

Living With Power in Dark Times (Part 7)

Sunday, October 17, 2021

In this series we will consider the ways in which the lives of Elijah and Elisha show us how to live with power even in dark times

Matthew 5:16

16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Acts 1:8

8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Living with power in dark days means...

- TAKING A STAND for TRUTH.
- TRUSTING GOD for PROVISION
- PRAYING with PASSION and PERSISTENCE
- OPERATING with SIGNS and WONDERS
- CONFRONTING WICKEDNESS
- OVERCOMING THE BATTLE WITHIN
- PURSUING a GREATER ANOINTING

Today we conclude our series with a look at one more way Elijah and Elisha teach us to live with power in dark times

They Confidently Placed Their Hope in God

- For His Protection
- For His Judgement
- For His Justice

2 Kings 1:3, 9-15

3 But the angel of the Lord said to Elijah the Tishbite, “Go up and meet the messengers of the king of Samaria and ask them, ‘Is it because there is no God in Israel that you are going off to consult Baal-Zebub, the god of Ekron?’

9 Then he sent to Elijah a captain with his company of fifty men. The captain went up to Elijah, who was sitting on the top of a hill, and said to him, “Man of God, the king says, ‘Come down!’”

10 Elijah answered the captain, “If I am a man of God, may fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty men!” Then fire fell from heaven and consumed the captain and his men.

11 At this the king sent to Elijah another captain with his fifty men. The captain said to him, “Man of God, this is what the king says, ‘Come down at once!’”

12 “If I am a man of God,” Elijah replied, “may fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty men!” Then the fire of God fell from heaven and consumed him and his fifty men.

13 So the king sent a third captain with his fifty men. This third captain went up and fell on his knees before Elijah. “Man of God,” he begged, “please have respect for my life and the lives of these fifty men, your servants! **14** See, fire has fallen from heaven and consumed the first two captains and all their men. But now have respect for my life!”

15 The angel of the Lord said to Elijah, “Go down with him; do not be afraid of him.” So Elijah got up and went down with him to the king.

2 Kings 2:19-24

Healing of the Water

19 The people of the city said to Elisha, “Look, our lord, this town is well situated, as you can see, but the water is bad and the land is unproductive.”

20 “Bring me a new bowl,” he said, “and put salt in it.” So they brought it to him.

21 Then he went out to the spring and threw the salt into it, saying, “This is what the Lord says: ‘I have healed this water. Never again will it cause death or make the land unproductive.’” **22** And the water has remained pure to this day, according to the word Elisha had spoken.

Elisha Is Jeered

23 From there Elisha went up to Bethel. As he was walking along the road, some boys came out of the town and jeered at him. “Get out of here, baldy!” they said. “Get out of here, baldy!” **24** He turned around, looked at them and called down a curse on them in the name of the Lord. Then two bears came out of the woods and mauled forty-two of the boys.

2 Kings 4:38-41

Death in the Pot

38 Elisha returned to Gilgal and there was a famine in that region. While the company of the prophets was meeting with him, he said to his servant, “Put on the large pot and cook some stew for these prophets.”

39 One of them went out into the fields to gather herbs and found a wild vine and picked as many of its gourds as his garment could hold. When he returned, he cut them up into the pot of stew, though no one knew what they were. **40** The stew was poured out for the men, but as they began to eat it, they cried out, “Man of God, there is death in the pot!” And they could not eat it.

41 Elisha said, “Get some flour.” He put it into the pot and said, “Serve it to the people to eat.” And there was nothing harmful in the pot.

2 Kings 6:14-18

14 Then he sent horses and chariots and a strong force there. They went by night and surrounded the city.

15 When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early the next morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. “Oh no, my lord! What shall we do?” the servant asked.

16 “Don’t be afraid,” the prophet answered. “Those who are with us are more than those who are with them.”

17 And Elisha prayed, “Open his eyes, Lord, so that he may see.” Then the Lord opened the servant’s eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

18 As the enemy came down toward him, Elisha prayed to the Lord, “Strike this army with blindness.” So he struck them with blindness, as Elisha had asked.

