

APRIL 20

Read 2 Kings 3-5

CHAPTER 3

NOW Jehoram the son of Ahab began to reign over Israel in Samaria the eighteenth year of Jehoshaphat king of Judah, and reigned twelve years.

2 And he wrought evil in the sight of the LORD; but not like his father, and like his mother: for he put away the image of Baal that his father had made.

3 Nevertheless he cleaved unto the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, which made Israel to sin; he departed not therefrom.

4 ¶ And Mesha king of Moab was a sheepmaster, and rendered unto the king of Israel an hundred thousand lambs, and an hundred thousand rams, with the wool.

5 But it came to pass, when Ahab was dead, that the king of Moab rebelled against the king of Israel.

6 ¶ And king Jehoram went out of Samaria the same time, and numbered all Israel.

7 And he went and sent to Jehoshaphat the king of Judah,

saying, The king of Moab hath rebelled against me: wilt thou go with me against Moab to battle? And he said, I will go up: I *am* as thou *art*, my people as thy people, and my horses as thy horses.

8 And he said, Which way shall we go up? And he answered, The way through the wilderness of Edom.

9 So the king of Israel went, and the king of Judah, and the king of Edom: and they fetched a compass of seven days' journey: and there was no water for the host, and for the cattle that followed them.

10 And the king of Israel said, Alas! that the LORD hath called these three kings together, to deliver them into the hand of Moab!

11 But Jehoshaphat said, *Is there* not here a prophet of the LORD, that we may enquire of the LORD by him? And one of the king of Israel's servants answered and said, Here *is* Elisha the son of Shaphat, which poured water on the hands of Elijah.

12 And Jehoshaphat said, The

word of the LORD is with him. So the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat and the king of Edom went down to him.

13 And Elisha said unto the king of Israel, What have I to do with thee? get thee to the prophets of thy father, and to the prophets of thy mother. And the king of Israel said unto him, Nay: for the LORD hath called these three kings together, to deliver them into the hand of Moab.

14 And Elisha said, As the LORD of hosts liveth, before whom I stand, surely, were it not that I regard the presence of Jehoshaphat the king of Judah, I would not look toward thee, nor see thee.

15 But now bring me a minstrel. And it came to pass, when the minstrel played, that the hand of the LORD came upon him.

16 And he said, Thus saith the LORD, Make this valley full of ditches.

17 For thus saith the LORD, Ye shall not see wind, neither shall ye see rain; yet that valley shall be filled with water, that ye may drink, both ye, and your cattle, and your beasts.

18 And this is *but* a light thing in the sight of the LORD: he will

deliver the Moabites also into your hand.

19 And ye shall smite every fenced city, and every choice city, and shall fell every good tree, and stop all wells of water, and mar every good piece of land with stones.

20. And it came to pass in the morning, when the meat offering was offered, that, behold, there came water by the way of Edom, and the country was filled with water.

21 ¶ And when all the Moabites heard that the kings were come up to fight against them, they gathered all that were able to put on armour, and upward, and stood in the border.

22 And they rose up early in the morning, and the sun shone upon the water, and the Moabites saw the water on the other side *as* red as blood:

23 And they said, This *is* blood: the kings are surely slain, and they have smitten one another: now therefore, Moab, to the spoil.

24 And when they came to the camp of Israel, the Israelites rose up and smote the Moabites, so that they fled before them: but they went forward smiting the Moabites,

even in *their* country.

25 And they beat down the cities, and on every good piece of land cast every man his stone, and filled it; and they stopped all the wells of water, and felled all the good trees: only in Kirharaseth left they the stones thereof; howbeit the slingers went about *it*, and smote it.

26 ¶ And when the king of Moab saw that the battle was too sore for him, he took with him seven hundred men that drew swords, to break through *even* unto the king of Edom: but they could not.

27 Then he took his eldest son that should have reigned in his stead, and offered him *for* a burnt offering upon the wall. And there was great indignation against Israel: and they departed from him, and returned to *their own* land.

CHAPTER 4

NOW there cried a certain woman of the wives of the sons of the prophets unto Elisha, saying, Thy servant my husband is dead; and thou knowest that thy servant did fear the LORD: and the creditor is come to take unto him my two sons to be bondmen.

2 And Elisha said unto her, What shall I do for thee? tell me,

what hast thou in the house? And she said, Thine handmaid hath not any thing in the house, save a pot of oil.

3 Then he said, Go, borrow thee vessels abroad of all thy neighbours, *even* empty vessels; borrow not a few.

4 And when thou art come in, thou shalt shut the door upon thee and upon thy sons, and shalt pour out into all those vessels, and thou shalt set aside that which is full.

