

Expecting the Supernatural- Salt

Introduction

This is the first of a series based on the life of Elisha, the successor of Elijah. Elijah appears to be on at top of the list of Old Testament prophets, and represented the prophets on the mountain of transfiguration. Even though the names Elijah and Elisha are similar, yet their work is very different.

Elisha's career thus appears to have extended over a period of nearly sixty years. The relationship between Elijah and Elisha was of a particularly close kind, but the difference between them is much more striking than the resemblance.

Elijah is the prophet of the wilderness, wandering, rugged and austere;
Elisha is the prophet of civilized life, of the city and the court, with the dress, manners and appearance of ordinary citizens.

Elijah is the messenger of vengeance—sudden, fierce and overwhelming;
Elisha is the messenger of mercy and restoration.

Elijah's miracles, with few exceptions, are works of wrath and destruction;
Elisha's miracles, with but one notable exception, are works of beneficence and healing.

Elijah is the "prophet of fire", an abnormal agent working for exceptional ends; Elisha is the "holy man of God which passes by us continually" (2 Kings iv. 9), mixing in the common life of the people.

It is evident that Kingdom people expect the supernatural to happen. This phenomena followed the ministry of Jesus, the apostles, and others who were endowed with spiritual gifts.

“Jesus therefore answered and was saying to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless {it is} something He sees the Father doing; for whatever {the Father} does, these things the Son also does in like manner. For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself is doing; and greater works than these will He show Him, that you may marvel” (John 5:19-20).

1. turning water into wine John 2:1
2. many healings luke 1:32
3. Cleansing a Leper Matt 8:1
4. Healing a roman centurian's slave Matt 8:5
5. Healing Peter's mother in law Matt 8:14
6. Calming the storm Matt 8:23
- 7.driving out demons near the tombs Matt 8:28
8. Healing a paralytic Matt 9:1
9. Healing the woman with the issue of blood Matt 9:20
10. Raising Jairus' daughter from dead Matt 9:23
11. Healing two blind men Matt 9:27

12. Healing a demon possessed mute man Matt 12:10
13. Healing a man with a paralyzed hand Matt 12:22
14. feeding the 5000 Matt 14:15
15. Walking on water Matt 14:22
16. Healing the gentile mother's daughter Matt 15:21
17. feeding 4000 Matt 15:32
18. healing the epileptic boy Matt 17:14
19. cursing the fig tree Matt 21:18
20. healing demon possessed man in the synagogue Mark 1:23
21. healing the deaf mute Mark 7:31
22. healing the blind man at Bethesda Mark 8:22
23. healing the blind at Jericho Mark 10:46
24. a miraculous catch of fish Luke 5:4
25. A widow's son raised to life Luke 7:11
26. Healing a disabled woman Luke 13:11
27. Healing a man with edema Luke 14:1
28. healing 10 lepers Luke 17:1
29. Healing Malchus's ear Luke 22:50
30. Healing an official's son John 4:46
31. Healing the lame man at the Bethesda pool Lu 5:1
32. Healing a man born blind John 9:1
33. Raising Lazarus from the dead Luke 11:38
34. A second miraculous catch of fish Luke 21:1

The word of knowledge or discerning the moving of the Holy Spirit is the key to successful ministry in the supernatural. If Jesus could not do nothing unless the Holy Spirit was doing it, isn't it absurd to think we can do any different?

Working in concert with the Holy Spirit will always produce the supernatural. Perceiving the invisible and hearing the inaudible will always be 100% successful. No one has received a license from the Lord to do whatever comes to mind, or to suit personal desires. Sympathy because of the needs is not enough. God is working all things to advance His purpose in the world and in personal lives. A person cannot just enter into a hospital and empty it without hearing from the Lord.

“And at Lystra there was sitting a certain man, without strength in his feet, lame from his mother's womb, who had never walked. This man was listening to Paul as he spoke, who, when he had fixed his gaze upon him, and had seen that he had faith to be made well, said with a loud voice, "Stand upright on your feet." And he leaped up and {began} to walk” (Acts 14:8-10).

Paul was seeing the invisible and released the command that brought healing to the crippled man.

