

Message Three
**Elisha Being a Type of Christ
in His Ministry of Grace in Life
and as a Man of God Behaving Himself
as God's Representative, as the Acting God**

RK Hymns: 86, 608

Scripture Reading: 2 Kings 2:19-22; 4:1—6:7

- 2 Kings 2:19 And the men of the city said to Elisha, The location of the city is good, as my lord can see; but the water is bad, and the land is barren.
- 2 Kings 2:20 And he said, Bring me a new jar, and put salt in it. And they brought it to him.
- 2 Kings 2:21 And he went out to the source of the water and threw salt there; and he said, Thus says Jehovah, I have healed this water; there will not be any more death or barrenness from there.
- 2 Kings 2:22 So the water has been healed to this day, according to the word of Elisha, which he spoke.
- 2 Kings 4:1~6:7 be omitted.

I. Elisha is a type of Christ in doing miracles of grace in life—2 Kings 4:9; Luke 4:27:

- 2 Kings 4:9 And she said to her husband, Now I know that this man who continually passes through unto us is a holy man of God.
- Luke 4:27 And there were many lepers in Israel during the time of Elisha the prophet, and none of them were cleansed, except Naaman the Syrian.

A. In the fulfillment of the types and figures in the Old Testament, Christ is the real Elisha; as the real Elisha, the Lord Jesus is a sweet and pleasant prophet, a prophet of blessing—2 Kings 4:9; Luke 4:27; 7:11-17.

- 2 Kings 4:9 And she said to her husband, Now I know that this man who continually passes through unto us is a holy man of God.
- Luke 4:27 And there were many lepers in Israel during the time of Elisha the prophet, and none of them were cleansed, except Naaman the Syrian.
- Luke 7:11 And soon afterward He went into a city called Nain, and His disciples went with Him, as well as a large crowd.
- Luke 7:12 And as He came near the gate of the city, behold, one who had died was being carried out, an only son of his mother, and she was a widow; and a considerable crowd from the city was with her.
- Luke 7:13 And when the Lord saw her, He was moved with compassion for her and said to her, Do not weep.
- Luke 7:14 And He came near and touched the bier, and those carrying it stood still. And He said, Young man, to you I say, Arise.
- Luke 7:15 And the dead man sat up and began to speak. And He gave him to his mother.
- Luke 7:16 And fear took hold of all, and they glorified God, saying, A great prophet has been raised up among us, and, God has visited His people!
- Luke 7:17 And this report concerning Him went out in the whole of Judea and in all the surrounding region.

B. Elisha is a type in the Old Testament who represented God's New Testament economy in grace:

1. Grace is God doing everything for us by giving Himself to us as our enjoyment—John 1:1, 14-17.
- John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
- John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us (and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only Begotten from the Father), full of grace and reality.
- John 1:15 John testified concerning Him and cried out, saying, This was He of whom I said, He who is coming after me has become ahead of me, because He was before me.
- John 1:16 For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace.

- John 1:17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and reality came through Jesus Christ.
2. This grace issues in the divine life, which is rich and high, even unto making us co-kings with Christ—Rom. 5:17.
Rom 5:17 For if, by the offense of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.
- C. The significance of the miracle performed by Elisha in healing the water at Jericho and of the miracle performed by the Lord Jesus in changing water into wine is the same—the changing of death into life—2 Kings 2:4, 19-22; John 2:1-11.
- 2 Kings 2:4 And Elijah said to him, Elisha, stay here, for Jehovah has sent me to Jericho. And he said, As Jehovah lives and as your soul lives, I will not leave you. And they came to Jericho.
- 2 Kings 2:19 And the men of the city said to Elisha, The location of the city is good, as my lord can see; but the water is bad, and the land is barren.
- 2 Kings 2:20 And he said, Bring me a new jar, and put salt in it. And they brought it to him.
- 2 Kings 2:21 And he went out to the source of the water and threw salt there; and he said, Thus says Jehovah, I have healed this water; there will not be any more death or barrenness from there.
- 2 Kings 2:22 So the water has been healed to this day, according to the word of Elisha, which he spoke.
- John 2:1 And the third day a wedding took place in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there.
- John 2:2 And Jesus also was invited, as well as His disciples, to the wedding.
- John 2:3 And when the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to Him, They have no wine.
- John 2:4 And Jesus said to her, Woman, what do I have in this that concerns you? My hour has not yet come.
- John 2:5 His mother said to the servants, Whatever He says to you, do.
- John 2:6 Now there were six stone waterpots lying there, according to the Jews' rite of purification, holding two or three measures each.
- John 2:7 Jesus said to them, Fill the waterpots with water. And they filled them up to the brim.
- John 2:8 And He said to them, Draw some out now and take it to the master of the feast. And they took it to him.
- John 2:9 And when the master of the feast tasted the water which had become wine and did not know where it came from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew, the master of the feast called the bridegroom
- John 2:10 And said to him, Every man sets out the good wine first, and when they have drunk freely, then that which is worse; you have kept the good wine until now.
- John 2:11 This beginning of signs Jesus performed in Cana of Galilee and manifested His glory, and His disciples believed into Him.
- D. Elisha's calling things not being as being was the same thing in principle that the Lord Jesus did when He fed the multitudes—2 Kings 4:1-7, 8-17, 42-44; Matt. 14:14-21; 15:32-39.
- 2 Kings 4:1 Now a certain woman from among the wives of the sons of the prophets cried out to Elisha, saying, Your servant my husband is dead, and you know that your servant feared Jehovah. And the creditor has come to take my two children to himself as servants.
- 2 Kings 4:2 And Elisha said to her, What shall I do for you? Tell me, what do you have in your house? And she said, Your servant has nothing at all in the house, except a jar of oil.
- 2 Kings 4:3 And he said, Go and borrow vessels outside, from all your neighbors, empty vessels, and not just a few.
- 2 Kings 4:4 Then go in and shut the door behind you and your sons, and pour out into all those vessels; and each one you fill set aside.
- 2 Kings 4:5 So she went away from him and shut the door behind herself and her sons; and they brought the vessels to her, and she poured out into them.
- 2 Kings 4:6 And when she had filled the vessels, she said to her son, Bring me another vessel. But he said to her, There is no other vessel. And the oil stopped.