5 So she went from him, and shut the door upon her and upon her sons, who brought *the vessels* to her; and she poured out.

6 And it came to pass, when the vessels were full, that she said unto her son, Bring me yet a vessel. And he said unto her, *There is* not a vessel more. And the oil stayed.

7 Then she came and told the man of God. And he said, Go, sell the oil, and pay thy debt, and live thou and thy children of the rest.

8 ¶ And it fell on a day, that Elisha passed to Shunem, where *was* a great woman; and she constrained him to eat bread. And *so* it was, *that* as oft as he passed by, he turned in thither to eat bread.

9 And she said unto her husband, Behold now, I perceive that

this *is* an holy man of God, which passeth by us continually.

10 Let us make a little chamber, I pray thee, on the wall; and let us set for him there a bed, and a table, and a stool, and a candlestick: and it shall be, when he cometh to us, that he shall turn in thither.

11 And it fell on a day, that he came thither, and he turned into the chamber, and lay there.

12 And he said to Gehazi his servant, Call this Shunammite. And when he had called her, she stood before him.

13 And he said unto him, Say now unto her, Behold, thou hast been careful for us with all this care; what *is* to be done for thee? wouldest thou be spoken for to the king, or to the captain of the host? And she answered, I dwell among mine own people.

14 And he said, What then *is* to be done for her? And Gehazi answered, Verily she hath no child, and her husband is old.

15 And he said, Call her. And when he had called her, she stood in the door.

16 And he said, About this season, according to the time of life, thou shalt embrace a son. And she said, Nay, my lord, *thou* man of

God, do not lie unto thine handmaid.

17 And the woman conceived, and bare a son at that season that Elisha had said unto her, according to the time of life.

18 ¶ And when the child was grown, it fell on a day, that he went out to his father to the reapers.

19 And he said unto his father, My head, my head. And he said to a lad, Carry him to his mother.

20 And when he had taken him, and brought him to his mother, he sat on her knees till noon, and *then* died.

21 And she went up, and laid him on the bed of the man of God, and shut *the door* upon him, and went out.

22 And she called unto her husband, and said, Send me, I pray thee, one of the young men, and one of the asses, that I may run to the man of God, and come again.

23 And he said, Wherefore wilt thou go to him to day? *it is* neither new moon, nor sabbath. And she said, *It shall be* well.

24 Then she saddled an ass, and said to her servant, Drive, and go forward; slack not *thy* riding for me, except I bid thee.

25 So she went and came unto

the man of God to mount Carmel. And it came to pass, when the man of God saw her afar off, that he said to Gehazi his servant, Behold, *yonder is that Shunammite*:

26 Run now, I pray thee, to meet her, and say unto her, *Is it well with thee? is it well with thy husband? is it well with the child?* And she answered, *It is well*.

27 And when she came to the man of God to the hill, she caught him by the feet: but Gehazi came near to thrust her away. And the man of God said, Let her alone; for her soul *is vexed within her*: and the LORD hath hid *it* from me, and hath not told me.

28 Then she said, Did I desire a son of my lord? did I not say, Do not deceive me?

29 Then he said to Gehazi, Gird up thy loins, and take my staff in thine hand, and go thy way: if thou meet any man, salute him not; and if any salute thee, answer him not again: and lay my staff upon the face of the child.

30 And the mother of the child said, As the LORD liveth, and *as thy soul liveth*, I will not leave thee. And he arose, and followed her.

31 And Gehazi passed on before them, and laid the staff upon the

face of the child; but *there was* neither voice, nor hearing. Wherefore he went again to meet him, and told him, saying, The child is not awaked.

32 And when Elisha was come into the house, behold, the child was dead, *and* laid upon his bed.

33 He went in therefore, and shut the door upon them twain, and prayed unto the LORD.

34 And he went up, and lay upon the child, and put his mouth upon his mouth, and his eyes upon his eyes, and his hands upon his hands: and he stretched himself upon the child; and the flesh of the child waxed warm.

35 Then he returned, and walked in the house to and fro; and went up, and stretched himself upon him: and the child sneezed seven times, and the child opened his eyes.

36 And he called Gehazi, and said, Call this Shunammite. So he called her. And when she was come in unto him, he said, Take up thy son.

37 Then she went in, and fell at his feet, and bowed herself to the ground, and took up her son, and went out.

38 ¶ And Elisha came again to

Gilgal: and *there was* a dearth in the land; and the sons of the prophets *were* sitting before him: and he said unto his servant, Set on the great pot, and seethe pottage for the sons of the prophets.

