2 Kings - Commentaries by Clarence E. Lunden

Elisha: God Is Salvation, Open His Eyes, That He May See

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<2KI 6:8-23>Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints, cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers; that... the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of His calling, and what the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints." Eph. 1:15-18.

The ministry of Elisha touches on and enlightens several New Testament truths in picture form. This form makes the truth more interesting to us and helps us to lay hold of the underlying spiritual meaning in our souls.

It may seem strange to find an illustration of Eph. 1:18 in the second book of the Kings, especially when we have been taught that the "mystery" concerning Christ and the Church had not been revealed until it was given to the Apostle Paul by revelation (Eph. 3:5-8). But it is not strange, for "it is the glory of God to conceal a thing: but the honor of kings is to search out a matter." Prov. 25:2.

The "mystery" was not revealed in 2 Kings 6:8-23, but what was written in the time of Elisha was written for us, "for whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope." Rom. 15:4. "And they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages are come." 1 Cor. 10:11 JND.

"Then the king of Syria warred against Israel, and took counsel with his servants, saying, In such and such a place shall be my camp. And the man of God sent unto the king of Israel, saying, Beware that thou pass not such a place; for thither the Syrians are come down. And the king of Israel sent to the place which the man of God told him and warned him of, and saved himself there, not once nor twice." Verses 8-10.

The king of Syria was an enemy of Israel-God's people. The Lord sent the man of God to save His people Israel and these enemies; God sent the Lord Jesus to save all, for all were His enemies by wicked works.

"Therefore the heart of the king of Syria was sore troubled for this thing; and he called his servants, and said unto them, Will ye not show me which of us is for the king of Israel? And one of his servants said, None, my lord, O king: but Elisha, the prophet that is in Israel, telleth the king of Israel the words that thou speakest in thy bedchamber." Verses 11,12.

Elisha: God Is Salvation, House of God, The

KI 4:1-7{

The subject, "The House of God," which we shall now consider, does not have to do with length of time but with the assembly of God as a testimony to the great truths given in 1 Tim. 3:15,16 and 4:15,16.

Let us turn to 2 Kings 4:1-7.

"Now there cried a certain woman of the wives of the sons of the prophets unto Elisha, saying, Thy servant my husband is dead; and thou knowest that thy servant did fear the Lord: and the creditor is come to take unto him my two sons to be bondmen." 2 Kings 4:1.

In another translation "sons" in verse 1 reads "children." It suggests the thought of adoption. This is the beginning of our knowledge in the things of God, the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. One of the first actions in the soul with divine life is to cry, "Abba, Father!" Every one who by faith can cry, "Abba, Father," is one of the children of God and belongs at the Lord's table as well. Being at the table is not a question of intelligence but of nature.

New creation is not a question of time or place, but of kind. Of what kind are you?

What nature do you have? Are you in the flesh or in Christ?

After Elijah had gone on high, Elisha represented him, giving a picture of Christ working on earth through His servants by the Holy Spirit.

In 2 Kings 4:1 the Holy Spirit has set before us a woman who had lost her husband. "Woman" in Scripture is sometimes used to set forth position in contrast to responsibility.