2 Kings 4:7 And she went and told the man of God. And he said, Go and sell the oil, and pay your debt; and you and your sons can live off the rest.

2 Kings 4:8 And one day Elisha was passing through Shunem; and there was a wealthy woman there, who compelled him to have a meal. So whenever he passed through, he would turn aside and have a meal there.

2 Kings 4:9 And she said to her husband, Now I know that this man who continually passes through unto us is a holy man of God.

2 Kings 4:10 Let us make a little walled upper room and put a bed and a table and a chair and a lamp for him; and when he comes to us, he can turn aside there.

2 Kings 4:11 Then one day he came there, and he turned aside into the upper room and lay down there.

2 Kings 4:12 And he said to Gehazi his attendant, Call this Shunammite. And he called her, and she stood before him.

2 Kings 4:13 And he said to him, Say to her, You have gone to all this trouble for us; what can be done for you? Should you be spoken of to the king or to the captain of the army? And she said, I dwell in the midst of my people.

2 Kings 4:14 And he said, What then can be done for her? And Gehazi said, Indeed she has no son, and her husband is old.

2 Kings 4:15 Then he said, Call her. And he called her, and she stood at the door.

2 Kings 4:16 And he said, At this time next year you shall embrace a son. And she said, No, my lord, O man of God, do not deceive your servant.

2 Kings 4:17 And the woman conceived and bore a son at that time the next year, as Elisha had told her.

2 Kings 4:42 Then a man came from Baal-shalishah and brought to the man of God bread of the firstfruits, twenty loaves of barley, and fresh ears of grain in his sack. And Elisha said, Give it to the people that they may eat.

2 Kings 4:43 And his servant said, How can I set this before a hundred people? And he said, Give it to the people that they may eat; for thus says Jehovah, They shall eat and have some left.

2 Kings 4:44 So he set it before them; and they ate, and there was some left, according to the word of Jehovah.

Matt 14:14 And going forth, He saw a great crowd, and He was moved with compassion for them and healed their sick.

Matt 14:15 Now when evening fell, the disciples came to Him, saying, This place is deserted and the hour is already late. Send the crowds away that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.

Matt 14:16 But Jesus said to them, They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.

Matt 14:17 And they said to Him, We do not have anything here except five loaves and two fish.

Matt 14:18 And He said, Bring them here to Me.

Matt 14:19 And after commanding the crowds to recline on the grass, He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed them and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples to the crowds.

Matt 14:20 And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve handbaskets full.

Matt 14:21 And those who ate were about five thousand men, apart from women and children.

Matt 15:32 And Jesus called His disciples to Him and said, I am moved with compassion for the crowd, because for three days now they have remained with Me and they do not have anything to eat. And I am not willing to send them away hungry, lest they faint on the way.

Matt 15:33 And the disciples said to Him, Where can we get so many loaves in this desolate place to satisfy so great a crowd?

Matt 15:34 And Jesus said to them, How many loaves do you have? And they said, Seven, and a few small fish.

Matt 15:35 And after He commanded the crowd to recline on the ground,

Matt 15:36 He took the seven loaves and the fish, and giving thanks, He broke them and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples to the crowds.

Matt 15:37 And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, seven baskets full.