39 And one went out into the field to gather herbs, and found a wild vine, and gathered thereof wild gourds his lap full, and came and shred *them* into the pot of pottage: for they knew *them* not.

40 So they poured out for the men to eat. And it came to pass, as they were eating of the pottage, that they cried out, and said, O *thou* man of God, *there is* death in the pot. And they could not eat *thereof*.

41 But he said, Then bring meal. And he cast *it* into the pot; and he said, Pour out for the people, that they may eat. And there was no harm in the pot.

42 ¶ And there came a man from Baalshalisha, and brought the man of God bread of the firstfruits, twenty loaves of barley, and full ears of corn in the husk thereof. And he said, Give unto the people, that they may eat.

43 And his servitor said, What, should I set this before an hundred men? He said again, Give the peo-

ple, that they may eat: for thus saith the LORD, They shall eat, and shall leave *thereof*.

44 So he set *it* before them, and they did eat, and left *thereof*, according to the word of the LORD.

CHAPTER 5

NOW Naaman, captain of the host of the king of Syria, was a great man with his master, and honourable, because by him the LORD had given deliverance unto Syria: he was also a mighty man in valour, *but he was* a leper.

2 And the Syrians had gone out by companies, and had brought away captive out of the land of Israel a little maid; and she waited on Naaman's wife.

3 And she said unto her mistress, Would God my lord *were* with the prophet that *is* in Samaria! for he would recover him of his leprosy.

4 And *one* went in, and told his lord, saying, Thus and thus said the maid that *is* of the land of Israel.

5 And the king of Syria said, Go to, go, and I will send a letter unto the king of Israel. And he departed, and took with him ten talents of silver, and six thousand *pieces* of gold, and ten changes of raiment.

6 And he brought the letter to

the king of Israel, saying, Now when this letter is come unto thee, behold, I have *therewith* sent Naaman my servant to thee, that thou mayest recover him of his leprosy.

7 And it came to pass, when the king of Israel had read the letter, that he rent his clothes, and said, *Am* I God, to kill and to make alive, that this man doth send unto me to recover a man of his leprosy? wherefore consider, I pray you, and see how he seeketh a quarrel against me.

8 ¶ And it was *so*, when Elisha the man of God had heard that the king of Israel had rent his clothes, that he sent to the king, saying, Wherefore hast thou rent thy clothes? let him come now to me, and he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel.

9. So Naaman came with his horses and with his chariot, and stood at the door of the house of Elisha.

10 And Elisha sent a messenger unto him, saying, Go and wash in Jordan seven times, and thy flesh shall come again to thee, and thou shalt be clean.

11 But Naaman was wroth, and went away, and said, Behold, I thought, He will surely come out to

me, and stand, and call on the name of the LORD his God, and strike his hand over the place, and recover the leper.

12 *Are* not Abana and Pharpar, rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? may I not wash in them, and be clean? So he turned and went away in a rage.

13 And his servants came near, and spake unto him, and said, My father, *if* the prophet had bid thee *do some* great thing, wouldest thou not have done *it*? how much rather then, when he saith to thee, Wash, and be clean?

14 Then went he down, and dipped himself seven times in Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God: and his flesh came again like unto the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.

15 ¶ And he returned to the man of God, he and all his company, and came, and stood before him: and he said, Behold, now I know that *there is* no God in all the earth, but in Israel: now therefore, I pray thee, take a blessing of thy servant.

16 But he said, As the LORD liveth, before whom I stand, I will receive none. And he urged him to take *it*; but he refused.

17 And Naaman said, Shall

there not then, I pray thee, be given to thy servant two mules' burden of earth? for thy servant will henceforth offer neither burnt offering nor sacrifice unto other gods, but unto the LORD.

18 In this thing the LORD pardon thy servant, *that* when my master goeth into the house of Rimmon to worship there, and he leaneth on my hand, and I bow myself in the house of Rimmon: when I bow down myself in the house of Rimmon, the LORD pardon thy servant in this thing.

19 And he said unto him, Go in peace. So he departed from him a little way.

20 ¶ But Gehazi, the servant of Elisha the man of God, said, Behold, my master hath spared Naaman this Syrian, in not receiving at his hands that which he brought: but, *as* the LORD liveth, I will run after him, and take somewhat of him.

21 So Gehazi followed after Naaman. And when Naaman saw *him* running after him, he lighted down from the chariot to meet him, and said, *Is* all well?

