mantle” of prophetic ministry to the northern kingdom of Israel from Elijah, the very powerful prophet, to Elisha... remember that dramatic scene as God carried Elijah (who never tasted death) in that whirlwind to heaven and literally Elijah’s mantle fell to Elisha, he picked up the mantle and carried on Elijah’s ministry in Elisha’s way.**
- (3) We have followed Elisha now as he has begun to retrace Elijah’s steps of prophetic ministry to the rebellions and wayward people of God, Israel, who had rejected their God and begun to worship the pagan God, Baal.**
- (4) We have tracked with Elisha to Jericho where we’ve seen God protect Him through two female bears, we have seen him heal the water at Jericho... we have seen God defeat the King of Moab and provide water in the desert for the dying troops of Israel and her unlikely allies through Elisha, we’ve seen Elijah minister to the poor widowed woman (the widowed wife of another prophet) and her son who were about to die in poverty... there he multiplied the widow’s oil. We’ve seen Elisha heal leprosy spots, miraculously make a pot of poison stew edible, cause an iron axe head float, and blind an entire army of Syrian taken them captive and then**

miraculously restore their eye-site and set them free, all as a powerful message of God's salvation.

- (5) As the “miracle” prophet Elisha performed more than 20 miracle... more than anyone in scripture with the exception of Moses.
- (6) We've now tracked with Elisha through some powerful moments in his life and ministry... and his message couldn't be clearer. And now we move to what are some of the final episodes of his life and ministry.

Here are some of the important background facts that may help us get our head's around just who this powerful prophet of God was. These are just some quick background reminders we been have looking at throughout our study.

5 Important Background Facts About Elisha to Remember:

1. The name Elisha means “God is Salvation” and gives us an idea of the purpose of His ministry (v.19) –
2. Elisha was the son of a farmer named Shaphat, and was himself a farmer when God called him (v.19) –
3. Elisha was from the town of Abel-Meholah in Israel which means “Meadow of Dancing” and may reflect something of Elisha's personality (*which was one of compassion, mercy and joy*) (v.19) – That is where Elijah found Elisha plowing the fields. Verse 16 tell us the was from Abel-Meholah, “...*And Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel Meholah you shall anoint as prophet in your place.*” Remember that where as Elijah had been more firey and stern as a prophet, Elisha was characterized as being somewhat kinder, more joyful, full of compassion and mercy, which we shall see in our study of his life.
4. Elisha's call to ministry was from God, not man, and was issued through the Prophet Elijah (v.19) – An important note here is that Elijah didn't call Elisha, God did. Elijah, throughout his ministry was simple the messenger of God, and no less here was Elijah the messenger to Elisha of God's call on his life. Look up at verse 16 in 1 Kings 19, “*Also you (Elijah) shall appoint Jehu the son of Nimshi as king over Israel. And Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel Meholah you shall anoint as prophet in your place.*” God calls! If you are not called of God, but rather called by man your ministry will fail.
5. When God called Elisha he surrendered his life fully to God's call, no turning back (v.20-21) – Listen to it again in our passage in verses 20-21, “²⁰*And he left the oxen and ran after Elijah, and said, “Please let me kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow you.” And he said to him, “Go back again, for what have I done to you?”*”
²¹*So Elisha turned back from him, and took a yoke of oxen and slaughtered them*

and boiled their flesh, using the oxen's equipment, and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he arose and followed Elijah, and became his servant."



