

OUR ULTIMATE ENEMY DEFEATED

2 Kings 4:8-37

From Pastor Mark

We are currently studying *The Days of Elisha and Our Day* from 2 Kings 1-13. Chapters 4-6 show Yahweh as Victor over debt, death, drought, disease and difficulty. God was not obliged to help powerful idolatrous kings (3:14); but He did care for the nameless and helpless (4:1-7).

I. GOD THE GIVER (4:8-17)

- A. Godly people display God's generosity (8-10).
- B. Godly people display contentment (11-13).
- C. Godly leaders display gratitude and a desire to bless (14).
- D. God gives joy (15-17; Psalm 113:9).
- E. *GOD is THE GIVER* (1 Timothy 6:17).

II. DEATH THE TAKER (4:18-21)

- A. Death may be unexpected and take any age (18-20).
- B. Death brings horror and unanswered questions for God (4:21).
- C. *Death the Taker* is our great enemy (1 Cor. 15:26).

III. GOD THE VICTOR (4:22-37)

- A. The Pursuit of God (22-27a, 30)
- B. The Limitations of the Man of God (4:27b, 28-31)
- C. The Power of God (4:36-47)
- D. Another "Preview" of Resurrection Power (Luke 7:11-17)
 - 1. The location connects the raising of the two sons.
 - 2. The Messiah tells the widow not to weep and raises the son simply by His word.
 - 3. Neither Elisha nor Jesus raised very many; but they previewed the day "when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live" (Jn. 5:25).
 - 4. *God the Victor*: "Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!" (1 Cor. 15:57)

What a God! What a Savior!

FOR NEXT TIME—Read 2 Kings 4:38-44, *God Provides*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR SEPTEMBER 10, 2023

- 1. How has God the Giver been generous to you? Share God-sightings from your life over this past summer.
- 2. Read 2 Kings 4:9-10. How does the hospitality of this unnamed couple towards Elisha provide a good example for using our homes to bless others?

3. Read 2 Kings 4:18-28. How does this grieving mother model a determination to seek God when painful crises come our way?
4. Read Luke 17:11-17. What are the similarities and differences between Elisha and Jesus' raising of a son?
5. How does the assured victory of 1 Corinthians 15:51-57 help us live the truth of 15:58?
6. How does today's sermon about God's ultimate victory encourage your life right here, right now?