In this crazy and dark world, we need to know that we can confidently place our hope in God...

- knowing that He will PROTECT us and that his protection extends beyond this earthly life,
- believing that He will JUDGE all things and that all His judgements are righteous and true and
- TRUSTING that His Justice will prevail

Isaiah 30:18

18 ...For the Lord is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for him!

Isaiah 61:8

8 “For I, the Lord, love justice; I hate robbery and wrongdoing. In my faithfulness I will reward my people and make an everlasting covenant with them.

Doesn't mean...

That we WON'T FACE HARSHIPS

Romans 8:35

35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? (Notice it didn't say we wouldn't have these things, only that they would not separate us from God's love)

That things will work out the way WE want and expect them too

That We WON'T DIE

- John The Baptist did
- James did
- And each of the 12 disciples (except for John who faced terrible physical persecution), along with the apostle Paul.

That We ACT FOOLISHLY and put God to the test (cast ourselves down)

Matthew 4:5-7

5 Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. **6** “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down. For it is written:

“He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.”

7 Jesus answered him, “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

Does mean...

We PLACE OUR HOPE in God

(What are you placing your hope in?)

Micah 7:7

7 But as for me, I watch in hope for the Lord, I wait for God my Savior; my God will hear me.

Psalm 146:5-6

5 Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God.
6 He is the Maker of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them— he remains faithful forever.

1 Peter 5:7 (NLT)

7 Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you.

Romans 15:13

13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 4:18-21

¹⁸ Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, “So shall your offspring be.”^[a] ¹⁹ Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah’s womb was also dead. ²⁰ Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, ²¹ being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised.

We RELY ON HIS STRENGTH not ours

2 Corinthians 12:9

9 But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.

He SEES, He HEARS, He KNOWS, He ACTS

- But He also sees the big picture, He hears what isn't spoken, He knows more than we could ever hope to know, and He acts according to His purposes not ours

Romans 4:18-21

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We BELIEVE AND STAND on the Promises of God’s Word

- that Nothing can separate us from his love
- More than conquerors
- If God is for us, who can be against us
- No weapon formed against us...

Isaiah 54:17

17 no weapon forged against you will prevail, and you will refute every tongue that accuses you. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and this is their vindication from me,” declares the Lord.

We learn to see things with SPIRITUAL EYES

Psalm 121

1 I lift up my eyes to the mountains— where does my help come from?
2 My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.
3 He will not let your foot slip— he who watches over you will not slumber;
4 indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.
5 The Lord watches over you— the Lord is your shade at your right hand;
6 the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night.
7 The Lord will keep you from all harm— he will watch over your life;
8 the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore

REST IN THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD

(Notice I didn't say understand)

Biblical Definition and Context of "Sovereign"

There is absolutely nothing that happens in the universe that is outside of God's influence and authority. As King of kings and Lord of lords, God has no limitations. Consider just a few of the claims the Bible makes about God:

- God is above all things and before all things. He is the alpha and the omega, the beginning and the end. He is immortal, and He is present everywhere so that everyone can know Him ([Revelation 21:6](#)).
- God created all things and holds all things together, both in heaven and on earth, both visible and invisible ([Colossians 1:16](#)).
- God knows all things past, present, and future. There is no limit to His knowledge, for God knows everything completely before it even happens ([Romans 11:33](#)).
- God can do all things and accomplish all things. Nothing is too difficult for Him, and He orchestrates and determines everything that is going to happen in your life, in my life, in America, and throughout the world. Whatever He wants to do in the universe, He does, for nothing is impossible with Him ([Jeremiah 32:17](#)).
- God is in control of all things and rules over all things. He has power and authority over nature, earthly kings, history, angels, and [demons](#). Even Satan himself has to ask God's permission before he can act ([Psalm 103:19](#)).
- Three Hebrew children - and if not

Daniel 3:17-18

17 If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from Your Majesty's hand. **18** But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up."

- He can raise you from the dead or use your dead bones to accomplish His purposes