This is the first of several studies that will take a look at the final episodes of Elisha's life and ministry – **Final Episodes in the Life of Elisha (Part 1)**. This initial study that begins these final episodes we are simply calling **"Under Siege."** Okay if you have your Bible, look with me at 2 Kings 6:24 and we are going to read down to 2 Kings 7:2. Follow along with me as I read **(READ: 2 Kings 6:24-2 Kings 7:2)**

²⁴ And it happened after this that Ben-Hadad king of Syria gathered all his army, and went up and besieged Samaria. ²⁵ And there was a great famine in Samaria; and indeed they besieged it until a donkey's head was sold for eighty shekels of silver, and one-fourth of a kab of dove droppings for five shekels of silver. ²⁶ Then, as the king of Israel was passing by on the wall, a woman cried out to him, saying, "Help, my lord, O king!" ²⁷ And he said, "If the LORD does not help you, where can I find help for you? From the threshing floor or from the winepress?" ²⁸ Then the king said to her, "What is troubling you?" And she answered, "This woman said to me, 'Give your son, that we may eat him today, and we will eat my son tomorrow.' ²⁹ So we boiled my son, and ate him. And I said to her on the next day, 'Give your son, that we may eat him'; but she has hidden her son." ³⁰ Now it happened, when the king heard the words of the woman, that he tore his clothes; and as he passed by

on the wall, the people looked, and there underneath he had sackcloth on his body. ³¹ Then he said, “God do so to me and more also, if the head of Elisha the son of Shaphat remains on him today!” ³² But Elisha was sitting in his house, and the elders were sitting with him. And the king sent a man ahead of him, but before the messenger came to him, he said to the elders, “Do you see how this son of a murderer has sent someone to take away my head? Look, when the messenger comes, shut the door, and hold him fast at the door. Is not the sound of his master’s feet behind him?” ³³ And while he was still talking with them, there was the messenger, coming down to him; and then the king said, “Surely this calamity is from the LORD; why should I wait for the LORD any longer?” – 2 Kings 6:24-33

¹ Then Elisha said, “Hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the LORD: ‘Tomorrow about this time a seah of fine flour shall be sold for a shekel, and two seahs of barley for a shekel, at the gate of Samaria.’” ² So an officer on whose hand the king leaned answered the man of God and said, “Look, if the LORD would make windows in heaven, could this thing be?” And he said, “In fact, you shall see it with your eyes, but you shall not eat of it.” -2 Kings 7:1-2

UNDER SIEGE

What do we mean by the words “under siege?” The words “under siege” is actually a idiom of the word “besiege.”

Definition of “Under Siege” – *“A phrase meaning ‘to be experiencing an attack,’ used literally or figuratively.”*

3 Key Definition of “Under Siege”:

1. **To be surrounded and held captive by an enemy force, such as a military type presence so that one is unable to leave or escape** – A more literal/physical sense of being under siege, as when one military lays siege to opposing military and surrounds them and cuts off all supplies and resources, essentially capturing them where they are.
2. **To be facing increasing pressure or difficulty** – This meaning of the word has more of a mental or emotional sense. “I’ve under-siege lately with lingering doubts and fears.” “I have felt under-siege from the pressures of what is going on in our world today.”
3. **To be subject to criticisms or personal attacks from various different sources or angles** – This meaning is more of personal understanding of the word when our life feels under-siege from those people or circumstances around us.

Some Other Associated Words for “Under Siege” – These are some synonyms and other words that may help to define the phrase “under siege.”

1. **Under attack** – Subject to aggressive, violent, or harmful action”
2. **Surrounded** – To be all around, encircled so as to cut off communication or escape
3. **Besieged** – Surrounded by armed forces to capture it or force surrender
4. **Blockaded** – An act or means of sealing off a place to prevent good or people from entering or leaving
5. **Beset** – Surround and harass; assail on all sides; trouble or threaten persistently

➡ Wayne Blank (online author of “Daily Bible Study” wrote - “The English word *siege* is derived from the Latin word meaning *to sit*. To besiege a city, an armed force surrounds and isolates it, while usually continuing its attacks upon it. In general, siege warfare involves bombardment (anything from, in ancient times, arrows or flaming arrows, catapulted rocks, or even catapulted corpses of plague victims to cause epidemics among the defenders, to, in modern times, artillery and "smart bombs") and cut off of supply, which causes starvation and deprivation. It was usually only after the city surrendered, or was greatly weakened, that infantry entered.”

In other words, a siege was used to make one’s enemies so weak that they could not fight. Some have used the phrase “under siege” today to describe what is happening in our country and in our culture today....

