

## THE UNSEEN HAND

### 2 Kings 8:1-15

From Pastor Mark Johnson

In the “Days of Elisha and Our Day,” we should be so thankful for the providence of our all-powerful and sovereign God. Providence is God’s purposeful sovereignty or “the hand of God in the glove of history.” Watching it work through Elisha both reassures and warns.

#### I. GOD’S PROVIDENCE CARES FOR HIS FAITHFUL REMNANT (8:1-6)

- A. Wisdom that Avoided a Famine (8:1-2)
- B. Timing that Restored Property (8:3-6)
- C. Testimony that Impressed (3:3b)
- D. Time and again, God through Elisha provided for the faithful remnant during the dark apostasy of the northern kingdom. God cares for widows and orphans (Psalm 68:5, James 1:27).

#### II. GOD’S PROVIDENCE CHASTENS HIS UNFAITHFUL PEOPLE (8:7-15, Read and explain inductively)

- A. Elisha was uninterested in earthly wealth (8:7-9; 5:15-16).
- B. Elisha revealed the future (10-13).
  - 1. A Recovery Cut Short (10)
  - 2. The (heartbreaking) Future Chastening of Israel (11-12)
  - 3. The Next King of Syria (13; fulfilling 1 Kings 19:15)
- C. The wicked fulfilled God’s plan wrongly.
  - 1. Half-Truth (14)
  - 2. Murder (15)
- D. God’s Providence
  - 1. God is sovereign over nations.
  - 2. God can use evil without being guilty of evil.
  - 3. Elisha’s weeping demonstrates God’s heart, even in judgment (Lam. 3:31-33).

#### Your Response to God’s Providence:

- 1. Gratitude for His provision
- 2. Warning to bow in trust instead of continuing in selfishness
- 3. Receiving the greatest gift of providence (Acts 2:23-24).

#### TO DISCUSS WITH FAMILY OR FRIENDS:

- 1. How have you observed “the hand of God in the glove of history”?
- 2. What is the greatest gift of providence (Acts 2:23-24)?

**FOR NEXT TIME**—Read 2 Kings 8:16-29, *The Plague of Plagues*