

50+ Sunday School Class

All Saints Presbyterian Church
Austin, TX

Led by Rev. Craig Chapman
cchapman@allsaintsaustin.org

Life of Elisha

Powerful Faith in the Face of Apostasy

Fall 2022

Taught by Rev. Craig Chapman

Life of Elisha – 10/30/2022

- 9/11 – *Life of Elisha* 1 – 2 Kings 2:19-25 – 2 Cities: Jericho & Bethel
- 9/18 – *Life of Elisha* 2 – 2 Kings 4.1-7 – Poor Widow
- 9/25 – *Life of Elisha* 3 – 2 Kings 4.8-37 – Family at Shunum
- 10/2 – Guest Teacher – Rev. Adam Radcliff
- 10/9 – *Life of Elisha* 5 – 2 Kings 5 – Naaman, Gehazi & a Slave
- 10/16 – *Life of Elisha* 6 – 2 Kings 6.1-7 – Floating Axe Head
- 10/23 – *Life of Elisha* 7 – 2 Kings 6.8-23 – Open Our Eyes
- **10/30 – *Life of Elisha* 8 – 2 Kgs 6.24-7.20 – Siege & Deliverance**
- 11/6 – Guest Teacher – Rev. Bill Laughlin
- 11/13 – *Life of Elisha* 10 – 2 Kings 13.10-21 – Arrows, Errors & Bones





Fall 50+ Calendar

- Friday, 11/11
 - Dinner at Milano Café – 5.30 PM
 - Tenebrae Concert at Redeemer Church – 7.30 PM
 - RSVP for Dinner – lpayne@allsaintsaustin.org □
- Friday, 12/2
 - Annual Christmas Party at the Abernethys' – 6.30-9.30 PM

Songs of Praise

Prayer

“Life of Elisha – Powerful Faith in the Face of Apostasy”

50+ Songs of Praise

SEEK YE FIRST

Seek ye first the kingdom of God
And His righteousness
And all these things shall be added unto You
Allelu, alleluia

Man shall not live by bread alone
But by every word
That proceeds from the mouth of God
Allelu, alleluia

Ask and it shall be given unto you
Seek and ye shall find
Knock and the door shall be opened into you
Allelu, alleluia

Songs of Praise

Prayer

“Life of Elisha – Powerful Faith in the Face of Apostasy”

A Very Broad History of Israel

2000 BC – Abraham – (Mid Bronze Age) – Genesis

1500 BC – Moses – (Late Bronze) – Exodus–Numbers

1000 BC – David – (Iron 1) – Samuel–Kings–Chronicles

930 BC – Kingdom Divides: Israel & Judah (Solomon's death)

885-874 – Omri ... 874-853 – Ahab (worst yet) *□ Elijah □*

853-852 – Ahaziah (disobedient) “

852-841 – Joram/Jehoram (mostly rotten) *□ Elisha □*

841-814 – Jehu (not good, but better than the rest) “

814-798 – Jehoahaz (noncompliant) “

798-782 – Joash (wayward) “

722 BC – Israel's Exile to Assyria

586 BC – Judah's Exile to Babylon

400 BC – Return & Settlement (Persian & Hellenistic) – Nehemiah

4 BC – Christ (Roman) – Gospels

30-100 AD – Church – Acts–Revelation

THE KINGDOMS OF ISRAEL AND JUDAH

1 KINGS 12



- Elijah

- El (God) i (my) jah (Jehovah) = *My God is Jehovah (YHWH)*
= *The LORD is my God*