Jeff Lukens of the “American Thinker” writes, “Christianity is under siege in America. In this great country, it's not a crime to be a Christian — at least not yet. But some are working on it. Free expression of religion is not just shunned. It is ridiculed and mocked. Anti-Christian bigotry is the only form of acceptable intolerance remaining in this country — to be encouraged and incited by our "tolerant" liberal friends in academia, the media, and entertainment... A vigorous new secularism in recent years, however, has propelled ridicule of Christianity into the mainstream of acceptable behavior. It has become part of the larger pop culture. Today, Bible-bashing and Christian-mocking are a favorite pastime on television, in movies, and on social media, complete with ugly insults and death wishes. Christian beliefs in the sanctity of life, free will, and the flawed nature of humanity are the principal bulwarks against a descent into barbarism that progressivism promises. To the degree that Christians speak up for biblical virtue and sexual purity, and to the degree they preach the Gospel as the one true way to God, they are scorned and ridiculed. Christianity in our country is truly under siege.”

- *Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Why or why not?*
- *What do you think he means by the word “siege” (Christianity is under siege in America)?*
- *He mentions three places where this “siege” on Christianity is most clearly seen (academia, media and entertainment). Can you cite an example from one of these that you have seen of this “siege” or attack on Christianity?*

Spiritually, this idea of being “under siege” occurs today:

- (1) There is an all-out attack by the enemy to lay siege to believers in Christ.
- (2) He knows the end time is coming and his hour is almost up and so what he wants to do is cause as many as he can to fall away from the faith and become ineffective to promoting the plan of God.

(3) And, he is not just attacking the pews but is also attacking the pulpits... It's no secret that pastors and other spiritual leaders live with continual pressure. The harvest fields of ministry today are booby-trapped with spiritual and emotional land mines hidden there by the enemy. The statistics should disturb us. For example, did you know that hundreds of pastors in our country are leaving the ministry every month because of stress, burnout and failure? The numbers also reveal that... just listen to these statistics:

97 % of pastors say they were inadequately trained for the challenges they face in ministry

80 % say pastoral ministry has had a negative effect on their children and family

70 % say they constantly fight depression and high anxiety

70 % say they struggle financially

65 % say they have thought about quitting the ministry within the last 30 days

70 % say they do not have anyone they really consider a close and intimate friend (best their spouse)

*I'll just say, though most of those don't hold true for me by grace, I can see each of these things being a factor for minister's today who feel no way out and "under siege" in some sense.

I want you to consider our story for just a minute and, not to spiritualize it, but let's consider the what it many teach us both about the enemies plans and what to do, how to handle being found "under siege" in our own lives.

THE CAPITOL OF ISRAEL IS BESEIGED (2 Kings 6:24-7:2)

²⁴ And it happened after this that Ben-Hadad king of Syria gathered all his army, and went up and besieged Samaria. ²⁵ And there was a great famine in Samaria; and indeed they besieged it until a donkey's head was sold for eighty shekels of silver, and one-fourth of a kab of dove droppings for five shekels of silver. ²⁶ Then, as the king of Israel was passing by on the wall, a woman cried out to him, saying, "Help, my lord, O king!" ²⁷ And he said, "If the LORD does not help you, where can I find help for you? From the threshing floor or from the winepress?" ²⁸ Then the king said to her, "What is troubling you?" And she answered, "This woman said to me, 'Give your son, that we may eat him today, and we will eat my son tomorrow.' ²⁹ So we boiled my son, and ate him. And I said to her on the next day, 'Give your son, that we may eat him'; but she has hidden her son." ³⁰ Now it happened, when the king heard the words of the woman, that he tore his clothes; and as he passed by on the wall, the people looked, and there underneath he had sackcloth on his body. ³¹ Then he said, "God do so to me and more also, if the head of Elisha the son of Shaphat remains on him today!" ³² But Elisha was sitting in his house, and the elders were sitting with him. And the king sent a man ahead of him, but before the messenger came to him, he said to the elders, "Do you see how this son of a murderer has sent someone to take away my head? Look, when the messenger comes, shut the door, and hold him fast at the door. Is not the sound of his master's feet behind him?" ³³ And while he was still talking with them, there

