

THE ARROW OF THE LORD'S VICTORY

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I. INTRODUCTION

2 Kings 13:14-25: ¹⁴Now Elisha was suffering from the illness from which he died. **Jehoash** king of Israel went down to see him and wept over him. “My father! My father!” he cried. “The chariots and horsemen of Israel!” ¹⁵Elisha said, “Get a bow and some arrows,” and he did so. ¹⁶“Take the bow in your hands,” he said to the king of Israel. When he had taken it, Elisha put his hands on the king’s hands. ¹⁷“Open the east window,” he said, and he opened it. “**Shoot!**” Elisha said, and he shot. “**The LORD’s arrow of victory, the arrow of victory over Aram!**” Elisha declared. “You will completely destroy the Arameans at Aphek.” ¹⁸Then he said, “**Take the arrows,**” and the king took them. Elisha told him, “**Strike the ground.**” **He struck it three times and stopped.** ¹⁹The man of God was angry with him and said, “**You should have struck the ground five or six times; then you would have defeated Aram and completely destroyed it. But now you will defeat it only three times.**” ²⁰Elisha died and was buried. Now Moabite raiders used to enter the country every spring. ²¹Once while some Israelites were burying a man, suddenly they saw a band of raiders; so they threw the man’s body into Elisha’s tomb. When the body touched Elisha’s bones, the man came to life and stood up on his feet. ²²Hazael king of Aram oppressed Israel throughout the reign of Jehoahaz. ²³But the LORD was gracious to them and had compassion and showed concern for them because of His covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. To this day He has been unwilling to destroy them or banish them from His presence. ²⁴Hazael king of Aram died, and Ben-Hadad his son succeeded him as king. ²⁵Then Jehoash son of Jehoahaz recaptured from Ben-Hadad son of Hazael the towns he had taken in battle from his father Jehoahaz. **Three times** Jehoash defeated him, and so he recovered the Israelite towns.

A. Background

1. Jehoash was Jehu’s grandson, whom Elisha had called and anointed king 44 years earlier! [NOTE: Nothing has been heard of Elisha for those 44 years—God’s servants are simply vessels prepared for His use when He needs them! Elisha’s final message was victory, and his final miracle was resurrection of a dead body!]

2. Even though Jehoash wasn't a king of great spiritual character (his father Jehoahaz was worse), he had a love & respect for Elisha—there are people who may not be on-fire Christians, but at least they have a respect for God's servants.
- B. Jehoash was king of Israel in Samaria (northern kingdom), and they were in constant war with Aram (Syria).

II. ELISHA'S MESSAGE TO JEHOASH

- A. *“Get a bow and some arrows... Take the bow in your hands”* (vv.15-16)
1. Know your armor & weapons—get it into your hands (personal experience)

2 Cor. 10:3-5 (KJV): ³*For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh* [“as the world does” – NIV]; ⁴*(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal* [“of the world” – NIV], *but mighty through God* [“they have divine power” – NIV] *to the pulling down of* [“demolish” – NIV] *strongholds;)* ⁵*Casting down imaginations* [“We demolish arguments” – NIV], *and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;*
 2. Elisha laid his hands on the king's hands, perhaps imparting an anointing or the Lord's blessing
 3. Put on the whole armor—be prepared (Eph. 6)
- B. *“Open the east window”* (v.17)
1. Let in fresh air and sunlight = repentance, cleansing
 2. Face the enemy!
 3. Direct your attack (Eph. 6 – *NOT* flesh & blood)
 4. Look toward the light, the rising of the sun (new day=hope); east = coming of Christ!
- C. *“Shoot! ...The LORD'S arrow of victory... over Aram!”* (v.17)
1. “Victory” [Heb. *teshua* (sounds like “Yeshua!) = deliverance, salvation]
 2. *God* has arrows!
 - a) **Ps. 18:13-14:** ¹³*The LORD thundered from heaven; the voice of the Most High resounded.* ¹⁴**He shot His**

arrows and scattered the enemies, great bolts of lightning and routed them.

- b) **Ps. 144:1-2, 5-7:** ¹*Praise be to the LORD my Rock, who trains my hands for war, my fingers for battle.* ²*He is my loving God and my fortress, my stronghold and my deliverer, my shield, in whom I take refuge, who subdues peoples under me...* ⁵*Part Your heavens, O LORD, and come down; touch the mountains, so that they smoke.* ⁶*Send forth lightning and scatter the enemies; **shoot Your arrows and rout them.*** ⁷*Reach down Your hand from on high; deliver me and rescue me from the mighty waters, from the hands of foreigners.*