22 And he said, *All is* well. My master hath sent me, saying, Behold, even now there be come to

me from mount Ephraim two young men of the sons of the prophets: give them, I pray thee, a talent of silver, and two changes of garments.

23 And Naaman said, Be content, take two talents. And he urged him, and bound two talents of silver in two bags, with two changes of garments, and laid *them* upon two of his servants; and they bare *them* before him.

24 And when he came to the tower, he took *them* from their hand, and bestowed *them* in the house: and he let the men go, and they departed.

25 But he went in, and stood before his master. And Elisha said unto him, Whence *comest thou*, Gehazi? And he said, Thy servant went no whither.

26 And he said unto him, Went not mine heart *with thee*, when the man turned again from his chariot to meet thee? *Is it* a time to receive money, and to receive garments, and oliveyards, and vineyards, and sheep, and oxen, and menservants, and maidservants?

27 The leprosy therefore of Naaman shall cleave unto thee, and unto thy seed for ever. And he went out from his presence a leper *as white* as snow.

DEVOTIONAL COMMENTS

Chapter 4 records four miracles of Elisha. The increase of the widow's oil (verses 1-7); the Shunammite woman's son raised from the dead (verses 8-37); the poisonous stew healed (verses 38-41); and the bread multiplied (verses 42-44).

Chapter 5 records the healing of Naaman the leper. In this miracle we have a beautiful picture of salvation through faith in God's Word. Naaman was condemned because he was a leper. He tried to save himself by seeking every possible cure. This is a picture of the condition of the sinner. All men are condemned by sin, and many make the mistake Naaman made of trying to cleanse himself. There is no salvation outside of God and His grace. Ephesians 2:8,9 tells us, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast." We see Naaman resisting God's simple plan of salvation by not listening to Elisha. How hard it is even today for some to simply trust in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ for their salvation. They desire to go their own way, but Jesus tells us there is only one way, and that is through Him. He says, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6).

Naaman is finally cured of his leprosy because of his obedient faith. Salvation comes when sinners are obedient, repent of their sin, and place their faith and trust in Jesus Christ. The promise of God is, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

PROVERB FOR TODAY

"The just man walketh in his integrity: his children are blessed after him" (Proverbs 20:7).

TREASURE PATH TO SOUL WINNING

Spend this month reviewing the previous 13 lessons. For today, review Memory Verse Assignment 5 (found on page 12).

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

DERECK MERRIMAN

HYMN FOR TODAY

ALL GLORY, LAUD AND HONOR

by Theodolph of Orleans, 760-821

Translated by John M. Neale, 1818-1866

The triumphant procession began after the disciples obtained the colt (Luke 19:30). They were

implicitly obedient in following their Lord's command, even though it no doubt seemed to be a trivial request. And still today—obedience is the key to our effective service for God.

The Palm Sunday procession also teaches us that our Lord is still leading His people—"bringing many sons to glory" (Hebrews 2:10), our heavenly Jerusalem, "whose architect builder is God" (Hebrews 11:10). Our responsibility is to be His faithful follower and to extol His name with our daily praises.

This Palm Sunday hymn was written approximately A.D. 820 by Bishop Theodolph of Orleans, France, while he was imprisoned at the monastery of Angers. Theodolph was well known in his day as a poet, pastor, and beloved bishop of Orleans. When Emperor Charlemagne died in 814, the bishop was put into a monastic prison by Charlemagne's son and successor, Louis I the Pious, for allegedly plotting against him. A well-known legend has long been associated with this hymn. It is believed by many that a short time before the bishop's death in 821, Louis was visiting in the area where the bishop was imprisoned and by chance passed under his cell. The bishop is said to have been singing and worshiping by himself. When the emperor heard this particular text being sung, he was so moved by the incident that he immediately ordered the bishop's release.

*All glory, laud and honor to Thee, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children make sweet hosannas ring:
Thou art the King of Israel, Thou David's royal Son,
who in the Lord's name comest, the King and blessed
One!*

*The company of angels are praising Thee on high,
and mortal men and all things created make reply:
The people of the Hebrews with palms before Thee
went;
our praise and prayer and anthems before Thee we present.*

*To Thee, before Thy passion, they sang their hymns of
praise;
to Thee, now high exalted, our melody we raise:
thou didst accept their praises—accept the praise we
bring,
who in all good delightest, Thou good and gracious
King!*

ON THIS DATE IN HISTORY

1718

DAVID BRAINERD WAS BORN.

