

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 – 10/23/2022

- 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 Kings 6.24-7.2 – Siege & Son
- 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
 - Friday, 12/2
 - Annual Christmas Party at the Abernethys' – 6.30-9.30 PM
- RSVPs – lpayne@allsaintsaustin.org □

Tomorrow

Songs of Praise

Prayer

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



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50+ Songs of Praise

There Is A Redeemer

*There is a Redeemer, Jesus, God's own Son,
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One.*

Chorus

*Thank you, oh, my Father, for giving us Your Son,
And leaving Your Spirit 'til the work on earth is done.*

*Jesus, my Redeemer, name above all names,
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, O for sinners slain.*

(Chorus)

*When we stand in glory, we will see His face,
There we'll serve our King forever, in that holy place.*

(Chorus)

50+ Songs of Praise

Open Our Eyes Lord

*Open our eyes, Lord,
We want to see Jesus,
To reach out and touch him,
And say that we love him.*

*Open our ears, Lord,
And help us to listen.
Open our eyes, Lord,
We want to see Jesus.*

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—

- In our weakness, God shows strength, compassion, love for us
 - 9/18 – 2 Kings 4.1-7 – Poor Widow – food for debts & living
 - 9/25 – 2 Kings 4.8-37 – Shunammite Woman – resurrection
- 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

Today—

- 2 Kings 6:8-23 – Lord, Open Our Eyes

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2 Kings 6:8-14

⁸ Once when the king of **Syria** was **warring against Israel**, he took counsel with his servants, saying, “At such and such a place shall be my camp.” ⁹ But the man of God sent word to the king of Israel, “Beware that you do not pass this place, for the Syrians are going down there.” ¹⁰ And the king of Israel sent to the place about which the man of God told him. Thus he used to **warn him**, so that he saved himself there more than once or twice. ¹¹ And the mind of the king of Syria was greatly troubled because of this thing, and he called his servants and said to them, “Will you not show me **who of us is for the king of Israel?**” ¹² 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.” ¹³ And he said, “Go and see where he is, that I may send and seize him.” It was told him, “Behold, he is in **Dothan.**” ¹⁴ So he sent there horses and chariots and a **great army**, and they came by night and surrounded the city.

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2 Kings 6:15-19

¹⁵ When the **servant** of the man of God rose early in the morning and went out, behold, an **army with horses and chariots** was all around the city. And the servant said, “Alas, my master! **What shall we do?**” ¹⁶ He said, “Do not be afraid, for **those who are with us are more than those who are with them.**” ¹⁷ Then Elisha prayed and said, “O LORD, please **open his eyes** that he may see.” So the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw, and behold, the mountain was full of **horses and chariots of fire all around** Elisha. ¹⁸ And when the Syrians came down against him, Elisha prayed to the LORD and said, “Please **strike this people with blindness.**” So he struck them with blindness in accordance with the prayer of Elisha. ¹⁹ And Elisha said to them, “This is not the way, and this is not the city. Follow me, and I will bring you to the man whom you seek.” And he **led them to Samaria.**

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2 Kings 6:20-23

²⁰ As soon as they entered Samaria, Elisha said, “O LORD, **open the eyes** of these men, that they may see.” So the LORD opened their eyes and they saw, and behold, they were in the midst of Samaria. ²¹ As soon as the **king of Israel** saw them, he said **to Elisha**, “My father, **shall I strike them** down? **Shall I strike them** down?” ²² He answered, “You shall not strike them down. Would you strike down those whom you have taken captive with your sword and with your bow? **Set bread and water before them**, that they may eat and drink and go to their master.” ²³ So he prepared for them a **great feast**, and when they had eaten and drunk, he sent them away, and they went to their master. And the **Syrians did not come again on raids** into the land of Israel.

Related New Testament Passages

- Acts 9—Saul: Jerusalem to Damascus

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- **John 9**—Jesus heals a man born blind
 - 9.39ff—*For judgment I came into this world so that [the blind] may see and those who see may become blind.*
 - To Pharisees: if you think you're spiritually sighted, it's a sign you're spiritually blind.

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- **Matthew 11.2-5**—John [the Baptist] asks Jesus from prison...
 - Jesus points to signs (miracles)
 - Physical Signs of how God's salvation works
 - Sight to the spiritually blind
 - Raise the spiritually dead.
 - Feed the spiritually poor.
- Read these miracles on 2 levels:
 - sighted & blind ... physical & spiritual

Lessons & Applications

- **1—Spiritual Sight is a Gift from God**
 - Ephesians 4 ... John 3 ... John 4
 - Becoming a Christian is not just working harder ...
 - Sight is a distinct way of perceiving reality

Lessons & Applications

- 1—Spiritual Sight is a Gift from God
- **2—We're born Spiritually Blind, naturally** (we're blind to:)
 - Depth of Our Sin
 - View of Sin *before* spiritual sight
 - View of Sin *with* spiritual sight
 - Beauty of Grace
 - Elisha – how is he like Jesus?
 - Matthew 8:11 ... 2 Peter 3:9
 - Blindness of Self
 - Frank Barker
 - Key indicator

Lessons & Applications

- 1—Spiritual Sight is a Gift from God
- 2—We're born Spiritually Blind, naturally (we're blind to:)
- **3—Our fallen world is a battleground for our hearts & souls**
 - 2 Kings 6:16 ... 1 John 4:4

Lessons & Applications

- 1—Spiritual Sight is a Gift from God
- 2—We're born Spiritually Blind, naturally (we're blind to:)
- 3—Our fallen world is a battleground for our hearts & souls
- **4—No one is as safe as God's people ...**
 - God's people enjoy His unseen protection
 - No one can harm God's people unless our Defender allows
 - Fear need not prevail if our eyes of faith focus on the unseen
 - God frustrates His enemies plans
 - Illustration

Lessons & Applications

- 1—Spiritual Sight is a Gift from God
- 2—We're born Spiritually Blind, naturally (we're blind to:)
- 3—Our fallen world is a battleground for our hearts & souls
- 4—No one is as safe as God's people ...
- **5—Our Spiritual Blindness is healed ...**
 - In Stages
 - Thru Suffering
 - With Prayer & Grace
- Other application?

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Prayer Requests

Next Class on 10/30/22