- Matt 15:38 And those who ate were four thousand men, apart from women and children.
- Matt 15:39 And after He sent the crowds away, He stepped into the boat and came to the borders of Magadan.
- E. Elisha's resurrecting the dead from death, giving life to the dead, is the same as what the Lord Jesus did, both physically and spiritually—2 Kings 4:18-37; Luke 7:11-17; John 11:41-44; 5:25.
- 2 Kings 4:18 And when the child grew up, one day he went out to his father among the reapers;
- 2 Kings 4:19 And he said to his father, My head! My head! And he said to his attendant, Carry him to his mother.
- 2 Kings 4:20 And when he had carried him in and brought him to his mother, the child lay upon her lap until noon, then died.
- 2 Kings 4:21 And she went up and laid him on the bed of the man of God, and she shut the door behind him and went out.
- 2 Kings 4:22 Then she called her husband and said, Send me one of the attendants and one of the donkeys that I may run to the man of God and return.
- 2 Kings 4:23 And he said, Why will you go to him today? It is neither the new moon nor the Sabbath. But she said, It will be fine.
- 2 Kings 4:24 Then she saddled the donkey and said to her attendant, Urge the beast, and do not restrain the ride for me unless I tell you.
- 2 Kings 4:25 So she went. And she came to the man of God at Mount Carmel. And when the man of God saw her at a distance, he said to Gehazi his attendant, That is the Shunammite over there.
- 2 Kings 4:26 Run now to meet her, and say to her, Is it well with you? Is it well with your husband? Is it well with the child? And she said, It is well.
- 2 Kings 4:27 And when she came to the man of God on the mountain, she clung to his feet. And Gehazi approached to push her away, but the man of God said, Leave her alone; for she is bitter in soul, and Jehovah has hidden from me and has not told me
- 2 Kings 4:28 And she said, Did I ask my lord for a son? Did I not say, Do not mislead me?
- 2 Kings 4:29 Then he said to Gehazi, Gird up your loins, and take my staff in your hand, and go. If you meet anyone, do not greet him; and if anyone greets you, do not respond to him. And lay my staff upon the face of the boy.
- 2 Kings 4:30 And the mother of the boy said, As Jehovah lives and as your soul lives, I will not leave you. And he rose up and followed her.
- 2 Kings 4:31 And Gehazi passed on before them and set the staff upon the boy's face, but there was no sound or reaction. Therefore he returned to meet him and told him, saying, The boy has not awakened.
- 2 Kings 4:32 And when Elisha went into the house, there was the dead boy, laid out on his bed.
- 2 Kings 4:33 And he went in and shut the door behind the two of them, and he prayed to Jehovah.
- 2 Kings 4:34 Then he got up and lay on the child, and he put his mouth on his mouth and his eyes on his eyes and his palms on his palms; and he stretched himself over him, and the flesh of the child became warm.
- 2 Kings 4:35 And he got down and walked about in the house once to and fro. Then he got up and stretched himself over him, and the boy sneezed seven times. Then the boy opened his eyes.
- 2 Kings 4:36 And he called Gehazi and said, Call that Shunammite. So he called her. And when she came to him, he said, Take up your son.
- 2 Kings 4:37 And she came and fell at his feet and bowed herself to the ground. And she took up her son and went out.
- Luke 7:11 And soon afterward He went into a city called Nain, and His disciples went with Him, as well as a large crowd.
- Luke 7:12 And as He came near the gate of the city, behold, one who had died was being carried out, an only son of his mother, and she was a widow; and a considerable crowd from the city was with her.
- Luke 7:13 And when the Lord saw her, He was moved with compassion for her and said to her, Do not weep.
- Luke 7:14 And He came near and touched the bier, and those carrying it stood still. And He said, Young man, to you I say, Arise.
- Luke 7:15 And the dead man sat up and began to speak. And He gave him to his mother.

- Luke 7:16 And fear took hold of all, and they glorified God, saying, A great prophet has been raised up among us, and, God has visited His people!
- Luke 7:17 And this report concerning Him went out in the whole of Judea and in all the surrounding region.
- John 11:41 Then they took the stone away. And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, Father, I thank You that You have heard Me.
- John 11:42 And I knew that You always hear Me; but because of the crowd standing around, I said it, that they may believe that You have sent Me.
- John 11:43 And when He had said these things, He cried out with a loud voice, Lazarus, come out!
- John 11:44 And he who had died came out, bound hand and foot with cloths, and his face was bound about with a handkerchief. Jesus said to them, Loose him and let him go.
- John 5:25 Truly, truly, I say to you, An hour is coming, and it is now, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live.
- F. Elisha's nullifying the poison of the wild gourds with flour is the same in principle as the Lord Jesus' healing His disciples of the leaven of the Pharisees with Himself as the fine flour—2 Kings 4:41; Matt. 16:12.
- 2 Kings 4:41 And he said, Then bring some flour. And he threw it into the pot and said, Pour it out for the people that they may eat. And there was nothing harmful in the pot.
- Matt 16:12 Then they understood that He did not say to beware of the leaven of bread, but of the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.
- G. Elisha's causing an axe head that had fallen into the water to float by means of a wooden stick signifies Christ's recovering through His cross in resurrection the lost power of sinners that had fallen into the death water—2 Kings 6:6; Eph. 2:1-6.
- 2 Kings 6:6 And the man of God said, Where did it fall? And he showed him the place. And he cut down a stick and threw it there and made the iron float.
- Eph 2:1 And you, though dead in your offenses and sins,
- Eph 2:2 In which you once walked according to the age of this world, according to the ruler of the authority of the air, of the spirit which is now operating in the sons of disobedience;
- Eph 2:3 Among whom we also all conducted ourselves once in the lusts of our flesh, doing the desires of the flesh and of the thoughts, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest;
- Eph 2:4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,
- Eph 2:5 Even when we were dead in offenses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)
- Eph 2:6 And raised us up together with Him and seated us together with Him in the heavenlies in Christ Jesus,
- H. Elisha performed miracles of divine healing for others, but, in the will of God, he himself was not healed by a miracle; this was the experience of Paul and his fellow workers—2 Kings 13:14:
- 2 Kings 13:14 Now when Elisha was ill with his illness by which he eventually died, Joash the king of Israel went down to him and wept over him and said, My father! My father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!
1. Paul left Trophimus at Miletus in sickness without exercising healing prayer for him and did not exercise his healing gift to cure Timothy of his stomach sickness—2 Tim. 4:20; 1 Tim. 5:23; Acts 19:11-12.