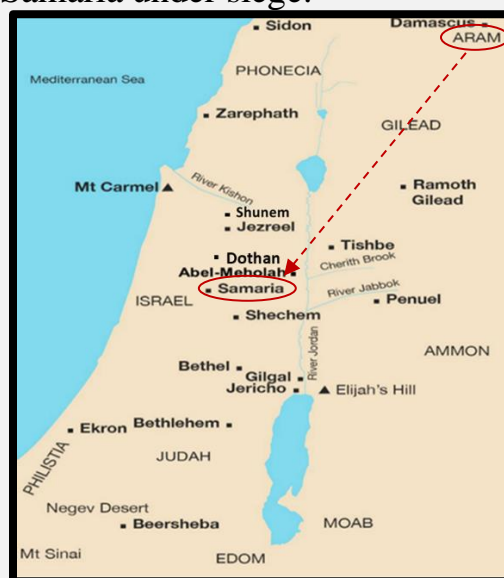
was the messenger, coming down to him; and then the king said, “Surely this calamity is from the LORD; why should I wait for the LORD any longer?” – 2 Kings 6:24-33

¹Then Elisha said, “Hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the LORD: ‘Tomorrow about this time a seah of fine flour shall be sold for a shekel, and two seahs of barley for a shekel, at the gate of Samaria.’ ” ² So an officer on whose hand the king leaned answered the man of God and said, “Look, if the LORD would make windows in heaven, could this thing be?” And he said, “In fact, you shall see it with your eyes, but you shall not eat of it.” -2 Kings 7:1-2

The mention of the siege of Samaria (the capitol of the northern kingdom of Israel) in verse 24 and following stands in strong contrast to the peaceful conditions that had resulted from the ministry of Elisha. How much later, we are not told, but sometime later Ben-hadad (the Kings of Syria/Aram) besieged the city of Samaria.

Some things to note:

- (1) One of the messages of the prophets, and this was undoubtedly true of both Elijah and Elisha, was to remind Israel that God had promised blessing for obedience to His covenant with them, but cursing for disobedience.
- (2) Certainly, the temporary lull brought about by the ministry of Elisha had been divinely designed to remind Israel of God’s steadfast love and ever present involvement with his people... that He alone was their hope and salvation, Elisha ministry emphasis.
- (3) God had sent and authenticated men like Elijah and Elisha by the miracles He performed through these men of God, but typically (especially in the northern kingdom) there was no evidence of repentance by Israel or her kings.
- (4) So in keeping with His warning in Deuteronomy 28-30, God withdrew his protective hand.
- (5) As a consequence Israel faced a full-scale Aramean (Syrian) invasion.
- (6) The Arameans/Syrians had been so successful they were able to penetrate the land of Israel and put the city of Samaria under siege.



- (7) The length and severity of the siege is seen in the extreme famine that led to such scarcity that a even a donkey's head, on which there is very little meat, was sold for eighty shekels of silver (about two pounds of silver) and a fourth of a kab (an uncertain quantity) of dove's dung for five shekels of silver (about two ounces).
- (8) According to the Old Testament law, a donkey was an unclean animal and was not to be eaten under any conditions (see Lev. 11:2-7; Deut. 14:4-8), but the famine was so bad that they not only ignored the laws of uncleanness, but the least edible part of a donkey became very costly.
- (9) The dove's dung probably refers to small grain, hence, the NIV has, "a quarter of a kab of seed pods for five shekels," though in the margin it reads, "dove's dung."
- (10) But notice that matters grew even worse so that as the king was walking on the wall of the city, probably to inspect conditions, he came across a case of cannibalism.
- (11) This obviously sickened his heart, but rather than repent of his own disobedience and failure to follow the Lord and accept the fact the famine was a judgment from God for Israel's disobedience, he looked for scapegoat and not only blamed Elisha, but swore to see him put to death (vs. 31).
- (12) Instead of vowing to pull down the calves at Dan and Beth-el, or letting the law have its course against the prophets of Baal and of the groves, he swears *the death of Elisha*, v. 31.

