

# 1 Those Crazy Prophets of God

## 2 Review

- Bishop Chege's Sermon

(2 Kings 6:24–7:19)

- Ben-hadad king of Aram invades Israel and lays siege to Samaria, which produces a great famine.
- Food goes for exorbitant prices.
- When the King of Israel (Jehoram), hears the news of mothers eating their own children . . . he says,
- May God deal with me, be it ever so severely, if the head of Elisha son of Shaphat remains on his shoulders today!

## 3 Review

- So when the King arrives to confront Elisha, Elisha says,

- Hear the word of the LORD. This is what the LORD says: About this time tomorrow, a seah of flour will sell for a shekel and two seahs of barley for a shekel at the gate of Samaria. (2 Kings 7:1 NIV)
- The officer on whose arm the king was leaning said to the man of God, “Look, even if the LORD should open the floodgates of the heavens, could this happen?” “You will see it with your own eyes,” answered Elisha, “but you will not eat any of it!” (2 Kings 7:2 NIV)
- Four men with leprosy find the Aramean camp abandoned and then tell the city.
- Then a stampede of people rush out of the city and in their haste trample to death the King's officer who distrusted the word of God's prophet. (2 Kings 7:17–20)
- Just as Elisha prophesied.

## 4 Elijah & Elisha

- They were the dynamic duo of Old Testament Prophets whose primary mission was to the Northern Kingdom of Israel.
- Elijah the Tishbite appears on the scene with little fanfare, but becomes known as the greatest of all God's prophets.
  - His chief adversary was the weak-willed King Ahab and the arrogant and brazen Queen Jezebel.
  - He is known for 14 miracles, with the “Calling down of fire on Mount Carmel” (1Ki 18:38)—as his best known.
  - Elijah did not die, but was taken up to heaven in a chariot of fire.

## 5 Elijah & Elisha

- Elisha, son of Shaphat, was directed by God to be Elijah's successor and promised a double portion, if he saw the Lord take Elijah up to heaven.
  - His chief adversaries were Joram, Jehu, Jehoahaz, and Jehoash—all kings of Israel.

- He is known for 28 miracles, with the “Healing of Naaman” (1 Kings 5)—as his most memorable.
- Elisha is the only prophet who is credited with a miracle after his death, when a hastily buried man touches Elisha’s bones and springs to life. (2 Kings 13:20)

## 6 Significance

- What is most significant about the ministry of Elijah and Elisha is not so much what they did, but how they did it.
- Instead of just doing a miracle to draw attention to God, they commanded an act of faith first.
- These requests weren’t always logical or rational.
- Instead, they were bizarre, strange, outlandish, and down right CRAZY!

## 7 Reputation of Prophets

- When Jehu went out to his fellow officers, one of them asked him, “Is everything all right? Why did this madman come to you?” “You know the man and the sort of things he says,” Jehu replied. (2 Kings 9:11 NIV)
- “The LORD has appointed you priest in place of Jehoiada to be in charge of the house of the LORD; you should put any madman who acts like a prophet into the stocks and neck-irons.” (Jeremiah 29:26 NIV)
- The days of punishment are coming, the days of reckoning are at hand. Let Israel know this. Because your sins are so many and your hostility so great, the prophet is considered a fool, the inspired man a maniac. (Hosea 9:7 NIV)

## 8 Reputation of Prophets

- For John [the Baptist] came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon.’ (Matt 11:18 NIV)
- When his family heard about this, they went to take charge of him, for they said, “He [Jesus] is out of his mind.” (Mark 3:21 NIV)
- Many of them said, “He is demon-possessed and raving mad. Why listen to him?” (John 10:20 NIV)
- Some, however, made fun of them and said, “They have had too much wine.” (Acts 2:13 NIV)
- At this point Festus interrupted Paul’s defense. “You are out of your mind, Paul!” he shouted. “Your great learning is driving you insane.” (Acts 26:24 NIV)
- If we are out of our mind, it is for the sake of God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. (2 Corinthians 5:13 NIV)

## 9 CRAZY BEHAVIOR

## 10 Who is God’s Prophet Today?

- In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. (Hebrews 1:1-2 NIV)
- For Moses said, ‘The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you must listen to everything he tells you. Anyone who does not listen to him will be completely cut off from among his people.’ (Acts 3:22-23 NIV)
- While he was still speaking, a bright cloud enveloped them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him! (Matthew 17:5 NIV)

## 11 Who is God’s Prophet Today?

- Jesus answered, “You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.” (John 18:37 NIV)
- My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. (John 10:27 NIV)
- I have other sheep [Gentiles] that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. (John 10:16 NIV)

## 12 Did Jesus do Crazy?

- He replied, “The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see.” (John 9:11 NIV)
- Then he said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” So he stretched it out and it was completely restored, just as sound as the other. (Matthew 12:13 NIV)
- But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins. . . .” He said to the paralyzed man, “I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.” (Luke 5:24 NIV)

## 13 But I Tell You!

- Rejoice and be glad when people insult and persecute you because of me. (Mt. 5:11-12)
- But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment. (Matt 5:22 NIV)
- Do not resist an evil person. If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. (Mt. 5:39 NIV)
- Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you . . . (Mt. 5:44 NIV)
- Be careful not to do your ‘acts of righteousness’ before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward (Mt. 6:1 NIV)
- For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins. (Mt. 6:14-15 NIV)
- You cannot serve both God and Money (Mt. 6:24 NIV)

- Do not judge, or you too will be judged (Mt. 7:1 NIV)
- So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets. (Mt. 7:12 NIV)
- A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. (John 13:34 NIV)

#### 14 The Promise

- Anyone who breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. (Matt 5:19 NIV)
- Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. (Matt 7:24 NIV)

#### 15 The Main Point!

- Both in the Old and New Testaments, God exhorts us to believe His prophets no matter how much their commands seem counter intuitive or crazy to our understanding.
- If we listen to them and by faith do what they say, we will see the manifestation of God's power and grace.
- Unfortunately, Satan has his own prophets as well.
  - They are specialists in using deception.
  - And will often disguise their lies in the form of "half-truths" that appear to be spiritual, but instead are based on the basic principles of this world where religious form or any spiritual experience trumps function.
- So, who are we going to listen to?

#### 16 Summary

- To be a follower of Christ implies we are listening to His voice and putting His words into practice.
- It also means we are going to have to think out-of-the-box because Jesus' teachings are counter-intuitive.
  - When people hurt our feelings, we are going to have to forgive and forget.
  - We may need to pray also for our enemies and do good to them when they are in need.
  - We may need to stop judging people and calling people who disagree with us stupid or idiotic.
  - We may need to stop showing favoritism only to our friends and instead be considerate to everyone.
  - We may need to stop using our income on our wants and self-interests, but be a generous and cheerful giver.

#### 17 Conclusion

- The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life. (John 6:63 NIV)

- “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. (John 6:68 NIV)
- Then Jesus said, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.” (Mark 4:9 NIV)

18  CHALLENGE