

Dig-a-bit Month 9 Episode 4
The God of More: The God of More Deliverance
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Arrow of Deliverance

Month nine. Dig-a-bit number four. The God of more deliverance. And I'm so thankful we get to study one more chapter about his deliverance and even in both of those chapters, we don't get to nearly even scratch the surface of the power of our God, who, as Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego said, is able to deliver. I'm so thankful for this study this month.

I think that Cindy Colley, as well as lots of us, have needed this study and appreciated this study of deliverance. I just wanted to point out to you now, in another part of our reading in the interim between our second Kings six and the early chapters of Second Kings, and what we're getting to that great destruction of 185,000 Syrians that we get to in chapters 19 and 20 in the days of Hezekiah.

We have Elisha's death, the death we studied about the carrying away of Elijah in the whirlwind. And now we have Elisha's death. Now, Elijah did something great at the very end of his life. He was taken up in a whirlwind. And we think how great that is. But I want us to notice that Elisha also had greatness as he passed from— great deliverance, as he passed from this life.

So Elisha is sick. He's sick with the disease that he's going to die with. And Joash, the king of Israel, comes down to him and weeps over him. Chapter 13, verse 14 and said, oh my father, my father, the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof. And Elisha said to him, take bow and arrows. And he took unto him, bow and arrows.

And he said to the king of Israel, put your hand on the bow. And he put his hand on it. And Elisha put his hand on the king's hand. I picture Elisha behind the king with his arms around him, putting his hand over this bow and arrow prophetically emblematic, showing him that he's going to conquer three areas of Syria.

He said, open the window eastward. And he opened it, and he opened it toward the land that had been taken from them, from Israel. So Elisha said, shoot, and he shot. And he said, the arrow of the Lord's deliverance and the arrow of deliverance from Syria, for you will smite the Syrians, in Aphek until you have consumed them.

Now this arrow of deliverance was in ancient days. It was pretty common when a king or army captain decided to overtake an area, he would shoot an arrow into that area, emblematic or symbolically, like to say, I'm going to go get this land. I was reading about that from, a commentary.

Let's see—I'm in Clark's, Adam Clark's commentary, and he says it was an ancient custom to shoot an arrow or cast a spear into the country which an army intended to invade. Justin says

that as soon as Alexander the Great had arrived on the coast of Iona, he threw a dart into the country of the Persians. And then he has a Latin phrase here, and then it says, the dart, the spear, or the arrow throne was an emblem of the commencement of hostilities.

So it seems that Elisha here was telling Joash, shoot your arrow and shoot it toward this particular part of Syria, Aphek and you will smite it until you have consumed them. I just thought it was very interesting that when, you know, when Alexander the Great shot his arrow, he couldn't really call it the arrow of deliverance. But when the man of God put his arms around Joash and put his hands on Joash, his hands, and they pull back, that bow and shot that arrow, this was the man of God.

God could call this the arrow of deliverance. And then he said, take the arrows, and he took them. And he said to the king of Israel, shoot them on the ground. And he smote thrice. He shot them three times, and he stopped. And the man of God was wroth with him, and said, you should have smitten 5 or 6 times.

Then had you smitten Syria till you had consumed it, whereas now you shall only smite Syria three times because he shot the three arrows. Does God keep his promises of deliverance? I think he was revealing here through these arrows how much deliverance there was going to be. Verse 25, Joash, the son of Jehoahaz has taken again out of the hand of Benhadad the son of Hazael the cities which he had taken out of the hand of Jehoahaz, his father by war.

Three times did Joash beat him, and recovered the cities of Israel. When God calls an arrow an arrow of deliverance, it delivers. When God even specifies the number of deliverances there are going to be, that number is accurate every single time. And when God tells his people today that he is able to do exceedingly, abundantly more than we are asking or imagining, we better bank on it.

We better put all of our eggs in that basket. We better believe what he says. And when he says all things work together for good to those who love him and are called according to his purposes. I'm going to bank on that. He is the God of more deliverance. I hope you have a good day.