3. Christ IS the Arrow of Victory!

Isa. 49:1-6: ¹*Listen to Me, you islands; hear this, you distant nations: Before I was born the LORD called Me; from My birth he has made mention of My name.* ²***He made My mouth like a sharpened sword, in the shadow of His hand He hid Me; He made Me into a polished arrow and concealed Me in His quiver.*** ³*He said to Me, “You are My servant, Israel, in whom I will display My splendor.”* ...⁵*And now the LORD says—He who formed Me in the womb to be His servant to bring Jacob back to Him and gather Israel to Himself, for I am honored in the eyes of the LORD and My God has been My strength—* ⁶*He says: “It is too small a thing for You to be My servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. **I will also make You a light for the Gentiles, that You may bring My salvation to the ends of the earth.**”*

- a) Starts off sounding like Israel in vv.1-3, but vv.5-6 can only find their ultimate fulfillment in Christ, for He will bring back Jacob and Israel to the Lord and be a light for the Gentiles.
- b) The point is: Jesus is God’s arrow of victory [Heb. *teshua* (sounds like “Yeshua!) = deliverance, salvation]!
- c) [NOTE: Satan also has flaming arrows (Eph. 6)]
- d) 1 John 3:8; Luke 10:18-19: JESUS CAME TO DESTROY EVERY WORK OF THE DEVIL!
- e) “It is written!” God has given us the **Sword of the Spirit, the Word of God!**

- D. *“Take the arrows... [and] strike the ground.” He struck it three times and stopped. The **man of God was angry** with him and said, “You should have struck the ground five or six times; then you would have defeated Aram and completely destroyed it. But now you will defeat it only three times.” (vv.18-19)*

III. WHY DID ELISHA GET ANGRY?

- A. The king **lacked the zeal** & passion his grandfather Jehu had to see all of God’s enemies destroyed & the word of God fulfilled:

2 Kings 9:1-37: [Elisha sent a prophet to anoint Jehu king of Israel with this message:] ⁶*“This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘I anoint you king over the LORD’s people Israel. ⁷You are to destroy the house of Ahab your master, and I will avenge the blood of My servants the prophets and the blood of all the LORD’s servants shed by Jezebel. ⁸The whole house of Ahab will perish. I will cut off from Ahab every last male in Israel—slave or free. ⁹I will make the house of Ahab like the house of Jeroboam son of Nebat and like the house of Baasha son of Ahijah. ¹⁰As for Jezebel, dogs will devour her on the plot of ground at Jezreel, and no one will bury her...’” ¹⁴So Jehu son of Jehoshaphat, the son of Nimshi, conspired against Joram. (Now Joram and all Israel had been defending Ramoth Gilead against Hazael king of Aram, ¹⁵but **King Joram** had returned to Jezreel to recover from the wounds the Arameans had inflicted on him in the battle with Hazael king of Aram.) Jehu said, “If this is the way you feel, don’t let anyone slip out of the city to go and tell the news in Jezreel.” ¹⁶Then he got into his chariot and rode to Jezreel, because Joram was resting there and **Ahaziah king of Judah** had gone down to see him. ¹⁷When the lookout standing on the tower in Jezreel saw Jehu’s troops approaching, he called out, “I see some troops coming.” “Get a horseman,” Joram ordered. “Send him to meet them and ask, ‘Do you come in peace?’” ¹⁸The horseman rode off to meet Jehu and said, “This is what the king says: ‘Do you come in peace?’” “What do you have to do with peace?” Jehu replied. “Fall in behind me.” The lookout reported, “The messenger has reached them, but he isn’t coming back.” ¹⁹So the king sent out a second horseman. When he came to them he said, “This is what the king says: ‘Do you come in peace?’” Jehu replied, “What do you have to do with peace? Fall in behind me.” ²⁰The lookout reported, “He has*

reached them, but he isn't coming back either. **The driving is like that of Jehu son of Nimshi—he drives like a madman.**"

²¹"Hitch up my chariot," Joram ordered. And when it was hitched up, Joram king of Israel and Ahaziah king of Judah rode out, each in his own chariot, to meet Jehu. **They met him at the plot of ground that had belonged to Naboth the Jezreelite.** ²²When Joram saw Jehu he asked, "Have you come in peace, Jehu?" "**How can there be peace,**" Jehu replied, "**as long as all the idolatry and witchcraft of your mother Jezebel abound?**" ²³Joram turned about and fled, calling out to Ahaziah, "Treachery, Ahaziah!" ²⁴Then **Jehu drew his bow and shot Joram between the shoulders. The arrow pierced his heart and he slumped down in his chariot.** ²⁵Jehu said to Bidkar, his chariot officer, "Pick him up and throw him on the field that belonged to Naboth the Jezreelite. **Remember** how you and I were riding together in chariots behind Ahab his father when **the LORD made this prophecy** about him:

²⁶"Yesterday I saw the blood of Naboth and the blood of his sons, declares the LORD, and I will surely make you pay for it on this plot of ground, declares the LORD.' Now then, pick him up and throw him on that plot, in accordance with the word of the LORD." ²⁷When Ahaziah king of Judah saw what had happened, he fled up the road to Beth Haggan. Jehu chased him, shouting, "Kill him too!" They wounded him... and died there... ³⁰Then Jehu went to Jezreel. When Jezebel heard about it, she painted her eyes, arranged her hair and looked out of a window. ³¹As Jehu entered the gate, she asked, "Have you come in peace, Zimri, you murderer of your master?" ³²He looked up at the window and called out, "Who is on my side? Who?" Two or three eunuchs looked down at him. ³³"Throw her down!" Jehu said. So they threw her down, and some of her blood splattered the wall and the horses as they trampled her underfoot. ³⁴Jehu went in and ate and drank. "Take care of that cursed woman," he said, "and bury her, for she was a king's daughter." ³⁵But when they went out to bury her, they found nothing except her skull, her feet and her hands. ³⁶They went back and told Jehu, who said, "This is the word of the LORD that he spoke through his servant Elijah the Tishbite: On the plot of ground at Jezreel dogs will devour Jezebel's flesh. ³⁷Jezebel's body will be like refuse on the ground in the plot at Jezreel, so that no one will be able to say, 'This is Jezebel.'"

- B. NOTE: The Lord directed Jehu's arrow right into Joram's heart, just as He had directed *His* arrow to bring Ahab down [see 1 Kings 22:30-38: Ahab disguised himself, but was hit by a "random" arrow!]
- C. Jehu then went to Samaria & destroyed the rest of Ahab's family:
2 Kings 10:16-17: ¹⁶*Jehu said, "Come with me and see my zeal for the LORD." Then he had him ride along in his chariot.*
¹⁷*When Jehu came to Samaria, he killed all who were left there of Ahab's family; he destroyed them, according to the word of the LORD spoken to Elijah.*
- D. We need some Jehu's & Phinehas's [see Num. 25:5-13: God told Phinehas "**he was as zealous as I am for My honor**"] in the church today! We need to get hot, stirred up, and let the zeal of our Father's house consume us!
- E. ***Testimony confronting Methodist pastor in adultery!!!
- F. Do we *hate* evil, darkness, demons, and the devil? Jesus does!
1. **Heb. 1:8-9:** ⁸*But about the Son He says, "Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever, and righteousness will be the scepter of Your kingdom. ⁹You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, Your God, has set You above Your companions by anointing You with the oil of joy."*
 2. **Prov. 6:16-19:** ¹⁶*There are six things the LORD hates, seven that are detestable to Him:* ¹⁷*haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood,* ¹⁸*a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil,* ¹⁹*a false witness who pours out lies and a man who stirs up dissension among brothers.*
 3. **Prov. 8:13:** *To fear the LORD is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech.*
 4. **Mal. 2:16:** *"I hate divorce," says the LORD God of Israel, "and I hate a man's covering himself with violence as well as with his garment," says the LORD Almighty. So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith.*
 5. **Ps. 97:10:** *Let those who love the LORD hate evil, for He guards the lives of his faithful ones and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.*

6. **Ps. 119:104, 113, 163** (David wasn't neutral or tolerant!):
¹⁰⁴I... hate every wrong path... ¹¹³I hate double-minded men... ¹⁶³I hate and abhor falsehood but I love your law.
 7. **Ps. 139:21-22:** *²¹Do I not hate those who hate You, O LORD, and abhor those who rise up against You? ²²I have nothing but hatred for them; I count them my enemies.*
 8. **Rev. 2:6:** *But you have this in your favor: You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.*
 9. You can't conquer & destroy something unless you hate it!
- G. He should have struck 5 or 6 times until the enemy was COMPLETELY DESTROYED! We often give up too easily/quickly—keep smiting the enemy until he is crushed beneath our feet (Rom. 16:20)
- H. Moses had to challenge Pharaoh over and over
- I. **Ps. 18:32-42:** *³²It is God who arms me with strength and makes my way perfect. ³³He makes my feet like the feet of a deer; he enables me to stand on the heights. ³⁴He trains my hands for battle; my arms can bend a bow of bronze. ³⁵You give me Your shield of victory, and Your right hand sustains me; You stoop down to make me great. ³⁶You broaden the path beneath me, so that my ankles do not turn. ³⁷I pursued my enemies and overtook them; I did not turn back till they were destroyed. ³⁸I crushed them so that they could not rise; they fell beneath my feet. ³⁹You armed me with strength for battle; You made my adversaries bow at my feet. ⁴⁰You made my enemies turn their backs in flight, and I destroyed my foes. ⁴¹They cried for help, but there was no one to save them—to the LORD, but he did not answer. ⁴²I beat them as fine as dust borne on the wind; I poured them out like mud in the streets.*
1. David pursued his enemies—he was on offense, not defense
 2. David beating his enemies to fine dust—he didn't stop until they were completely destroyed!

IV. CONCLUSION

Let's not get discouraged or slack off now—God has given us the Arrow of the Lord's Victory, Jesus Christ! We have mighty weapons to demolish & pull down every stronghold of the enemy! Let's keep smiting, keep praying, keep wielding the Sword of the Spirit, the Word of God!