2 Tim 4:20 Erastus remained in Corinth, and Trophimus I left at Miletus sick.

1 Tim 5:23 No longer drink water only, but use a little wine for the sake of your stomach and your frequent illnesses.

Acts 19:11 And God did works of power of no ordinary kind through the hands of Paul,

Acts 19:12 So that even handkerchiefs or aprons were carried away from his body to the sick, and their diseases left them, and the evil spirits went out.
 2. Paul and his co-workers were under the discipline of the inner life in that time of suffering rather than under the power of the outward gift:
 - a. The former is a matter of grace in life; the latter is a matter of gift in power—miraculous power.

- b. In the decline of the church and in one's suffering for the church, the gift of power is not needed as much as the grace in life—2 Tim. 4:22.
2 Tim 4:22 The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you.
- I. Elisha was deceased in his body yet still ministered in the spirit to enliven one of the dead—2 Kings 13:21:
2 Kings 13:21 And it so happened that as the people were burying a man, they saw a band; and they cast the man into the grave of Elisha. And as soon as the man touched the bones of Elisha, he came to life and stood up on his feet.
 - 1. Even the dead Elisha could enliven people.
 - 2. This is a picture of Christ in resurrection—John 11:25; Acts 2:24; Phil. 3:10:
John 11:25 Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes into Me, even if he should die, shall live;
Acts 2:24 Whom God has raised up, having loosed the pangs of death, since it was not possible for Him to be held by it.
Phil 3:10 To know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,
 - a. Whoever touches Him is enlivened.
 - b. Regeneration involves a spiritually dead person touching the dead and resurrected Christ and being enlivened—cf. John 5:25; Eph. 2:1-6a.
John 5:25 Truly, truly, I say to you, An hour is coming, and it is now, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live.
Eph 2:1 And you, though dead in your offenses and sins,
Eph 2:2 In which you once walked according to the age of this world, according to the ruler of the authority of the air, of the spirit which is now operating in the sons of disobedience;
Eph 2:3 Among whom we also all conducted ourselves once in the lusts of our flesh, doing the desires of the flesh and of the thoughts, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest;
Eph 2:4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,
Eph 2:5 Even when we were dead in offenses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)
Eph 2:6a And raised us up together with Him ... in Christ Jesus,

II. Like Moses, Samuel, and Paul, Elisha, a man of God, behaved as God's representative, as the acting God, on the earth—2 Kings 4:9:

2 Kings 4:9 And she said to her husband, Now I know that this man who continually passes through unto us is a holy man of God.

- A. Jehovah told Moses that He had made him God to Pharaoh—Exo. 7:1a:
Exo 7:1a And Jehovah said to Moses, See, I have made you God to Pharaoh; ...
 - 1. In Moses God had one to represent Him and to execute His will; Moses never spoke to Pharaoh on his own but always spoke what the Lord had told him to say—3:16-18; 5:1.
Exo 3:16 Go, and gather the elders of Israel together, and say to them, Jehovah, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, has appeared to me, saying, I have surely visited you and seen what is being done to you in Egypt.
Exo 3:17 And I say, I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt to the land of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, to a land flowing with milk and honey.
Exo 3:18 And they will listen to your voice. And you shall come, you and the elders of Israel, to the king of Egypt, and you shall say to him, Jehovah, the God of the Hebrews, has met with us; and now let us go a three days' journey into the wilderness that we may sacrifice to Jehovah our God.
Exo 5:1 And afterward Moses and Aaron came and said to Pharaoh, Thus says Jehovah the God of Israel, Let My people go that they may hold a feast to Me in the wilderness.

