

Supernatural - Part 2

Part of Supernatural

July 2, 2020

Over Nations

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July 5, 2020

A miracle is an event (1) brought about by the power of God that is (2) a temporary (3) exception (4) to the ordinary course of nature (5) for the purpose of showing that God has acted in history.

—Dr. Richard L. Purtill

*We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their **Creator** with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of happiness... (emphasis added)*

*...And for the support of this Declaration, **with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence**, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor. (emphasis added)*

—Declaration of Independence

It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible.

—George Washington

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.' But the man of God [the prophet Elisha] sent word to the king of Israel, 'Beware that you do not pass this place, for the Syrians are going down there.' 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. 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?' 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.'

—2 Kings 6:8-12 (ESV)

God was supernaturally using Elisha to protect ____.

And [the king of Syria] said, 'Go and see where he is, that I may send and seize him.' It was told him, 'Behold, he is in Dothan.' So he sent there horses and chariots and a great army, and they came by night and surrounded the city.

—2 Kings 6:13-14 (ESV)

When the servant of the man of God [of Elisha] 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?'

—2 Kings 6:15 (ESV)

He said, 'Do not be afraid, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.'

—2 Kings 6:16 (ESV)

Elisha sees ____ than either his servant or the Syrians.

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.

—2 Kings 6:17 (ESV)

Me plus God is always a ____!

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. 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.

—2 Kings 6:18-19 (ESV)

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. 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?'

—2 Kings 6:20-21 (ESV)

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.' 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...

—2 Kings 6:22-23 (ESV)

We see ___ working for the nation of Israel all through this passage, thwarting the Syrian plans and supernaturally overcoming them and leading them to be captured, but also released.

Afterward Ben-hadad king of Syria mustered his entire army and went up and besieged Samaria. 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.

—2 Kings 6:24-25 (ESV)

The siege gets so bad in Samaria that even the most unappetizing parts of animals are being bought and sold for ___ amounts of money - it's desperate times!

...and [the king] said, 'May God do so to me and more

also, if the head of Elisha the son of Shaphat remains on his shoulders today.'

—2 Kings 6:31 (ESV)

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 Kings 7:1 (ESV)

Elisha has prophesied that the Lord will end Samaria's threat, and food will once again be ____ - it will have to be a miracle, in just one day!

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? 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.' 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.

—2 Kings 7:3-5 (ESV)

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.' 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.

—2 Kings 7:6-7 (ESV)

The camp is empty, with the Syrian army scared away by sounds "of a great army" assisting the Israelites, but we know it was the work of the ____.

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. 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.'

—2 Kings 7:8-9 (ESV)

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.' Then the gatekeepers called out, and it was told within the king's household. 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.'

—2 Kings 7:10-12 (ESV)

The king of Israel is not remembering what ___ had foretold.

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.' So they took two horsemen, and the king sent them after the army of the Syrians, saying, 'Go and see.' 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. 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.

—2 Kings 7:13-16 (ESV)

In one day, the price of food had done exactly as Elisha had said, as the Israelites “___ the camp of the Syrians.”

What appeared to be hopeless turned into a great ___ by God for the nation of Israel.

We often think of miracles as something done for individuals, but it’s clear from this example that God also works in and through ___.

Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage!

—Psalms 33:12 (ESV)

The king’s heart is like a stream of water directed by the LORD; he guides it wherever he pleases.

—Proverbs 21:1 (NLT)

‘For this has been decreed by the messengers; it is commanded by the holy ones, so that everyone may know that the Most High rules over the kingdoms of the world. He gives them to anyone he chooses—even to the lowliest of people.’

—Daniel 4:17 (NLT)

‘From one man he created all the nations throughout the whole earth. He decided beforehand when they should rise and fall, and he determined their boundaries. His purpose was for the nations to seek after God and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him—though he is not far from any one of us.’

—Acts 17:26-27 (NLT)

If I [the LORD] announce that a certain nation or kingdom is to be uprooted, torn down, and destroyed, but then that nation renounces its evil ways, I will not destroy it as I had planned. And if I announce that I will plant and build up a certain nation or kingdom, but then that nation turns to evil and refuses to obey me, I will not

bless it as I said I would.

—Jeremiah 18:7-10 (NLT)

God has given us free will, to make our own choices, both as individuals, but also as nations, and He says there are ___ when a “nation turns to evil and refuses to obey me.”

At the same time, the Lord says nations can change and ___ of “its evil ways,” and He will “not destroy it.”

The LORD: ‘if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.’

—2 Chronicles 7:14 (ESV)

Our Founding Fathers understood that ___ guides the destiny of nations, and that He sometimes works supernaturally to lead that nation, when it whole-heartedly seeks Him.

We have this day [Fourth of July] restored the Sovereign to whom all men ought to be obedient. He reigns in Heaven, and from the rising to the setting of the sun, let His Kingdom come.

—Samuel Adams

[The Fourth of July] ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty.

—John Adams

As the safety and prosperity of nations ultimately and essentially depend on the protection and the blessing of Almighty God, and the national acknowledgment of this truth is not only an indispensable duty which the people owe to Him.

—John Adams

May the same wonder-working Deity, who long since delivering the Hebrews from their Egyptian Oppressors

planted them in the promised land—whose Providential Agency has lately been conspicuous in establishing these United States as an independent Nation—still continue to water them with the dews of Heaven and to make the inhabitants of every denomination participate in the temporal and spiritual blessings of that people whose God is Jehovah.

—George Washington

And also that we may then unite in most humbly offering our prayers and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of Nations and beseech him to pardon our national and other transgressions, to enable us all, whether in public or private stations, to perform our several and relative duties properly...

—George Washington (*Thanksgiving Proclamation on October 3, 1789*)

Let's remember the ____ God has given us in His Word.

Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD...

—Psalms 33:12 (ESV)

Next Week: Supernatural - Over Health