

Making Room for Growth

The story begins with a simple but significant problem: the place where the prophets were living had become too small. Because of the growth of their community, they needed to expand—to build something larger to accommodate the work of God in their midst.

This passage reminds us that growth requires change. When God begins to work in our lives—whether spiritually, in ministry, or even in personal areas—there often comes a time when we outgrow where we are.

Application:

- Recognizing the Need for Growth – Just like the prophets saw that their space was too small, we need to regularly evaluate where we are in our faith and ask: *Have I outgrown my current level of spiritual maturity? Do I need to step out in faith to make room for more of what God wants to do?*
- Willingness to Work for It – The young prophets didn’t just sit around and hope for a bigger place; they took action. They gathered materials and prepared to build. Sometimes, growth requires effort, sacrifice, and a willingness to step into something new.
- Seeking God’s Guidance in the Process – Before they began their work, they sought Elisha’s approval and presence. Likewise, before making big decisions or stepping into new seasons, we should seek God’s direction and ask for His presence to go with us.

As we walk with God, there will be times when He calls us to leave behind the old and build something new—whether that’s in our personal faith, ministry, relationships, or calling. The question is: Are we willing to make room for what God wants to do?

2 Kings 6:4-7 – God Cares About the Little Things

As the prophets were busy working, an axhead flew off its handle and sank into the river. This may seem like a small problem compared to other miracles in Scripture, but to the young man using it, it was a big deal. The ax was borrowed, and now it was lost in the water. He was distressed—not just because he lost a tool, but because it didn’t belong to him.

Elisha, instead of ignoring the situation as unimportant, responded with a miracle. He threw a stick into the river, and against all logic, the heavy iron floated to the surface. The young man was then able to retrieve what was lost.

Application:

- God Cares About the Details of Our Lives – This wasn’t a national crisis, a battle, or a famine—it was just a lost axhead. But God still intervened. Sometimes we hesitate to pray about “small” problems, thinking they aren’t important enough. But if it matters to us, it matters to God. Nothing is too small for His care.

- Restoration is Possible – The axhead was lost, and by human logic, it was gone for good. But God specializes in bringing back what seems lost—whether it’s a dream, a relationship, or a sense of purpose. If we trust Him, He can restore what we thought was irretrievable.
- Borrowed Blessings Require Responsibility – The young man was concerned because the ax wasn’t his. Similarly, everything we have—our time, talents, resources—belongs to God. We are just stewards. Are we handling what He has entrusted to us with care and faithfulness?
- Faith Requires Action – Notice that after the axhead floated, Elisha didn’t reach in and grab it for the man. He said, *“Pick it up for yourself”* (v.7). God provides, but we must take hold of what He offers. Are we stepping out in faith to receive what He is making available to us?

This simple miracle serves as a reminder that God is active in every aspect of our lives—not just in big, dramatic moments but also in the everyday struggles we face. He is present, He provides, and He restores. Will we trust Him, even in the small things?

2 Kings 6:8-10 – God’s Guidance in Spiritual Battles

Israel was facing constant surprise attacks from the Arameans. The enemy king, Ben-Hadad, was strategically planning raids, assuming that his moves were hidden and unpredictable. However, God was one step ahead. He revealed the enemy’s plans to Elisha, who in turn warned the king of Israel. Because of this divine insight, the enemy’s attacks were repeatedly frustrated.

This passage highlights a powerful truth: God sees what we cannot see. He knows the enemy’s schemes, the traps ahead, and the battles forming against us. When we stay connected to Him, He can guide us, warn us, and protect us from unseen dangers.

Application:

- God Reveals Hidden Dangers – Just as God revealed the enemy’s location to Elisha, He can reveal spiritual traps, unhealthy relationships, or wrong decisions before they harm us. Are we seeking His guidance before making decisions?
- Spiritual Warfare is Real – The enemy still tries to launch "surprise attacks" on believers today—through temptations, discouragement, or deception. But God provides spiritual discernment and protection to those who listen. Are we staying alert and relying on God’s wisdom?
- Obedience Leads to Protection – The king of Israel could have ignored Elisha’s warnings, but he checked them, found them true, and acted accordingly. God may be warning us about certain habits, influences, or paths—are we listening and adjusting our course?
- The Enemy is Frustrated When We Follow God – Every time Elisha revealed the enemy’s plans, their attack failed. In the same way, when we walk in obedience and wisdom, the enemy’s plans against us lose their power.

