

## AXES & KINGS. 2 KN. 6:1-12. 09/25/23. #12.

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**6** And the sons of the prophets said to Elisha, “See now, the place where we dwell with you is too small for us. <sup>2</sup> Please, let us go to the Jordan, and let every man take a beam from there, and let us make there a place where we may dwell.” So he answered, “Go.” <sup>3</sup> Then one said, “Please consent to go with your servants.” And he answered, “I will go.” <sup>4</sup> So he went with them. And when they came to the Jordan, they cut down trees. <sup>5</sup> But as one was cutting down a tree, the iron *ax head* fell into the water; and he cried out and said, “Alas, master! For it was borrowed.” <sup>6</sup> So the man of God said, “Where did it fall?” And he showed him the place. So he cut off a stick, and threw *it* in there; and he made the iron float. <sup>7</sup> Therefore he said, “Pick *it* up for yourself.” So he reached out his hand and took it. <sup>8</sup> Now the king of Syria was making war against Israel; and he consulted with his servants, saying, “My camp *will be* in such and such a place.” <sup>9</sup> And the man of God sent to the king of Israel, saying, “Beware that you do not pass this place, for the Syrians are coming down there.” <sup>10</sup> Then the king of Israel sent *someone* to the place of which the man of God had told him. Thus he warned him, and he was watchful there, not just once or twice. <sup>11</sup> Therefore the heart of the king of Syria was greatly troubled by this thing; and he called his servants and said to them, “Will you not show me which of us *is* for the king of Israel?” <sup>12</sup> And one of his servants said, “None, my lord, O king; but Elisha, the prophet who *is* in Israel, tells the king of Israel the words that you speak in your bedroom.”  
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### 1. The axe head that floats

#### a. A rather mundane scene

- a1. There was not enough room for all the prophets (too many prophets)
- a2. The prophets asked Elisha permission to go to the Jordan to fell trees to make new homes for themselves
- a3. Elisha was God’s obvious choice as leader
  - b1. The hand of God was on Elisha
  - b2. Important to recognize the leaders appointed by God
  - b3. There is no room for jealousy or rivalry in serving God

#### b. Apparently, the prophets could build on public land or they collectively owned a plot of land

#### c. While felling a tree an axe head flew off & landed in the river (a borrowed axe that had to be replaced)

- a1. The prophet could not afford his own axe
- a2. Elisha throws a stick in the water where the iron head fell & the head floated to the top
- a3. Laws of nature defied as iron doesn’t float

#### d. Several times God suspended laws of nature:

- a1. The sun standing still in Joshua’s day
- a2. Opening of Red Sea for Moses
- a3. Valley of Dry Bones reincarnation
- a4. Jesus walking on water
- a5. Jesus calming the storm
- a6. Multiplying the fish & loaves
- a7. Raising the dead (widow’s son, Lazarus...)
- e. A personal benefit to the prophet (God gives aid) & another confirmation of Elisha’s call

### 3. Syrian king foiled

- a. The Syrian king decided to attack Israel’s army
  - a1. Power, prowess, & possession at stake
  - a2. Each time Syria attacks, Elisha warns Israel’s king to stay away from attack site
- b. Israel avoids Syrian trap each time
  - a1. The Syrian king suspects a spy in his midst
  - a2. A servant tells the king that Elisha knows what he says in his own bedroom
- c. Lessons not learned:
  - a1. The king of Israel should acknowledge that the Lord is God
    - b1. Need to jettison his idols & sin
    - b2. The miracles should lead to faith
  - a2. The Syrian king should recognize that Elisha’s God can’t be defeated & He supports Israel (he should also submit)
- d. 3 astounding traits of men:
  - a1. Stubbornness in the face of evidence
  - a2. Pride in the face of certain judgment (Rev. 16:9 – even when God sends plagues upon man, they still would not repent)
  - a3. Defiance of God in the face of imminent destruction
- e. Men can never say that God did not give them enough evidence to respond to Him (Rom. 1)
  - a1. Evidence doesn’t guarantee response
  - a2. Without a desire to worship, no amount of evidence or chastening will work