

IRON FLOATS!

We have learned that there were three theological schools of prophets in Israel during the time of Elisha: Bethel, Gilgal, and Jericho (2 Kg.2:1 and 4:38).

We are told by our lesson text that the prophets of our story lived near the Jordan River – “Let us go to the Jordan.” (2 Kg.6:2)

The nearest theological school to the Jordan River was Jericho. Therefore we assume that these are the sons of the prophets from the Jericho theology school.

When you first read this story, it might seem trivial, even far fetched to some. However, after closer examination, it has a **powerful message of God’s faithfulness** to the needs of the believer – “Great is Thy faithfulness.” (Lam.3:23)

(1 Cor.10:13) “No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man, and **God is faithful**, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it.”

God will Float Iron in order to show the believer that God is faithful.

Today’s lesson will examine our lesson by the following four homiletical points and discuss doctrinal principles with each point.

- **Prophets** (2 Kg.6:1a) [Famous]
- **Project** (2 Kg.6:1b-2) [Facility]
- **Problem** (2 Kg.6:3-5) [Fiscal]
- **Provision** (2 Kg.6:6-7) [Floating]

1. The sons of the prophets were a famous order of OT prophets based on Deut.18:14-22 (2 Kg.6:1a).

An historical change occurred with the transition from the Theocracy Period to the Monarch Period in the Jewish age.

Samuel formed the school of national prophets to train and appoint them to service to the nation in fulfillment of Deut.18. It placed Samuel in a category of prophets with Moses (Ps.99:6; Jer.15:1).

This is why they are called sons of prophet and why they refer to their national leader as father (2 Kg.2:11-12) [Elisha to Elijah].

In the monarch period, the prophets had an important role with the king and the nation. For example, Samuel anointed the first two kings of Israel (1 Sam.8-9) [Saul], (1 Sam.8:16) [David].

Jezebel attempted to murder all of the sons of the prophets and to replace them with false prophets during the time of Elijah (1 Kings 18:4, 22).

John the Baptist was one of these “sons of prophet” (Luke 1:17, 76; Mal.4:5-6).

2. While Elisha was on his regular tour of the school, the sons of prophets presented a special building project to him (2 Kg.6:1-2).

They had outgrown their facilities and needed additional room (2 Kg.6:1). Apparently married prophets lived off campus (2 Kg.4:1-2).

We had learned that there were 50 prophets at Jericho from an earlier lesson (2 Kg.2:5-7). The sons of prophets were apparently responsible for such work projects and upkeep. As their leader, they looked to Elisha for approval.

The project involved cutting poles and floating them down the Jordan River to the campus. The Hebrew word for poles is qorah. It refers to structural rafter beams.

3. While cutting down rafter beams for the project, they ran into a big problem (2 Kg.6:3-5). They lost the special axe head they were using for cutting down large trees.

Why the panic? It was very expensive and borrowed. They assumed a financial crisis as well as project crisis.

The Hebrew word for borrow is shaal (kal ptc). Shaal (ptc) meant that this special axe was given to be use by making a formal request. Shaal was used also for asking by prayer (Matt.7:7-8; James 4:2b).

The fact that it was borrowed meant they were required to replace its value – “The borrower is servant to the lender.” (Prov.22:7)

“If you lack the means to pay, your very bed will be snatched from under you.” (Prov.22:27)

4. When they lost the borrowed axe head, they panicked momentarily (HV / sight) (2 Cor.5:7). But they recovered by reversing their concentration (Rom.12:2; Eph.4:23) on the solution rather than the problem (2 Kg.6:6-7). How well did this work for them?

In hindsight, **how important** was their insistent that Elisha be part of this project?

However, two greater questions might be, **how important** is God’s perfect timing in the plan of God? “Trust in Him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us.” (Ps.62:8)

And how important is walking in the perfect timing of God Plan? “This is the way, walk in it, whenever you turn to the right or to the left.” (Isa.30:12)

Notice the **spiritual leadership** of Elisha training the sons of prophet. **He brought the classroom of theology to their lives.** He asks a question, made a decision, and showed that God was willing to meet their needs.– “And my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.” (Phil.4:19).

“And made the iron float. And he said, ‘Take it up for yourself.’ So he put out his hand and took it.” (2 Kg.6:6b-7)

The power of God made IRON FLOAT to meet their need. Omnipotence and sovereignty of God reversed the natural law of creation provided a miracle to meet their need because **God is faithful.**

“And being fully assured that what He has promised, He was able also to perform.” (Rom.4:21)