Approximately 56 miracles are recorded in the Old Testament. 12 of those miracles were accredited to Elisha

River Jordan divided	River Jordan	2Ki 2:7, 8, 14
Waters of Jericho healed	Jericho	2Ki 2:21, 22
Water for Jehoshaphat's army	Land of Moab	2Ki 3:16-20
The widow's oil multiplied —		2Ki 4:2-7

Shunammite's son raised	Shunem	2Ki 4:32-37
The deadly pottage cured	Gilgal	2Ki 4:38-41
Hundred men fed with twenty loaves	Gilgal	2Ki 4:42-44
Naaman cured of his leprosy	Samaria	2Ki 5:10-14
Leprosy inflicted Gehazi	Samaria	2Ki 5:20-27
Iron swims	River Jordan	2Ki 6:5-7
King of Syria's army smitten	Dothan	2Ki 6:18-20
Elisha's bones revive the dead		

Elisha, God is his salvation

Elisha was handpicked by God. 1 Ki. 19:16. Symbolically, Elijah threw his mantle on him.

For the next 8 years, Elisha was the disciple of Elijah. Training cannot be avoided. Nothing is spoken of Elisha during that period. Press coverage is not necessary.

Elisha, just before Elijah was taken up, requested to receive a double portion of Elijah's spirit, or a first-born inheritance.

During Elisha's 50 years of ministry in the prophetic office the supernatural often took place. (850-800 BC)

The crossing of the Jordan River.

“And Elisha saw {it} and cried out, "My father, my father, the chariots of Israel and its horse-men!" And he saw him no more. Then he took hold of his own clothes and tore them in two pieces. He also took up the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and returned and stood by the bank of the Jordan” (II Ki 2:12-13).

Elisha, holding the mantle of Elijah on the East bank of the Jordan River, facing the swift moving water must now make a decision! He had already ripped off his clothes into two parts, signifying the old was being replaced by the new. And now, after a short hesitation, struck the river Jordan with the mantle of Elijah. It separated.

The supernatural ministry of Elisha began. The power that was upon and flowed through Elijah now began to flow through Elisha.

What is blocking your path into the miraculous? What is holding you back from crossing into your inheritance? Behold all things have become new and all things are possible if God is doing them.

Two special Jars

“Then the men of the city said to Elisha, "Behold now, the situation of this city is pleasant, as my lord sees; but the water is bad, and the land is unfruitful. And he said, "Bring me a new jar, and put salt in it." So they brought {it} to him. And he went out to the spring of water, and threw salt in it and said, "Thus says the LORD, I have purified these waters; there shall not be from there death or unfruitfulness any longer. So the waters have been purified to this day, according to the word of Elisha which he spoke” (II Ki 2:19-22).

There was something in the water that not only affected its taste, but caused the soil to be sterile and unproductive. Possibly it had a high sulfur content.

Everyone has a inner fountain flowing constantly.

“{Like} a trampled spring and a polluted well is a righteous man who gives way before the wicked” (Prov 25:26). “The mouth of the righteous is a fountain of life” (Pr. 10:11) for cleansing, refreshing, healing others, now ceases to pour forth pure counsels.

You should be a “garden spring, a well of fresh water, and streams {flowing} from Lebanon” (Song 4:15). This is a prophecy of the church.

"He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water. But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet {given,} because Jesus was not yet glorified" (John 7:38-39).

Salt in a jar

In the Scriptures there is what is called a Salt Covenant.

"All the offerings of the holy {gifts,} which the sons of Israel offer to the LORD, I have given to you and your sons and your daughters with you, as a perpetual allotment. It is an everlasting covenant of salt before the LORD to you and your descendants with you" (Num 18:19).

"Do you not know that the LORD God of Israel gave the rule over Israel forever to David and his sons by a **covenant of salt**" (2 Chr 13:5)?

Information about the ancient Salt Covenant

Salt is mentioned in the scriptures around 30 times and has approximately 14,000 uses.

Salt was once so scarce and precious that it was used as money. Caesar's soldiers received part of their pay in common salt. This was known as salarium from which the word salary comes.

Dating back to the days when workers were paid their wages in salt is the modern expression "not worth his salt", and it literally means not working good enough to earn his wage.