2. Actually, Pharaoh was not listening to Moses, God's ambassador, and dealing with him; he was listening to God and dealing with God.
- B. Samuel was the representative of God to rule over His people on earth; as such, Samuel was the acting God—1 Sam. 1:11; 2:35; 7:3; 8:22:
- 1 Sam 1:11 And she made a vow and said, O Jehovah of hosts, if You will indeed look upon the affliction of Your female servant and remember me and not forget Your female servant, but give to Your female servant a male child, then I will give him to Jehovah for all the days of his life, and no razor will come upon his head.
- 1 Sam 2:35 And I will raise up for Myself a faithful priest, who will do according to what is in My heart and in My mind; and I will build him a sure house; and he will go before My anointed continually.
- 1 Sam 7:3 Then Samuel spoke to all the house of Israel, saying, If you are returning with all your heart to Jehovah, remove the foreign gods and the Ashtaroth from your midst, and direct your heart to Jehovah and serve only Him; and He will deliver you from the hand of the Philistines.
- 1 Sam 8:22 Then Jehovah said to Samuel, Listen to their voice, and appoint a king to them. And Samuel said to the men of Israel, Go, each one to his city.
1. Samuel could be the acting God because his being and God's heart were one—2:35:

1 Sam 2:35 And I will raise up for Myself a faithful priest, who will do according to what is in My heart and in My mind; and I will build him a sure house; and he will go before My anointed continually.

 - a. He was a man according to God's heart; that is, he was a copy, a duplicate, of God's heart.
 - b. Samuel's living and working were for the carrying out of whatever was in God's heart.
 2. Samuel was God's oracle and God's administration, and thus, he was the acting God.
- C. In his ministry Paul, a man of God, was the acting God in comforting the believers, in conducting himself in the simplicity of God, in expressing the jealousy of God, and in being an ambassador of Christ to carry out the ministry of reconciliation—2 Cor. 1:3-4, 12; 11:2; 5:20:
- 2 Cor 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassions and God of all comfort,
- 2 Cor 1:4 Who comforts us in all our affliction that we may be able to comfort those who are in every affliction through the comforting with which we ourselves are comforted by God.
- 2 Cor 1:12 For our boasting is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in singleness and sincerity of God, not in fleshly wisdom but in the grace of God, we have conducted ourselves in the world, and more abundantly toward you.
- 2 Cor 11:2 For I am jealous over you with a jealousy of God; for I betrothed you to one husband to present you as a pure virgin to Christ.
- 2 Cor 5:20 On behalf of Christ then we are ambassadors, as God entreats you through us; we beseech you on behalf of Christ, Be reconciled to God.
1. All during the apostle Paul's long and unfortunate imprisonment-voyage, the Lord kept him in His ascendancy and enabled him to live a life far beyond the realm of anxiety—Acts 27:13—28:9:

Acts 27:13 And when a south wind blew gently, supposing that they had obtained their purpose, they weighed anchor and sailed along Crete close inshore.

Acts 27:14 But not long afterward there beat down from the island a hurricane wind called Euraquilo.

Acts 27:15 And when the ship was caught by it and was not able to face the wind, we gave way to it and were driven along.

Acts 27:16 And running under the shelter of a certain little island called Claudia, we were hardly able to get control of the small boat.

Acts 27:17 And when they had hoisted it up, they used supports to undergird the ship. And because they feared that they might run aground on Syrtis, they lowered the gear and so were driven along.

Acts 27:18 The next day, as we were being violently storm-tossed, they began to jettison the cargo;

Acts 27:19 And on the third day they threw the ship's gear overboard, even with their own hands.

Acts 27:20 And when neither sun nor stars appeared for many days, and while no small storm was assailing us, from then on all hope that we might be saved was being abandoned.

Acts 27:21 And when they had been a long time without food, Paul then stood in their midst and said, O men, you should have listened to me and not set sail from Crete and gained this damage and loss.

Acts 27:22 And now I advise you to cheer up, for there will be no loss of life among you, but only of the ship.

Acts 27:23 For this very night an angel of the God whose I am and whom I serve stood by me,

Acts 27:24 Saying, Do not fear, Paul; you must stand before Caesar. And behold, God has granted you all those who are sailing with you.

Acts 27:25 Therefore, cheer up, men, for I believe God that it shall be so, even in the way in which it has been spoken to me.

Acts 27:26 But we must run aground on a certain island.

Acts 27:27 But when the fourteenth night came, as we were being driven about in the Adriatic Sea, about the middle of the night the sailors suspected that some land was approaching them.

Acts 27:28 And they took soundings and found it to be twenty fathoms; and when they had gone a little farther, they sounded again and found it to be fifteen fathoms.

Acts 27:29 And fearing that we might run aground somewhere on rocky places, they threw four anchors from the stern and wished for day to come.

