

Take Advantage of Your Advantages While You Can:

II Kings 13:14-19/ I Chronicles 4:9,10 10 OCTOBER 2021

There should be no such thing as a hopeless Christian. This passage can help you abound in hopethrough the power of the Holy Spirit—This passage should help you enlarge your spiritual capacities and possessions. This passage should help you **Take Advantage of Your Advantages While You Can.**

There are just two characters in this story: Elisha and King Joash: one is very old, one is much younger.

I. We meet in vs. 14 Continuing Elisha:

He is a continually faithful servant to the end.

Service is a privilege and a necessity—you were designed to serve God with your God-given abilities. Use them or lose them.

A. Elisha is familiar with death and ready for death.

B. He saved others—himself he cannot save for he stands in relation to his gifts and abilities as a steward—for the glory of God—the time has come for him to leave this world.

II. We meet in verse 14 respectful Joash—grandson of Jehu—who exterminated the dynasty of Ahab and Jezebel and was appointed King himself with the promise that his offspring would reign in Israel for four generations: Joash is the third.

A. If only men lived up to the light they have: Joash is correct in his estimate of Elisha: He has been to Israel a valued leader worth more than chariots and horsemen.

Psalm 33:16-18 No king is saved by the multitude of an army; A mighty man is not delivered by great strength. A horse is a vain hope for safety; Neither shall it deliver any by its great strength. Behold the eye of the LORD is on those who fear Him, On those who hope in His mercy.”

B. Motives for the visit and his tears?

1. Possibly another Syrian attack was imminent which excited his respect for Elisha.
2. Possibly pangs of conscience for his neglect.
3. Give him what credit you can, he is better than many of “the powers that be.”

III. We participate with God in ordering the affairs of our land—and sometimes other lands.

Genesis 12:3 “...in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

Galatians 3:9 “So then those who are of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham.”

A. By taking the bow in his hands the king was symbolically becoming an agent of God's power.

B. Elisha's hands symbolize the approval of God and the blessing of god in Israel's recovery of lost territory and security.

C. Shooting the arrow is an acted out “AMEN”.

1. Striking the ground with the arrows is giving Joash a chance to express faith and take advantage of his advantages. Just three.

2. Elisha is wroth with the young man. Why?

Faint desire Low expectation Exertion small

These are evidences of failing or non-existent faith

W/o faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that he is, and is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

IV. Review the Precious Blood passages and bring your bucket.

God saved Paul because of His Sovereign freedom and His infinite Grace. That is the same way he saves the rest of us also.

Nancy Spiegelberg is confessing her little faith and little knowledge of her gracious God. “Hoping for a drop”

What are you hoping for? Do you pray like a loved reconciled person to a father who is rich in grace?

A suggestion or two: Proverbs 30:8 Remove falsehood and lies *far* from me. Good on material wealth also.

Matthew 1:21

How important is patience to you? How about longsuffering?

Jabez pleaded for an enlarged coast

Your Part in saving America? Family—Good cheer and romance—heart to heart and physical romance are very often in serious decline in marriages: Enlarge my coast.

Take time to be holy: recover the Lord's Day