- 1 Kings 17 – 21 – Ministry of Elijah

- 2 Kings 2 – 13 – Ministry of Elisha

- Elisha

- El (God) i (my) sha (Salvation) = *My God is Salvation*

- = *My God saves*

- Apostasy

- *a falling away, a withdrawal, a defection*

- Judeo-Christian – *a withdrawal from faith and trust (belief) in God*

Last Several Weeks—

- 10/9 – 2 Kings 5 – Naaman the Syrian
 - God loves all people – even the “enemies of Israel”
 - *God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble* (Jas 4.6)
 - Pursue Gospel clarity. Be opportunistic for others.
 - Costly forgiveness enables transformative compassion
- 10/16 – 2 Kings 6:1-7 – Floating Axe Head
 - Our Creator rules over his creation
 - God cares for the ordinary details of your life
 - Helpful approaches for interpreting Scripture
- 10/23 – 2 Kings 6:8-23 – Lord, Open Our Eyes
 - We’re born spiritually blind—to our sin, self, & God’s grace
 - God must give spiritual sight, often thru suffering

Today—

- 2 Kings 6:24-7:20 – Siege & Deliverance

Richmond, Virginia - 1865



Life of Elisha – 10/30/2022

2 Kings 6:24-29

²⁴ Some time later, Ben-hadad king of Syria mustered his **entire army** and went up and **besieged** Samaria. ²⁵ And there was a **great famine** in Samaria, as they besieged it, until a **donkey's head** was sold for **eighty shekels** of silver, and the fourth part of a **kab of dove's dung** for **five shekels** of silver. ²⁶ Now 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 will not help you, how shall I help you? From the threshing floor, or from the winepress?” ²⁸ And the king asked her, “What is your trouble?” 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 on the next day I said to her, ‘Give your son, that we may eat him.’ But she has hidden her son.”

Life of Elisha – 10/30/2022

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- Desperate for Deliverance ... Promised Covenant Curses Fulfilled
 - Leviticus 26:27ff ... Deuteronomy 28:52ff

Life of Elisha – 10/30/2022

2 Kings 6:30-33

*³⁰ When the king heard the words of the woman, he **tore his clothes**—now he was passing by on the wall—and the people looked, and behold, he had **sackcloth** beneath on his body— ³¹ and he said, “May God do so to me and more also, if the **head of Elisha** the son of Shaphat remains on his shoulders today.”*

*³² Elisha was sitting in his house, and the elders were sitting with him. Now the king had dispatched a man from his presence, but before the messenger arrived Elisha said to the elders, “Do you see how this murderer has **sent to take off my head**? Look, when the messenger comes, shut the door and hold the door fast against him. Is not the sound of his master's feet behind him?” ³³ And while he was still speaking with them, the **messenger** came down to him and said, “**This trouble is from the Lord! Why should I wait for the LORD any longer?**”*

Life of Elisha – 10/30/2022

2 Kings 6:30-33

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- Royal, Governmental, Political ineffectiveness & helplessness
- “Revolutions produce other men, not new men.” —Barbara Tuchman
- Psalm 124.8—Our help is in the name of the Lord....

Life of Elisha – 10/30/2022

2 Kings 7:1-2

*7 But 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 Then the **captain** on whose hand the **king** leaned said to the man of God, “If the Lord himself should make windows in heaven, **could this thing be?**” But he said, “You shall see it with your own eyes, but **you shall not eat of it.**”*

- Other promises from the Lord that seem unlikely/preposterous?

Life of Elisha – 10/30/2022

2 Kings 7:1-2

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- Other promises from the Lord that seem unlikely/preposterous?
 - John 14.19
 - Philippians 2.10-11
 - Romans 6.14
 - John 10.28

Life of Elisha – 10/30/2022

2 Kings 7:1-2

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- Other promises from the Lord that seem unlikely/preposterous?
 - John 14.19
 - Philippians 2.10-11
 - Romans 6.14
 - John 10.28
- Believe what God says, no matter how unlikely or preposterous

Life of Elisha – 10/30/2022

2 Kings 7:3-7

³ Now there were **four** men who were **lepers** at the entrance to the gate. And they said to one another, “Why are we sitting here until we die?