Acts 27:30 And when the sailors sought to flee from the ship, having lowered the small boat into the sea under pretense of intending to lay out anchors from the bow,

Acts 27:31 Paul said to the centurion and the soldiers, Unless these men remain in the ship, you cannot be saved.

Acts 27:32 Then the soldiers cut away the ropes of the small boat and let it fall away.

Acts 27:33 And until day was about to come, Paul encouraged them all to take some food, saying, Today is the fourteenth day that you have continued watching without food, taking nothing.

Acts 27:34 Therefore I encourage you to take some food, for this is for your salvation; for not a hair from the head of any one of you shall perish.

Acts 27:35 And when he had said these things and had taken bread, he gave thanks to God before all; and he broke it and began to eat.

Acts 27:36 And all became cheerful, and they also took food.

Acts 27:37 Now we were in all two hundred and seventy-six souls in the ship.

Acts 27:38 And when they were satisfied with food, they began to lighten the ship, throwing out the wheat into the sea.

Acts 27:39 And when day came, they could not recognize the land, but they noticed a certain bay, which had a beach, into which they took counsel to drive the ship, if they were able.

Acts 27:40 And casting off the anchors, they left them in the sea, at the same time loosening the bands of the rudders; and hoisting the foresail to the blowing of the wind, they held course for the beach.

Acts 27:41 But striking a sandbar with the sea on both sides, they ran the vessel aground; and the bow stuck fast and remained immovable, but the stern was broken up by the violence of the waves.

Acts 27:42 And the counsel of the soldiers was that they should kill the prisoners, lest anyone swim away and escape;

Acts 27:43 But the centurion, intending to bring Paul safely through, prevented them from their intention and ordered those who were able to swim to throw themselves overboard first and get to the land,

Acts 27:44 And the rest to follow, some on planks, and others on some of the things from the ship. And so it happened that all were brought safely through onto the land.

Acts 28:1 And having been brought safely through, we recognized then that the island was called Malta.

- Acts 28:2 And the natives showed us uncommon kindness, for they kindled a fire and took us all in because of the rain coming on and because of the cold.
- Acts 28:3 But when Paul had collected a bundle of sticks and put them on the fire, a viper came out because of the heat and fastened onto his hand.
- Acts 28:4 And when the natives saw the snake hanging from his hand, they said to one another, Undoubtedly this man is a murderer, whom, though he has been brought safely out of the sea, Justice has not allowed to live.
- Acts 28:5 However he shook off the snake into the fire and suffered no harm;
- Acts 28:6 And they expected that he would swell up or suddenly fall down dead. But when they had waited for a long time and beheld nothing unusual happening to him, they changed their minds and said that he was a god.
- Acts 28:7 Now in the vicinity of that place were the lands of the leading man of the island, named Publius, who welcomed us and gave us hospitality three days in a friendly way.
- Acts 28:8 And the father of Publius was lying down sick with fever and dysentery. Paul went in to him, and having prayed and laid his hands on him, healed him.
- Acts 28:9 And when this happened, the rest also in the island who had sicknesses came to him and were healed.
- a. This life was fully dignified, with the highest standard of human virtues expressing the most excellent divine attributes, a life that resembled the one that the Lord Jesus Himself had lived on the earth years before.
 - b. This was Jesus living again on earth in His divinely enriched humanity.
 - c. This was the wonderful, excellent, and mysterious Godman, who lived in the Gospels, continuing to live in the Acts through one of His many members.
2. The New Testament believers can be the same as Paul in functioning as the acting God—1 Tim. 1:16.

1 Tim 1:16 But because of this I was shown mercy, that in me, the foremost, Jesus Christ might display all His long-suffering for a pattern to those who are to believe on Him unto eternal life.

III. As God's chosen, redeemed, and regenerated people who are one with God, who are constituted with God, who live God, who express God, who move with God, and who represent God, we may function as the acting God—Eph. 1:4-5:

- Eph 1:4 Even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world to be holy and without blemish before Him in love,
- Eph 1:5 Predestinating us unto sonship through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,
- A. As God's chosen, redeemed, and regenerated people, we should be one with God—1 Cor. 6:17:

1 Cor 6:17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit.

 1. The basic principle of the Bible is that in His economy God is making Himself one with man and is making man one with Him—John 15:4.

John 15:4 Abide in Me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.
 2. God desires that the divine life and the human life be joined together to become one life that has one living—1 Cor. 6:17.

1 Cor 6:17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit.
 - B. We need to be constituted with God—Eph. 3:17a; Col. 3:10-11:

Eph 3:17a That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, ...

Col 3:10 And have put on the new man, which is being renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,

Col 3:11 Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all.

 1. God's economy is to dispense Himself into our being so that our being may be constituted with His being to be one constitution with His being—Eph. 3:17a; 4:4-6.

Eph 3:17a That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, ...