Why he blamed Elisha is not stated. Perhaps he thought Elisha should have prayed for a miracle as he had done in the past. Or perhaps he looked back and thought Elisha should have ordered the death of the Syrians when they had them within the walls of their city. The *NIV Bible Commentary* has this to say of verses 31-33. I think it might have been that in the previous verses/story, Elisha had the opportunity to wipe out the army of Syria when he had them captive within the walls of Syria, but instead he gave them a feast (fed them) and treated them kindly, and then let them go... while the King of Israel had wanted to kill them.

Enraged and blaming Elisha for the whole affair, he dispatched a messenger to seize and behead Elisha. When he had come to himself, however, he ran after his messenger, hoping to stay his hand. By divine insight Elisha knew the details of the whole episode and instructed certain elders who were with him to bar the door of the house until Jehoram could overtake his executioners. When the king arrived, he was admitted into the house. Convinced that the Lord had pronounced the doom of the city, Jehoram had all but given up any hope of the Lord's deliverance. Yet perhaps his realization that all that had transpired was from the Lord carried with it the faintest hope that God would yet miraculously intervene. The restraint of the messenger and the king's words hint at the faint hope of divine consolation. Such comfort Elisha would proceed to give.

That Elisha knew the king had changed his mind about his order for Elisha's death is suggested by the fact Elisha had the elders hold the door against the messenger until the king arrived to revoke the order.

When the king arrived he not only admitted the famine was a judgment from the Lord, but he believed things were so helpless that there could be no solution other than to surrender to the Syrians. Elisha had undoubtedly told the king to repent and wait on the Lord for deliverance, but the king in his unbelief was ready to throw in the towel.

Regardless, the Lord reached out in His grace and mercy and revealed through Elisha that deliverance (the end of the famine and the inflation) would come miraculously on the very next day (7:1). But how could such a sudden deliverance take place? The king undoubtedly believed it for there was no comment from him and he certainly was no longer seeking to take Elisha's life, but his first officer scoffed at Elisha's promise just as men today scoff at the promises of the Word.

The aide's words are filled with ridicule and heaped with sarcasm, as if to say, "Oh sure, The Lord is even now making windows in heaven! So what? Could this word of yours still come to pass?" Whether the aide thought of the biblical phrase (Ge 7:11) or of the heavenly windows of the Baal fertility cult is uncertain. In any case he was skeptical of the whole thing.

The prophet assured Jehoram's aide that not only would the prophecy come true, but the officer would see it with his own eyes. However, he would not eat any of it! His faithless incredulity would cause him to miss God's blessing on the people.**75**

In this scenario, the king despaired and his first officer mocked. Things seem totally impossible. But our extremities are God's opportunities to demonstrate His power for His own purposes that we might learn He is able to do super abundantly above all we can ask or even think (Eph. 3:20). But consistently, the Lord acts for his people when they come to the end of themselves and find *their strength is gone*. (Deut. 32:36; 2 Cor. 12:9-10).

Finally, Elisha's words to the royal officer poses a warning to all of us. He told the officer that though he would witness the miraculous provision, he would not be able to eat of it (see 7:17-18). When we fail to believe the promises of God, we fail to experience the blessings of God whether for salvation or in sanctification.

Hebrews 3:16-19 For who provoked *Him* when they had heard? Indeed, did not all those who came out of Egypt *led* by Moses? 17 And with whom was He angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? 18 And to whom did He swear that they should not enter His rest, but to those who were disobedient? 19 And *so* we see that they were not able to enter because of unbelief.

There appear to be some important consideration for us from this story that relate to our lives, to the spiritual warfare we face from the enemy, and when that spiritual warfare progress to the point of siege and we find our lives besieged by the enemy.

