

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

ISRAEL: PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE

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PART 13: CURSES ARE REAL

ELISHA PROVEN TO BE A PROPHET

When a person is called by God, there will always be a challenge from the Devil. Elisha had just come back from seeing Elijah taken up to heaven and now he was given his first test. The water in Jericho was bitter and the men in the city asked Elisha to do something about it. Elisha did not hesitate because he knew that God was with him. **2 Kings 2:19-22**

Bethel was a stronghold of Baal worship, but also for the Kabbalistic worship in Israel.

1 Kings 12:26-31

Elisha was directed to visit Bethel and on the way he encountered children from the city who mocked him. Elisha was well-known in Israel as the successor to Elijah, who had slain 850 Baal prophets. The remaining Baal leadership in Bethel hated Elijah and Elisha and the people in Bethel had been taught to hate these men of God. **2 Kings 2:23**

The mocking did not sit well with Elisha because they were mocking God as well. Elisha spoke a curse over them and God responded by killing 42 children. **verse 24**

This curse was no different than the curse that Jesus spoke some 700 years later. **Mark 11:12-14; 20-24**

A NATIONAL PROPHET

When King Ahab died, his son became the new king. Jehoram reigned for 12 years, and although he was not as evil as his father, he still caused Israel to sin. He asked Jehoshaphat, the king of Judah, to go to war with him against King Mesha of Moab. They decide to travel through the wilderness of Edom and enlisted its king's help too.

2 Kings 3:5-8

The kingdom of Moab originated with the first born son of Lot's eldest daughter, who committed incest with her father after the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. Moab carried three curses; the bastard curse that lasts for ten generations, the curse of being conceived by incest and the curse of not helping Israel. **Genesis 19:29-38**

Things did not go well for the three kings since they did not have sufficient water for the soldiers and the cattle that they had with them for food. **2 Kings 3:9**

Jehoram thought that Moab would defeat the armies of the three kings. **verse 10**

Jehoshaphat was a man of God and did that which was right in the eyes of the Lord. **2 Chronicles 17:1-6**

While Jehoram became depressed, Jehoshaphat asked if a prophet from the Lord was available. One of the King Jehoram's servants told him about Elisha. **2 Kings 3:11**

The three kings left their soldiers and went to find Elisha. **verse 12**



Elisha showed contempt for the King of Israel but respect for the King of Judah and he agreed to seek the Lord on Jehoshaphat's behalf. **verses 13-14**

Elisha did not immediately begin asking the Lord; instead, he requested a singer be called to lead them in worship of the Lord. **verse 15**

Worship brings the anointing of the Lord and Elisha received a message from God. The three kings were to fill the valley in which their army was stuck with ditches and the Lord would supernaturally fill them with water. **verses 16-17**

God would deliver the Moabites into the hand of the three kings, and they were to destroy the cities, cut down the forests, fill all the wells with rocks and dirt and ruin the fields with rocks. **verses 18-19**

FULFILLED PROPHECY

Once the three kings ordered their men to dig ditches, God filled them with water the next morning. **verse 20**

As King Mesha mobilized his army and set up defense lines at the border, they saw the sun reflecting on the ditches filled with water and were tricked into thinking the ditches were filled with blood. **verses 21-22**

They mistakenly thought that the three armies had fought and killed each other so they left their defensive positions and ran to gather the spoil. They were surprised to find that the armies of the three kings were intact and Moab was defeated in the battle that ensued. **verses 23-25**

King Mesha worshiped a demon god, and when he saw that the battle was lost, he sacrificed his own son in an effort to get his demon god to save him. The strategy failed and the remnant of the Moabite army scattered. **verses 26-27**

IS GOD LOVE?

Why did God deal with the people of Moab so harshly? The answer is found in the book of Deuteronomy. Most Christians have not understood that curses are real and bad things happen when God puts a curse on a person or a nation.

The story goes back to the time of Abraham when there was strife between his herdsmen and Lot's herdsmen. Lot did not control his people whereas Abraham showed kindness to Lot and his people. **Genesis 13:7-12**

Lot looked at the land and couldn't have cared less that the people were wicked. **verse 13**

Lot did not understand that by separating himself from Abraham, he forfeited the blessings that would have been his. He unwisely built his house upon sand. **Genesis 19:15-26**

In time his sons, Moab and Ammon grew to become nations, and when the people of Israel needed help, their descendants turned them down. As a result, God placed a curse upon them that remains to this day. **Deuteronomy 23:3-6**

The only hope for the descendants of Moab and Ammon is to break the curse by accepting Jesus as their Lord and Savior. **Romans 10:8-13**

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

Do you have an ear to hear with?