- Eph 4:4 One Body and one Spirit, even as also you were called in one hope of your calling;
- Eph 4:5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism;
- Eph 4:6 One God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.
2. In the divine life and by the working of the law of the divine life, God will be wrought into us, and we will be constituted with Him in His life and nature—Rom. 8:2, 6, 10-11, 29.
- Rom 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life has freed me in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and of death.
- Rom 8:6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the spirit is life and peace.
- Rom 8:10 But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is life because of righteousness.
- Rom 8:11 And if the Spirit of the One who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.
- Rom 8:29 Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers;
- C. As those who are one with God and constituted with God, we should live God—Phil. 1:21a: Phil 1:21a For to me, to live is Christ
1. According to His economy, God’s intention is to impart His element, His substance, and the ingredients of His nature into our being so that we may live Him—Rom. 8:2, 6, 10-11.
- Rom 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life has freed me in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and of death.
- Rom 8:6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the spirit is life and peace.
- Rom 8:10 But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is life because of righteousness.
- Rom 8:11 And if the Spirit of the One who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.
2. Our daily life should actually be God Himself and thus be a life of constantly living God—1 Thes. 2:12; 1 Cor. 10:31.
- 1 Thes 2:12 So that you might walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.
- 1 Cor 10:31 Therefore whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.
- D. We should express God—Gen. 1:26; 2 Cor. 3:18; Rom. 8:29; Col. 3:10:
- Gen 1:26 And God said, Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.
- 2 Cor 3:18 But we all with unveiled face, beholding and reflecting like a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord Spirit.
- Rom 8:29 Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers;
- Col 3:10 And have put on the new man, which is being renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,
1. God’s eternal purpose is to work Himself into us as our life so that we may express Him—Eph. 1:11; 3:11; 2 Tim. 1:9.
- Eph 1:11 In whom also we were designated as an inheritance, having been predestinated according to the purpose of the One who works all things according to the counsel of His will,
- Eph 3:11 According to the eternal purpose which He made in Christ Jesus our Lord,
- 2 Tim 1:9 Who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given to us in Christ Jesus before the times of the ages

2. God's aim in His economy is that we would be one with Him and live Him for His corporate expression—1 Cor. 6:17; Phil. 1:21a; Eph. 1:22-23.

1 Cor 6:17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit.

Phil 1:21a For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain....

Eph 1:22 And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him to be Head over all things to the church,

Eph 1:23 Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.

E. As those who express God, we should move with God—Josh. 1:1-9; 6:1-16:

Josh 1:1 After the death of Moses the servant of Jehovah, Jehovah spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' attendant, saying,

Josh 1:2 Moses My servant is dead; now then arise, and cross over this Jordan, you and all this people, into the land which I am giving to them, to the children of Israel.

Josh 1:3 Every place on which the sole of your foot treads I have given to you, as I promised Moses.

Josh 1:4 From the wilderness and this Lebanon even to the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and to the Great Sea toward the setting of the sun will be your territory.

Josh 1:5 No man will be able to stand before you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, I will be with you; I will not fail you nor forsake you.

Josh 1:6 Be strong and take courage, for you will cause this people to inherit the land which I swore to their fathers to give to them.

Josh 1:7 Only be strong and very courageous, being certain to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you. Do not turn away from it to the right or to the left, that you may have success wherever you go.

Josh 1:8 This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall muse upon it day and night so that you may be certain to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous and then you will have success.

Josh 1:9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and take courage; do not be afraid or dismayed. For Jehovah your God is with you wherever you go.

Josh 6:1 Now Jericho was shut up so tight because of the children of Israel that no one went out and no one went in.

Josh 6:2 And Jehovah said to Joshua, See, I have given Jericho and its king and the mighty men of valor into your hand.

Josh 6:3 And you shall circle the city, all the men of valor, going around the city one time. Thus shall you do for six days.

Josh 6:4 And seven priests shall carry seven trumpets of rams' horns before the Ark. Then on the seventh day you shall circle the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets.

Josh 6:5 And when they give off the blast of the ram's horn and you hear the trumpet sound, all the people shall shout with a great shout. And the wall of the city will fall down flat, and the people shall go up, each straight ahead.

Josh 6:6 So Joshua the son of Nun called the priests and said to them, Take up the Ark of the Covenant, and let seven priests carry seven trumpets of rams' horns before the Ark of Jehovah.

Josh 6:7 And he said to the people, Pass on and circle the city, and let the armed men pass on before the Ark of Jehovah.

Josh 6:8 Then when Joshua had spoken to the people, the seven priests carrying the seven trumpets of rams' horns before Jehovah passed on and blew the trumpets; and the Ark of the Covenant of Jehovah went after them.

Josh 6:9 And the armed men went before the priests who blew the trumpets; and the rearguard went after the Ark, the trumpets continually blowing.

Josh 6:10 And Joshua commanded the people, saying, You shall not shout, nor let your voice be heard, nor let a word go forth from your mouth, until the day I say to you, Shout! Then you shall shout.