5 Considerations from Samaria Under Seige: (from 2 Kings 6:24-2 Kings 7:2)

- (1) **When our lives are under siege from the enemy there will be famine of what feeds us spiritually as believers (vv.24-25) –** *²⁴ And it happened after this that Ben-Hadad king of Syria gathered all his army, and went up and besieged Samaria. ²⁵ And there was a great famine in Samaria...* What is that? The Word of God. Do we see a “famine” of the Word of God today? It is a truth that we see a proliferation (rise, propagation, explosion, vast multiplying) of God’s Word today like no other time in the history of the world. There are Bibles readily available in many different translation to anyone who wants on, and very affordable. It is not uncommon for a single individual to have many copies of the Bible. There are online preachers, podcast, Bible apps and Bible studies, radio broadcast of God’s Word being taught and preached, streaming service that just are the preaching and teaching of the Word. I mean lets face it there is an enormous amount of God’s Word readily available today. How can there possibly be a famine of God’s Word... what feeds us spiritually as believers? In many churches today, and from many preachers who stand in the pulpits of American God’s Word may rarely opened. And if it is it is mis-handled or not handled at all. Our churches have become, by and large, fixated on things like social justice, critical theory, and things like complementarianism vs. egalitarianism, accommodation and tolerance, rather than the preaching and teaching of the Word... and if it is read it is often read with a watering down and diluting the Word to make it more palatable to it’s hearers. It’s empty, it famished, and it doesn’t feed the hungering soul.
- (2) **When our lives are under siege from the enemy we may be tempted to digest and consume what is a perversion and distortion of what feeds and meets the needs of our heart and soul (v. 25) -** *²⁵ And there was a great famine in Samaria; and indeed they besieged it until a donkey’s head was sold for eighty shekels of silver, and one-fourth of a kab of dove droppings for five shekels of silver.* The enemy wants to distort, pervert and cut off God’s Word to us. Now think of this, we are getting today, instead of God’s Word are cheap substitutes and the refuse/garbage of the world... the world’s empty and perverse philosophies, agendas and ideologies. These are creeping into our churches and pulpits, and it just proves that we are “under siege” from the enemy in our day. How do you see happening today?
- (3) **When our lives are under siege from the enemy it may create sharp division and infighting where we devour one another (vv. 26-29) –** *²⁶ Then, as the king of Israel was passing by on the wall, a woman cried out to him, saying, “Help, my lord, O king!” ²⁷ And he said, “If the LORD does not help you, where can I find help for you? From the threshing floor or from the winepress?” ²⁸ Then the king said to her, “What is troubling you?” And she answered, “This woman said to me, ‘Give your son, that we may eat him today, and we will eat my son tomorrow.’ ²⁹ So we boiled my son, and ate*

him. And I said to her on the next day, 'Give your son, that we may eat him'; but she has hidden her son."

What we have today are divisions and schisms in the church, where we are devouring our own often over worldly ideologies and philosophies that are not even biblical. Paul's warning to believers in *Colossians 2:6-8*, "⁶As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, ⁷rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving. ⁸Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ." And he give us this sharp warning in *Galatians 5:15*, "*But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another.*" I think it is clear that the enemy want to cause destructive division and in fighting in the body of Christ, where we literally eat out own. How might be seeing this in our day?

- (4) **When our lives are under siege from the enemy some will displace blame on anyone and anything but the enemy and their own disobedience (vv.30-31)** – "³⁰*Now it happened, when the king heard the words of the woman, that he tore his clothes; and as he passed by on the wall, the people looked, and there underneath he had sackcloth on his body. ³¹Then he said, "God do so to me and more also, if the head of Elisha the son of Shaphat remains on him today!"* In our story the woman inadvertently blamed the king (the government)... which is partly true. He was responsible in a way for turning the people of Israel away from the God and to the pagan god, Baal, thus incurring God's judgement rather than blessing. We often blame the world and the world's institutions for the shape we are in, and they are partly to blame (of course), yet the lost world is doing the only thing a world know to day and incurs the judgment and wrath of God in a sense. The king of Israel blamed God's prophet, Elisha, and threatened to kill him.... as already stated this may have been because Elisha didn't destroy the army of Aram (Syria) when he had a chance in the previous story, or maybe because this famine was Elisha's prophecy. The truth is this was their own disobedience, and God lifting His hand of blessing to the attack of the enemy. Same is true in our lives, we need to recognize who the real enemy is, and where the spiritual attack comes from.