⁴ If we say, ‘Let us enter the city,’ the famine is in the city, and we shall die there. And if we sit here, we die also. So now come, let us go over to the **camp of the Syrians**. If they spare our lives we shall live, and if they kill us we shall but die.” ⁵ So they arose at twilight to go to the camp of the Syrians. But when they came to the edge of the camp of the Syrians, behold, there was **no one there**. ⁶ For the **Lord had made the army of the Syrians hear** the sound of **chariots** and of **horses**, the sound of a **great army**, so that they said to one another, “Behold, the king of Israel has hired against us the kings of the **Hittites** and the kings of **Egypt** to come against us.” ⁷ So **they fled** away in the twilight and abandoned their tents, their horses, and their donkeys, leaving the camp as it was, and fled for their lives.

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- How God saves His people – James Kirk Mead
- 1 Corinthians 1:28-31

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2 Kings 7:8-11

⁸ And when these lepers came to the edge of the camp, they went into a tent and **ate and drank**, and they carried off **silver and gold and clothing** and went and hid them. Then they came back and entered another tent and carried off things from it and went and hid them. ⁹ Then they said to one another, “**We are not doing right. This day is a day of good news.** If we are silent and wait until the morning light, punishment will overtake us. Now therefore come; **let us go and tell the king's household.**” ¹⁰ So they came and called to the gatekeepers of the city and told them, “We came to the camp of the Syrians, and behold, there was no one to be seen or heard there, nothing but the horses tied and the donkeys tied and the tents as they were.” ¹¹ Then the gatekeepers called out, and it was told within the king's household.

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- Deliverance is good news that needs evangelists to make it known
- Romans 10:14-17

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2 Kings 7:12-15

¹² And the king rose in the night and said to his servants, “I will tell you **what the Syrians have done to us**. They know that we are hungry. Therefore they have **gone out** of the camp **to hide** themselves in the open country, thinking, ‘When they come out of the city, we shall **take them alive** and get into the city.’” ¹³ And one of his servants said, “Let some men take five of the remaining horses, seeing that those who are left here will fare like the whole multitude of Israel who have already perished. Let us send and see.” ¹⁴ So they took two horsemen, and the king sent them after the army of the Syrians, saying, “**Go and see.**” ¹⁵ So they went after them as far as the Jordan, and behold, all the way was littered with garments and equipment that the Syrians had thrown away in their haste. And the messengers returned and told the king.

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- Jacques Ellul
- God can use the unclean & unnamed to proclaim His Deliverance
- Your past/present failures or obscurity don't disqualify you ...

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2 Kings 7:16-20

¹⁶ Then the people went out and **plundered the camp of the Syrians**. So a seah of fine flour was sold for a shekel, and two seahs of barley for a shekel, **according to the word of the LORD**. ¹⁷ Now the king had appointed the **captain** on whose hand he leaned to have charge of the gate. And the **people trampled him** in the gate, so that **he died**, as the man of God had said when the king came down to him. ¹⁸ For when the man of God had said to the king, “Two seahs of barley shall be sold for a shekel, and a seah of fine flour for a shekel, about this time tomorrow in the gate of Samaria.” ¹⁹ the captain had answered the man of God, “If the LORD himself should make windows in heaven, could such a thing be?” And he had said, “**You shall see it** with your own eyes, **but** you shall **not eat of it**.” ²⁰ And so it happened to him, for the people trampled him in the gate and he died.

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2 Kings 7:16-20

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- Our unbelief doesn't falsify God's word; it forfeits our benefit of it

Lessons & Applications

- 1—God graciously delivers his people in times of desperation
- 2—Our help is in the Lord, not government
- 3—Believe what God says, no matter how unlikely/preposterous
- 4—God (ch)uses the unlikely to do his work so we boast in Him
- 5—God's good news needs evangelists to make it known
- 6—God can use the unclean, unnamed to proclaim His work
- 7—Your past/present failures or obscurity don't disqualify you
- 8—Your unbelief doesn't falsify God's word; it forfeits its benefit

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Prayer Requests

Next Class on 11/6/22