Josh 6:11 So he had the Ark of Jehovah circle the city, going around it one time. And they came into the camp and lodged in the camp.

Josh 6:12 And Joshua rose early in the morning, and the priests took up the Ark of Jehovah.

Josh 6:13 And the seven priests carrying the seven trumpets of rams' horns went before the Ark of Jehovah, continually blowing the trumpets; and the armed men went before them, and the rearguard went after the Ark of Jehovah, the trumpets continually blowing.

- Josh 6:14 And they circled the city on the second day one time and returned to the camp. This they did for six days.
- Josh 6:15 Then on the seventh day they rose early, at the break of dawn, and circled the city in the same manner seven times. Only on that day did they circle the city seven times.
- Josh 6:16 And at the seventh time the priests blew the trumpets, and Joshua said to the people, Shout! For Jehovah has given you the city.
1. God needed the children of Israel to cooperate with Him in His move in His economy as the great wheel—1:1-9; 6:1-16.
Josh 1:9; 6:1-16 be omitted.
 2. We need to be one with God in His heart's desire and in His move on earth—Eph. 1:5, 9; Rev. 14:1-4.
Eph 1:5 Predestinating us unto sonship through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,
Eph 1:9 Making known to us the mystery of His will according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Himself,
Rev 14:1 And I saw, and behold, the Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him a hundred and forty-four thousand, having His name and the name of His Father written on their foreheads.
Rev 14:2 And I heard a voice out of heaven like the sound of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder; and the voice which I heard was like the sound of harp-singers playing on their harps.
Rev 14:3 And they sing a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders; and no one could learn the song except the hundred and forty-four thousand, who have been purchased from the earth.
Rev 14:4 These are they who have not been defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are they who follow the Lamb wherever He may go. These were purchased from among men as firstfruits to God and to the Lamb.
- F. As we move with God, we should represent God—Gen. 1:26-28:
- Gen 1:26 And God said, Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.
- Gen 1:27 And God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.
- Gen 1:28 And God blessed them; and God said to them, Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.
- 1 In order to represent God with authority, we must express God in life; because Aaron had the resurrection life to express God, he had the authority to represent God—v. 26; 2:9; Num. 17:1-8.
Gen 1:26 And God said, Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.
Gen 2:9 And out of the ground Jehovah God caused to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, as well as the tree of life in the middle of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
Num 17:1 Then Jehovah spoke to Moses, saying,
Num 17:2 Speak to the children of Israel, and take from them rods, one for each father's house, twelve rods from all their leaders according to their fathers' houses; you shall write everyone's name upon his rod.
Num 17:3 And you shall write Aaron's name upon the rod of Levi, for there shall be one rod for the head of each of their fathers' houses.
Num 17:4 And you shall place them in the Tent of Meeting before the Testimony, where I meet with you.
Num 17:5 And the rod of the man whom I choose shall bud, and I will put a stop to the murmurings of the children of Israel against Me, which they murmur against you.

- Num 17:6 So Moses spoke to the children of Israel. And every one of their leaders gave him a rod, one rod for each leader according to their fathers' houses, twelve rods, with the rod of Aaron among their rods.
- Num 17:7 And Moses placed the rods before Jehovah in the Tent of the Testimony.
- Num 17:8 And on the next day Moses went into the Tent of the Testimony, and there was the rod of Aaron for the house of Levi: it had budded; it even put forth buds and produced blossoms and bore ripe almonds.
2. The proper way to work for God is to represent God—Exo. 7:1-2.
- Exo 7:1 And Jehovah said to Moses, See, I have made you God to Pharaoh; and Aaron your brother will be your prophet.
- Exo 7:2 You shall speak all that I command you, and Aaron your brother shall speak to Pharaoh, that he let the children of Israel go out of his land.
- G. If we are one with God, constituted with God, live God, express God, move with God, and represent God, we can function as the acting God:
1. God is able to make us the same as He is in life, nature, expression, and function to carry out His economy—Col. 3:4; 2 Pet. 1:4; Eph. 3:9.
- Col 3:4 When Christ our life is manifested, then you also will be manifested with Him in glory.
- 2 Pet 1:4 Through which He has granted to us precious and exceedingly great promises that through these you might become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption which is in the world by lust.
- Eph 3:9 And to enlighten all that they may see what the economy of the mystery is, which throughout the ages has been hidden in God, who created all things,
2. In his ministry Elisha the prophet, as a man of God, behaved himself as God's representative, as the acting God; today we, the believers in Christ, can be the same, functioning in His economy as the acting God—2 Kings 4:9; 1 Tim. 6:11; 2 Tim. 3:17.
- 2 Kings 4:9 And she said to her husband, Now I know that this man who continually passes through unto us is a holy man of God.
- 1 Tim 6:11 But you, O man of God, flee these things, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, meekness.
- 2 Tim 3:17 That the man of God may be complete, fully equipped for every good work.