This passage reminds us that God is our ultimate protector and strategist. If we seek Him, He will give us the wisdom, discernment, and direction we need to navigate life's challenges. Are we trusting Him to guide our steps?

2 Kings 6:11-14 – The Enemy's Response to God's Work in Our Lives

Ben-Hadad, frustrated that every one of his military plans was being exposed, assumed there must be a traitor among his ranks. But his officers informed him that it wasn't espionage—it was Elisha. The prophet of God was receiving supernatural knowledge, even of the king's private conversations.

Instead of recognizing this as evidence of God's power, Ben-Hadad made a foolish decision—he ordered an entire army to capture one man. He sent horses, chariots, and soldiers to surround Elisha in Dothan under the cover of night, believing that a surprise attack would work—even though Elisha had already proven that he knew what was happening in secret.

Application:

- **The Enemy Attacks When We Walk in God's Power** – When we follow God and stand for truth, opposition will come. Just as Elisha became the primary target because he was disrupting the enemy's plans, we too become targets when we actively follow Christ. Are we prepared for spiritual resistance when we take a stand for God?
- **God Sees What Others Cannot** – The enemy's plans against Elisha were hidden, yet they were fully known to God. In the same way, no attack, scheme, or deception against us is beyond God's awareness and control. Do we trust Him to protect us even when we feel surrounded?
- **People Often Reject the Evidence of God's Power** – Ben-Hadad should have realized that Elisha's knowledge was proof of God's reality. Instead, he doubled down on his efforts to defeat God's prophet. Many people today reject clear evidence of God's work because they don't want to submit to His authority. Are we willing to recognize and trust God's hand even when it challenges our plans?
- **We Cannot Fight Spiritual Battles with Human Strength** – Ben-Hadad thought a physical army could defeat a spiritual servant of God. But Elisha's strength wasn't in military power—it was in his relationship with the Almighty God. When we face opposition, do we try to fight in our own strength, or do we rely on prayer, faith, and God's wisdom?

This passage reminds us that walking with God will attract opposition, but we don't have to fear. Just as Elisha was never truly in danger—because God was in control—so too, we are safe in God's hands no matter what comes against us. Will we trust Him even when we feel surrounded?

2 Kings 6:15-17 – Seeing with Eyes of Faith

Elisha's servant woke up early, expecting a normal day, but instead, he saw something terrifying—the city was surrounded by the enemy army. Fear gripped him, and he panicked, crying out to Elisha, *"What shall we do?"* (v.15).

Elisha, however, remained calm and confident. He knew something his servant didn't: the enemy wasn't in control—God was. Instead of reacting with fear, he reassured his servant, saying, *"Do not be afraid, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them."* (v.16).

Then Elisha prayed, *"Lord, open his eyes so he may see."* And suddenly, the servant's spiritual eyes were opened. He saw God's army of fiery chariots and horses surrounding the enemy. The truth had been there all along—he just couldn't see it until God revealed it.

Application:

- **Fear Comes When We Focus on the Enemy Instead of God** – The servant panicked because he was looking at the problem instead of the presence of God. When we focus on our difficulties—financial struggles, health issues, opposition—it's easy to feel overwhelmed. But Elisha reminds us: God's power is always greater than the problem. Are we looking at the battle or at the God who fights for us?
- **Faith Sees What Fear Cannot** – The servant thought they were outnumbered, but in reality, God's forces were far greater. The problem wasn't that God's army wasn't there—it was that the servant couldn't see it. Sometimes, we assume God is absent in our trials simply because we don't see His work. Are we trusting in what we see, or in God's unseen hand?
- **Pray for Open Eyes** – Elisha didn't just tell his servant the truth—he prayed for his eyes to be opened. There are times when we need God to open our spiritual eyes so we can see His presence, His provision, and His protection. Instead of asking God to remove every difficulty, maybe we need to pray: "Lord, open my eyes to see what You are doing in this situation."
- **We Are Never Alone** – The enemy surrounded the city, but God had already surrounded the enemy. No matter how trapped we feel, God has already positioned His help around us. Do we trust that He is fighting for us, even when we don't see it yet?

