

C R E D O

Exploring The Christian Faith



Intro

- In some ways a departure from our study.
- In other ways it is not.
- HS who creates is redeeming his creation, and will see it to until all things are made new.
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- Systematic Theology as a spider web

Wachet Auf!

2 Kings 6

⁸ Now the king of Aram was at war with Israel. After conferring with his officers, he said, “I will set up my camp in such and such a place.”

2 Kings 6

⁹ The man of God sent word to the king of Israel: “Beware of passing that place, because the Arameans are going down there.” ¹⁰ So the king of Israel checked on the place indicated by the man of God. Time and again Elisha warned the king, so that he was on his guard in such places.

2 Kings 6

¹¹ This enraged the king of Aram. He summoned his officers and demanded of them, “Tell me! Which of us is on the side of the king of Israel?”

2 Kings 6

¹² “None of us, my lord the king,” said one of his officers, “but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the very words you speak in your bedroom.”

2 Kings 6

¹³ “Go, find out where he is,” the king ordered, “so I can send men and capture him.” The report came back: “He is in Dothan.”

2 Kings 6

¹⁴ Then he sent horses and chariots and a strong force there. They went by night and surrounded the city.

2 Kings 6

¹⁵ When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early the next morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. “Oh no, my lord! What shall we do?” the servant asked.

2 Kings 6

¹⁶ “Don’t be afraid,” the prophet answered.
“Those who are with us are more than those
who are with them.”

2 Kings 6

¹⁷ And Elisha prayed, “Open his eyes, LORD, so that he may see.” Then the LORD opened the servant’s eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

2 Kings 6

¹⁸ As the enemy came down toward him, Elisha prayed to the LORD, “Strike this army with blindness.” So he struck them with blindness, as Elisha had asked.

2 Kings 6

¹⁹ Elisha told them, “This is not the road and this is not the city. Follow me, and I will lead you to the man you are looking for.” And he led them to Samaria.

2 Kings 6

²⁰ After they entered the city, Elisha said, “LORD, open the eyes of these men so they can see.” Then the LORD opened their eyes and they looked, and there they were, inside Samaria.

Eyes open

- To see the clock
- Last days?

Last Days

Acts 2

¹⁶ No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

¹⁷ “**In the last days**, God says,
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,
your young men will see visions,
your old men will dream dreams.

Last Days

Hebrews 1

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe.

Eyes open

- To the Spiritual Realm Around Us
- And war that rages everywhere

Eyes Open

Great dangers in life:

1. ignorance of the spiritual realm and the battle that rages

2 Kings 6

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C. S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

One of the things that surprised me when I first read the New Testament seriously was that it talked so much about a Dark Power in the universe—a mighty evil spirit who was held to be the Power behind death and disease, and sin.

C. S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

The difference is that Christianity thinks this Dark Power was created by God, and was good when he was created, and went wrong. Christianity agrees with Dualism that this universe is at war. But it does not think this is a war between independent powers. It thinks it is a civil war, a rebellion, and that we are living in a part of the universe occupied by the rebel.

C. S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

Enemy-occupied territory—that is what this world is. Christianity is the story of how the rightful king has landed, you might say landed in disguise, and is calling us all to take part in a great campaign of sabotage.

Skye Jethani, *The Road We Must Travel*

“Here's the core problem we have with the Sermon on the Mount: it isn't that Jesus' teachings are absurd; it's that we don't see the world that Jesus sees.

Skylar Jethani, *The Road We Must Travel*

We see a world of injustice and anger and hatred and violence--a world where everything good is in short supply and life itself is fragile.

Skye Jethani, *The Road We Must Travel*

But Jesus saw a world in which his father was in control, in which justice was guaranteed, in which goodness was breaking forth, and in which life itself is without end.

Skye Jethani, *The Road We Must Travel*

And if you see that world through the lens of the gospel, then what Jesus tells us to do and how he informs us to live makes perfect sense.”

How did Elisha know?

- He had his eyes opened.

Eyes Open

Great dangers in life:

1. ignorance of the spiritual realm and the battle that rages
2. once you are aware of the battle don't get confused about the enemy

- Not politicians, economic systems,
-
- Discernment - Test the Spirits

I John 4

Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

1 John 4

² This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God,

1 John 4

³ but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.

- Reminder that in last days – Spirit of Antichrist is already in the world.
- The point here is discern the spirits.

Eyes open

to needs around us

Eyes open

to needs around us

- Elisha knew that his servant needed a touch from God.
- Who has God put in your life that needs a touch from God?
- What did Elisha do? Nothing, he asked God to do something.

- You can't be a true follower of Jesus and be ignorant or unmoved of the needs of a world that is being ravaged by this spiritual war.

If we are in a battle with forces greater than us that we cannot even see, how do we live?

- with our eyes WIDE OPENED.
 - TO THE CLOCK
 - Wisdom
 - TO THE SPIRITUAL REALM AND WAR
 - We are neither ignorant of the spiritual realm around us nor are we distracted by getting the enemy wrong.
 - Discernment
 - Battle
 - By the power of the HS, we live in Faithfulness, Perseverance, and TRUST

Trust

⁴ You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.

Trust

- You say,
- I get it, but I'm terrified.
- Worry about this being the End
- trust for that God will see us through

- Not just trust for that God will see us through
- But trust for those we love.
- Pray for your loved ones who seem far from God.
- Trust in God's mercy.
- You love _____ more.
- Trust God for those you love.

Title

- BUT THIS MESSAGE IS NOT JUST CALLED EYES OPENED
- Wachet Auf?

John 4

³⁵ Don't you have a saying, 'It's still four months until harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest.

Open Your Eyes and Get to Work

Transition

- Say something about worship set
- Now praise (new song)
- Anchored in the future
- Forever