- (5) **When our lives are truly under siege from the enemy our hope for deliverance rest in the Lord God only (vv. 6:32-7:2)** – *2 Kings 7:1* says, "¹*Then Elisha said, "Hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the LORD: 'Tomorrow about this time a seah of fine flour shall be sold for a shekel, and two seahs of barley for a shekel, at the gate of Samaria.'*" There only hope in the siege of the enemy was the God they had forsaken. The same is true for us. He is our deliverer and hope in the battle we face from the enemy. Hear Paul's words in *Ephesians 6:10-13*, "¹⁰*Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹²For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of^[c]the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. ¹³Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.*"

WHEN LIFE IS BESEIGED - Besieged But Not Defeated

Listen to 2 Chronicles 32:7-8, “⁷ *“Be strong and courageous; do not be afraid nor dismayed before the king of Assyria, nor before all the multitude that is with him; for there are more with us than with him.”* ⁸ *With him is an arm of flesh; but with us is the LORD our God, to help us and to fight our battles.”* And the people were strengthened by the words of Hezekiah king of Judah.”

The Bible leaves no doubt that every Christian is involved in spiritual warfare. In fact, Christians are the prime targets of the enemy. (Ephesians 6:10-18.) Satan knows that Christians are on the winning side, but he does his best to make us ineffective soldiers, or even battlefield casualties. He knows he can't take us to hell with him, but he also knows that many Christians are an easy mark for day-to-day defeat.

In any theater of war there are always areas where the enemy forces are more highly concentrated. Part of the enemy's master strategy is to besiege, surround and bombard growing Christians and leave them spiritually disarmed and wounded... in many cases for years to come. Only Christians, who find themselves “under siege,” who are prepared and armed can resist and outlast the blistering attack. The **faithful growing** Christian will not only endure - he or she will actually see the enemy retreat in frustration. (James 4:7 1 Peter 5:8-9.) Is this your experience?

The Bible never says that the Christian will be free from enemy attack and siege, but the Bible does indicate that the believer never has to suffer defeat. In fact, being under attack or siege - but not defeated - is a characteristic of spiritual warfare. Paul said in 2 Corinthians 4:8-9, *“We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed.”*

Our all powerful God is certainly able to deliver us from any attack or siege of the enemy. Maybe you're undergoing a sustained attack from the enemy at the present time. You're experiencing spiritual warfare. Remember, prolonged siege is not defeat! You can even be joyful under siege, because you know that deliverance is on the way as you look to the Lord. And help will not arrive too late!

CONCLUSION

As we wrap up this first part in the final episodes of Elisha's life and ministry let me give you some concluding thoughts and helps when you find your life under siege. Here is a key truth for you...

KEY TRUTH WHEN UNDER SIEGE: *Your defense when under siege from the enemy is God and His inspired Word*

With that key truth given, let me give by giving you these keys for breaking the siege of the enemy...

Keys for Breaking the Siege of the Enemy:

- (1) **Know God's Word** - Joshua 1:8 says, *"⁸ This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success."* Listen to Psalm 119:11, *"¹¹ Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You."* And in Psalm 40:8 we read, *"⁸ I delight to do Your will, O my God, And Your law is within my heart."*
- (2) **Have faith in God** - Hebrews 11:6, *"⁶ But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."*
- (3) **Depend on the weapon of prayer** – Paul write in Ephesians 6:18-, *"¹⁸ Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints."*
- (4) **Resist the enemy** - James says in James 4:7, *"⁷ Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you."*

That is how you break the siege on your life!