This passage teaches us to walk by faith, not by sight (2 Corinthians 5:7). No matter what surrounds us—fear, hardship, or opposition—God's presence is greater. Instead of saying, *"What shall we do?"* let's say, "Lord, open my eyes to see that You are already here."

Practical Application from 2 Kings 6:18-20 – Trusting God's Strategies Over Our Own

The Aramean army came to capture Elisha, but he wasn't worried. Instead of panicking or trying to fight in his own strength, Elisha used a divinely revealed strategy—he prayed for God to blind the enemy. With their vision impaired, the soldiers became vulnerable and easy to lead. Elisha then guided them unknowingly to Samaria, where their eyes were reopened, and they realized they were surrounded and helpless.

This passage highlights a powerful truth: God's strategies always outmatch the enemy's plans. Instead of a bloody battle, God resolved the situation peacefully, using wisdom, faith, and divine intervention.

Practical Applications:

1. **God's Ways Are Higher Than Ours** – Elisha didn't rely on human strength or military tactics; he trusted God's supernatural solution. Sometimes, we want to fight our battles in our own way, but God often has a better, more effective plan. Are we willing to trust His strategy instead of our own?
2. **Prayer is Our First Line of Defense** – When the enemy came, Elisha's first move was prayer. He didn't react with fear; he responded with faith. Instead of fighting harder, he prayed smarter. When we face opposition—whether it's conflict, stress, or spiritual warfare—is prayer our first instinct or our last resort?
3. **God Can Change the Course of Our Enemies** – The Arameans thought they were in control, but God redirected them without them even realizing it. Similarly, God can change the hearts of those who oppose us, lead people in unexpected ways, and turn situations around without unnecessary struggle. Instead of forcing our way through challenges, are we trusting God to move hearts and circumstances?
4. **Spiritual Blindness vs. Spiritual Sight** – The Arameans were physically blinded, but many today walk in spiritual blindness, unaware of how close they are to danger, deception, or destruction. Just as God opened their eyes at the right time, He can open the eyes of those who are lost, misled, or in opposition to the truth. Are we praying for God to open the eyes of those who need His guidance?
5. **Victory Without Violence** – The situation could have ended in a deadly battle, but because of God's intervention, no blood was shed. This reminds us that not every battle needs to be fought in the way we expect. Sometimes, humility, wisdom, and divine guidance can accomplish more than confrontation.

This passage teaches us that when we trust God's wisdom, pray first, and rely on His strategies, we can see victories without unnecessary struggle. Instead of fighting in our own strength, let's ask, "Lord, what is Your strategy for this battle?"

2 Kings 6:21-23 – Responding to Opposition with God's Wisdom

When the enemy army was captured and delivered into the hands of Israel's king, Joram was overwhelmed. His first instinct was to destroy them. It was a rare moment of victory, and his reaction was typical: *"Shall I kill them, my father? Shall I kill them?"* (v.21).

But Elisha's response was surprising—instead of death, he instructed the king to show them kindness. Instead of executing the prisoners, Elisha told Joram to feed them. The result? Instead of further conflict, the Arameans stopped their attacks on Israel—for a time.

This story teaches us a powerful lesson about how to handle opposition, conflict, and even our personal enemies.