Salt was a chief economic product of the ancient world. It was important in the development of the earliest highways of trade.

Roman soldiers built one of the great military roads in History, the Via Salaria (Salt Road), from the salt-works at Ostia to Rome.

Jehovah's Salt Covenant is the most extraordinary of all HIS Covenants. It is symbolic of endurance, preservation, and freedom from corruption. It is a perfect picture of our CREATOR

The Salt Covenant is rich in spiritual symbolism, and so important that for those who can see, it is visually demonstrated by the salting of the Temple sacrifices, which was to perpetually remind the faithful of

their solemn Covenant responsibility to Jehovah (Num.18:19).

Jehovah instructed the Israelites that every sacrifice, including grain offerings, was to be seasoned with salt as a sign of their Covenant with HIM (Lev. 2:13, Ezek. 43:23-24). Even the Holy ingredients used for the incense offering were to have salt added. "You shall make of these an incense, a compound according to the art of the perfumer, salted, pure and holy" (Ex. 30:34-35). Salt, like the rainbow, is a sign of our CREATOR. Curiously, you will never see salt in any pagan rites.

Traditionally, salt was shared to seal a truce between former enemies or as a symbol of alliance between close friends. Treaties or friendships were often formalized by the partaking of a lick of salt to seal the deal or heal the difference between them.

Entering into a Covenant of Salt means binding oneself to another in utmost loyalty and truthfulness, even suffering death, rather than breaking the covenant. For this very reason a Covenant of Salt was never done lightly or haphazardly – it deserves serious respect.

To the ancient Hebrews, salt represented purification, and was also symbolic of enduring friendship, honesty, and loyalty (2Kin.2:19 -21; 2Chr.13:5). Today some Eastern people still use the phrase: "There is salt between us." Having no salt, meant disloyalty and barrenness.

Salt heals _ if you settled a dispute with your neighbor then you would invite the person into your home to share a dish of salt. Each of you would lick your finger, dip it in the salt and then eat the salt together. This is the symbol of friendship that heals the rift.

Salt is pure _ germs cannot live in it. By analogy, believers are to be pure and have salt in us (Mar.9:50), and at birth salt was rubbed on a new born baby's skin to purify it (Ezk.16:4).

Salt purifies _ by analogy, the Believers are the salt of the earth (Mat.5:13). They purify the world by not accepting false philosophies, dishonest ways of doing business, selfish desires, etc.

No salt in the diet leads you into an energy graveyard, and within a month you will die a slow agonizing death _ you figure out the analogy! Sodium regulates the passage of nutrients into the cells. Without it, nutrients cannot enter your cells and you will have malnutrition and exhaustion no matter how good your diet. Without our CREATOR we would be spiritually starved and morally exhausted.

A Salt famine caused a civilization to collapse. During Europe's Dark Ages, due to glacial melting, the ocean levels rose flooding all the salt flats of Europe causing a salt famine (ref. Economic and Social History of Medieval Europe by Belgian historian Henri Pirenne). The daily average ration fell to less than two grams per person and caused many to die from dehydration and madness. To get salt, some who were stronger would assault the weak, cut their jugular vein and drink the victim's salty blood, giving birth to the myth of the vampire.

What is a Salt Covenant? In biblical times men carried a pouch of salt on their belts. When two men wanted to make a covenant of loyalty, each would take some salt from his pouch and sprinkle it in the other man's pouch. Then they stated the terms of their agreement and shook their salt pouches, mingling the grains of salt.

Shaking the salt pouches reminded them that the covenant could not be broken, because it was no longer possible to go into the other man's pouch and retrieve the original salt grains.

"You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how will it be made salty {again} It is good for nothing anymore, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men" (Matt 5:13).

"Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned, {as it were,} with salt, so that you may know how you should respond to each person" (Col 4:6).

Jesus became God's Covenant of Salt to the human race.

"And being in agony He was praying very fervently; and His sweat became like drops of blood, falling down upon the ground" (Luke 22:44).

The salt of His body mixed with His blood became the eternal covenant of salt promise, and not only did He purify and cleanse us from all sin, but stands as an eternal friend, guardian full of trustworthiness loyalty.