



The God Who Rules – Seeing Through God’s Eyes!

Pastor Steven E. Albertin told the following story. He said, in my church secretary’s office there hangs a modernistic picture composed of a maze of colors and shapes. I realized these sophisticated, modern, and abstract pictures were supposed to contain some profound artistic or philosophical message, but I never was able to figure it out. It just looked like a jumbled mass of confusion. If there was a message there, I was blind to it. One day while I was standing in the office, waiting for the copier to warm up, one of the congregation’s kindergarten-age boys, Adam, stood beside me and said, “Do you see what I see?” “Do you see something in that picture? I sure don’t.” Adam looked at me with glee in his eye, “Pastor, can’t you see him? It’s Jesus hanging on the cross.” I stared as hard as I could, until my eyes actually hurt from staring. I wanted to believe Adam and that there actually was the image of Jesus hanging on the cross hidden somewhere in that mass of color and shapes, but I couldn’t see Jesus anywhere. “Adam, I’m sorry but I must be blind. You will have to help me see.” Directing his finger to a mass of color in the center of the picture, Adam said, “There, Pastor. Do you see what I see? There is Jesus, his face, his arms outstretched on the cross.” And then, like an epiphany, the image began to appear. Yes, there hidden somehow “behind” the colors and the shapes was the barely visible image of Jesus, hanging with arms outstretched on the cross. “It’s amazing, Adam. You have helped one blind pastor to see Jesus. Yes, I can see what you see, Adam.”

Source: Steven E. Albertin, *Against the Grain*, CSS Publishing, Lima Ohio, 1999

The pastor in our story had a difficult time seeing something that was physically there in front of him. Sometimes it is even more difficult to see with spiritual eyes those things in the heavenly realm. But as we will learn from today’s Scripture passage about the Prophet Elisha, it takes prayer to open people’s eyes to spiritual realities.

Scripture

Read 2 Kings 6:8-23

Discovery Questions

1. In verse 14, we see a scene similar to the one in Exodus where Pharaoh sent an army after the Israelites. Here the king’s army encircled the city. The battle seems already lost before it has even begun. Why should we never lose hope in God?
2. How could we apply verse 16 to every circumstance of our lives?
3. In Matthew 6:7, Jesus said, “And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words.” Is Elisha’s short prayer in verse 17 in line with Jesus’ words? Why?
4. Was Elisha’s prayer in verse 17 answered? James 5:16b says, “The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.” Based on verse 18, do you think Elisha was a righteous man? Why?
5. Were you surprised by the outcome in verse 23? Why?

Journaling

Which verse spoke most powerfully to me? Why?

Prayer: Spend some time in prayer conversing with your God. Use the following ideas as a potential guide to your prayer time.

- Lord, please give us spiritual sight as you did for Elisha's servant.
- Reveal Yourself to us, Heavenly Father, in the circumstances of our lives. Show us that all You send our way is meant for our growth in You.
- Through Your Holy Spirit, Lord, draw us closer to You each day.
- Empower us, dear God, to be effective witnesses for You. Help us to be able to help others become closer to You.