Personal Applications:

1. Resist Reacting in Anger or Revenge – Joram’s first instinct was destruction, but Elisha taught him a higher way—a way of wisdom, restraint, and trust in God’s sovereignty. When we feel attacked—whether at work, in relationships, or in life—do we react with anger and a desire to retaliate, or do we seek God’s wisdom in responding?
2. Kindness Can Disarm the Enemy – Instead of meeting hostility with more hostility, Israel responded with kindness, and it resulted in peace. Proverbs 25:21-22 echoes this idea: *“If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat; and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink. For you will heap coals of fire on his head, and the Lord will reward you.”* When we extend unexpected kindness, it can change hearts, end conflicts, and reveal God’s love in ways that arguments or aggression never could.
3. Trust God’s Power Over the Enemy – The feast wasn’t just an act of kindness—it was an act of faith. By feeding the Arameans, Israel demonstrated that they weren’t afraid. They trusted that God—not their swords—was their true defense. When we are faced with challenges, conflicts, or opposition, do we trust that God is our defender, or do we try to take control ourselves?
4. Hospitality and Peace Go Hand-in-Hand – In ancient times, sharing a meal was a sign of making peace. Relationships were restored through acts of hospitality. How often do we use simple acts of kindness—like sharing a meal, offering help, or showing patience—to build bridges instead of walls?
5. God’s Ways are Higher than Ours – Joram thought the best strategy was elimination, but God had a better plan. Instead of a short-term victory through bloodshed, God secured a long-term peace through kindness. Are we willing to trust that God’s ways—no matter how counterintuitive they seem—are always best?

This passage challenges us to respond to opposition with wisdom, not emotion. It reminds us that our greatest defense is not revenge, but faith in God. Instead of asking, *“How can I defeat my enemies?”* maybe we should be asking, *“How can I reflect God’s character in this situation?”*

2 Kings 6:24-25 – When We Ignore God’s Warnings

Despite God’s previous intervention, Israel refused to turn back to Him. So, a more severe trial came—a full-blown siege on Samaria. This time, Ben-Hadad didn’t just send raiding parties; he surrounded the city, cutting off food and resources. The result? Extreme famine and desperation.

People were so desperate that they paid exorbitant prices for food that was normally worthless or even unclean. The situation was unbearable, yet Israel still refused to cry out to God.

Personal Application:

1. Ignoring God’s Warnings Leads to Harder Lessons – Israel had multiple chances to turn back to God, but they ignored Him. Instead of responding to His grace, they had to learn through hardship. How often do we delay obedience or ignore God’s promptings, only to find

ourselves in harder circumstances later? Are we listening to His warnings now, or are we waiting for things to get worse?

2. **Spiritual Starvation is Worse than Physical Famine** – The famine in Samaria was physical, but it reflected a deeper spiritual famine. They were starving physically because they were already starving spiritually. In the same way, when we neglect time with God, we may not immediately see the consequences—but over time, our faith weakens, our joy fades, and our peace disappears. Are we spiritually feeding ourselves daily, or are we starving without realizing it?
3. **Sin and Rebellion Can Lead to Desperation** – The people of Samaria were so desperate they were willing to pay huge amounts for something normally worthless. In the same way, when we drift from God, we start investing in things that won't satisfy—empty relationships, addictive behaviors, unhealthy ambitions. Are we seeking fulfillment in the right place, or are we chasing after things that will never satisfy?
4. **God Allows Hardships to Bring Us Back to Him** – This famine was not random; it was a wake-up call. God doesn't send difficulties to punish us, but to draw us back to Him. Are we turning to Him in our struggles, or are we still trying to fix things on our own?
5. **Will We Surrender or Keep Resisting?** – Israel had a choice: turn back to God or keep resisting. We face the same choice when we go through hard times. Are we using difficulties as an opportunity to trust God, or are we becoming bitter and distant from Him?

This passage is a reminder that God wants to lead us, but He won't force us. If we don't respond to His gentle correction, we may face more difficult lessons. Instead of waiting until we are spiritually starving, let's turn to Him now—seeking His provision, wisdom, and grace before desperation sets in.

2 Kings 6:26-27 – Where Do We Turn in Times of Crisis?

As the famine in Samaria worsened, a desperate woman cried out to King Joram for help. His response? Frustration, sarcasm, and helplessness. *"Where can I get help for you? From the threshing floor? From the winepress?"* (v.27). He knew he had no resources to fix the crisis, yet instead of humbling himself before God, he was angry with God for allowing the situation in the first place.