David Brainerd was the son-in-law of Jonathan Edwards and one of the great men of prayer in the history of the church. His work was with the Indians of the North. It is said he left his kneeprints in the snow. He prayed for their salvation. David Brainerd, it is said, often prayed all day. He would begin praying in the morning, and after twelve hours of prayer the light of Heaven would be shining through. Read everything you can on this great man and other great men in history, and pledge God today a greater prayer life.

1889
ADOLPH HITLER WAS BORN.

1898
CONGRESS RECOGNIZED THE INDEPENDENCE OF CUBA.

Perhaps no small or little nation in recent years has drawn as much attention and unfavorable comment as has Cuba. Yet, while this is being written, missionaries lie in prison in Cuba. Christians are still loving and serving God. Pray for Cuba. Pray for her freedom. Pray for Christians there. Pray for pastors, and missionaries, and others who seek to serve God in the face of persecution, opposition, and yea, even death.

1910
THE BIRTHDAY OF EX-MAYOR WAGNER OF NEW YORK CITY.

ON THIS DATE IN AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY

1853
HARRIET TUBMAN STARTED THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD.

1871
THIRD ENFORCEMENT ACT DEFINED KLAN CONSPIRACY as a rebellion against the United States and empowered the president to suspend the writ of habeas corpus and declare martial law in rebellious areas.

1877
FEDERAL TROOPS WITHDRAWN FROM PUBLIC BUILDINGS in New Orleans. Democrats took over state government.

1964
SCHOOL OFFICIALS SAID 86 PER CENT of the black students in Cleveland schools participated in one-day boycott.

1971
U.S. SUPREME COURT RULED UNANIMOUSLY THAT BUSING was a constitutionally acceptable method of integrating public schools.

THE STORY OF THE PSALMS

Psalm 34

AUTHOR: David.

THE STORY BEHIND THE PSALM

David was running from Saul, and Saul had vowed to kill him because of jealousy. David ran to Gath and to King Achish. He wanted to seek refuge in Gath. However, some of the king's servants knew David and began to sing the son, "Saul hath slain his thousands, but David has slain his tens of thousands." David realized that he was recognized. Because of fear he feigned madness. He put spittle on his beard and grasped for the gate like an insane man. He told them that he had come to join the army, but he purposely failed the test. He marked on the gate and roamed and staggered as a mad man would. Because of this, he was refused admittance to the army as he had planned, and was delivered. Upon this deliverance, he wrote the 34th Psalm. Though David's antics were questionable, he nevertheless did give God the praise for his deliverance and wrote a song concerning it.

THE WAY IT WAS USED BY GOD'S PEOPLE

Israel used this Psalm to sing and read when alone among enemies. When one was captured in battle, he would lean heavily upon the 34th Psalm. A summary of this would be found in verses 6 and 7. Notice verse 6, "This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles." Then read that classic verse 7, "The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear Him, and delivereth them."

How good God is! He has so much more for us than we could ever ask or think, and even in our folly, He cares for us. Once a little boy went with his mother to the grocery store. He saw a big barrel of candy. While looking at it longingly, he was noticed by the grocery man who said, "Go ahead, Johnny, get a handful free." Johnny didn't move. "Go ahead," said the grocery man, "it's yours. Get you a handful. It won't cost you a cent." Johnny still didn't move his hand. Finally the grocer reached down and got a handful and gave it to Johnny. Johnny smiled, put it in his pocket, and on the way home was asked by his mother, "Johnny, when the grocery man asked you to get a handful, why didn't you do it? Why did you wait until he could get it for you?"

Johnny smiled and said, "Mama, 'cause his hand is bigger than mine!"

Yes, God's hand is bigger than mine and yours, and that hand is dedicated to our protection and our defense.

MEMORY VERSE ASSIGNMENT 5 (for review):

Please spend time reviewing these memory verses. If you have been completing the assignments in the TREASURE PATH TO SOUL WINNING, then you already have spent a week memorizing the Scriptures below. Now it's time to review!

ASSURANCE BASED ON THE FACT OF CHRIST'S RESURRECTION

Empty Tomb.

() Matthew 28:6

He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

Resurrected according to Old Testament Scripture.

() 1 Corinthians 15:4

And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures.

Seen of Peter and then with the twelve apostles.

() 1 Corinthians 15:5

And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve.

Five hundred eye-witnesses in one gathering.

() 1 Corinthians 15:6

After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep.

Many witnessed His ascension.

() Acts 1:9 (see Acts 1:10,11)

And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up and a cloud received him out of their sight.