This moment reveals a deeper truth: When people reject God, they eventually find themselves in situations where human solutions aren't enough.

Personal Application:

1. **Human Resources Are Limited—God's Are Not** – Joram was looking at his own lack of resources, rather than turning to the One who could actually help. How often do we do the same? When facing challenges, do we first try to fix things ourselves, or do we immediately turn to God for wisdom and provision?

2. Frustration with God Often Comes from Avoiding Him – Joram was angry at God, yet he had never sought Him in the first place. Many times, when life becomes overwhelming, people blame God instead of turning to Him. Are we harboring bitterness toward God for situations that could actually be drawing us back to Him?
3. We Must Acknowledge Our Need for God – Joram's response was essentially, "*I can't help you.*" He was right about that—only God could intervene. A key part of spiritual maturity is realizing that we are not self-sufficient. True peace comes when we stop relying on our own strength and start trusting God. Are we willing to surrender our pride and admit that we need Him?
4. Crisis Reveals Where We Put Our Trust – This famine exposed Joram's lack of faith. Instead of seeking God, he responded with cynicism and sarcasm. Difficult seasons reveal what we truly depend on—ourselves, our resources, or God. When we face hardship, do we respond with faith or frustration?
5. God Uses Desperation to Draw Us Closer – Sometimes, we only truly seek God when we have no other options. Instead of waiting until we're at rock bottom, why not turn to Him now? Are we trusting God only as a last resort, or is He our first source of help?

This passage challenges us to examine our hearts. When we're in a crisis, do we react like Joram—frustrated and blaming God—or do we turn to Him in faith and surrender? God is our provider, but we must be willing to seek Him.

2 Kings 6:28-31 – When Crisis Reveals the Heart

King Joram was already frustrated and helpless due to the famine and siege, but when he heard how desperate the people had become—resorting to cannibalism—he was devastated. He tore his robes, revealing sackcloth underneath, a symbol of mourning and repentance. But his repentance was only outward. Instead of humbling himself before God, he shifted the blame to Elisha, swearing to kill the prophet instead of dealing with his own responsibility for Israel's condition.

This passage reveals a common human tendency—when faced with the consequences of our own choices, we often look for someone to blame instead of looking inward.

Personal Application:

1. Hardships Reveal What's in Our Hearts – The famine exposed not just the desperation of the people, but also Joram's spiritual condition. He wore sackcloth, but it didn't change his heart. Likewise, when we face difficulties, they can reveal whether our faith is real or just for show. Do we truly trust God, or do we just go through religious motions?
2. False Repentance vs. True Surrender – Joram looked repentant on the outside, but he never turned back to God. True repentance isn't just about wearing sackcloth—it's about changing direction and surrendering to God. When we face the consequences of our actions, do we truly turn to God, or do we just feel sorry for ourselves?

3. **Blaming Others Won't Fix the Problem** – Instead of acknowledging that his own leadership and Israel's sin had led to this disaster, Joram blamed Elisha, the messenger of God. When life gets hard, do we blame others, blame God, or take responsibility for our own choices?
4. **God's Messengers Are Often Rejected** – Elisha was simply declaring God's truth, yet Joram wanted him dead. Many times, people reject God's truth because it exposes their hearts. When we are confronted with conviction—through the Bible, through a sermon, or even through another believer—do we humbly receive it, or do we get defensive?
5. **Turning to God Before We Hit Rock Bottom** – The people of Israel were literally starving before Joram even considered turning to God. How often do we wait until we are desperate before seeking Him? Instead of waiting until we have no other options, why not seek Him first?

This passage is a powerful reminder that crisis reveals character. When hardships come, will we turn to God in humility, or will we respond with anger and blame? True repentance isn't about outward appearances—it's about surrendering our hearts to Him.

2 Kings 6:32 – Recognizing God's Answer Instead of Rejecting It

Elisha was meeting with the elders—likely discussing what could be done about the desperate situation in Samaria—when God revealed to him that the king had sent someone to kill him. Joram, instead of seeking wisdom from God's prophet, saw Elisha as the problem rather than the solution. But Elisha wasn't afraid; he instructed the elders to bar the door, buying time until the king himself arrived. More importantly, Elisha was about to announce a prophecy of deliverance—a reminder that God was already at work, even when things seemed hopeless.

Personal Application:

1. **When We Reject God's Truth, We Reject Our Own Help** – Joram saw Elisha as the enemy, but in reality, Elisha was the only one with the answer to the crisis. Sometimes, we do the same—we push away godly counsel, ignore the Bible's wisdom, or resist conviction when it's exactly what we need most. Are we rejecting what God is trying to use to help us?
2. **God Can Give Us Peace in the Face of Opposition** – Elisha wasn't frantic or afraid when he heard that an executioner was coming—he remained calm and confident because he trusted God's control over the situation. When we face attacks, betrayals, or unfair treatment, do we react in fear or trust that God is still in charge?
3. **Spiritual Blindness Can Lead to Foolish Decisions** – Joram was so spiritually blind that he wanted to kill the only person who could give him answers. This is a reminder that when we allow anger, bitterness, or frustration to control us, we often make impulsive, destructive choices. Are we responding to hardship with faith and wisdom, or frustration and rash decisions?
4. **God's Deliverance is Often Closer Than We Think** – While Joram was ready to execute Elisha, Elisha was about to announce that God was already bringing deliverance. The king was on

the verge of breakthrough but was too blinded by frustration to see it. How often do we give up or react badly when God is about to move?

5. We Must Be Willing to Wait for God's Timing – Elisha's instruction to bar the door wasn't out of fear—it was about waiting for the right moment. Sometimes, we want to act too quickly out of fear or frustration, but wisdom calls us to wait on God's timing. Are we willing to pause and trust that God is working, even when we feel pressured?

This passage challenges us to trust God's process, seek His wisdom, and not let frustration blind us to the answers He's already providing. When life gets overwhelming, will we lash out in anger, or will we wait and listen for what God is about to do?

Personal Application from 2 Kings 6:33 – Trusting God's Timing Instead of Taking Matters Into Our Own Hands

When King Joram arrived, his frustration boiled over. "Why should I wait for the Lord any longer?" he asked Elisha. He had been told to trust God for deliverance, but because it hadn't come as quickly as he wanted, he was ready to take matters into his own hands. Instead of responding with faith, he acted in disobedience—once again failing to trust that God was in control.

This is a common struggle for many of us: What do we do when we feel like God is taking too long?

Personal Application:

1. Faith Requires Waiting – Joram's impatience led him to question God's timing. How often do we pray for something—a breakthrough, a change, an answer—but when it doesn't happen fast enough, we start doubting, complaining, or forcing our own solutions? Waiting on God is an act of faith, not passivity.
2. God's Silence Doesn't Mean He's Absent – Just because Joram didn't see immediate results didn't mean God wasn't at work. The same is true for us. God is always moving behind the scenes, even when we don't see it yet. Are we trusting in His unseen work, or are we only relying on what we can see?
3. Impatience Can Lead to Disobedience – Joram was told to hold on and wait for God's deliverance, but he got tired of waiting and decided to do things his own way. How often do we do the same? God tells us to trust Him in our finances, relationships, career decisions—but when we don't see quick results, we take shortcuts or make rash decisions.
4. Difficulties Should Drive Us Closer to God, Not Further Away – Joram admitted that the famine and siege were from God, but instead of humbling himself and repenting, he became angry and rebelled. When hardships come, do we draw nearer to God, or do we become bitter and push Him away?
5. God's Deliverance Comes in His Time, Not Ours – Joram was moments away from Elisha announcing God's miraculous deliverance (2 Kings 7:1), but he almost missed it because of his impatience. How often do we give up right before God is about to move?

This passage reminds us that waiting on God isn't about doing nothing—it's about trusting that He is working, even when we don't understand. Instead of asking, "*Why should I wait for the Lord?*", we should declare, "I will trust in the Lord's timing, because His ways are always better than mine."