

## THE HEALING OF WATER

We don't normally think of water when we think of Divine Healing. Elisha had performed the parting of the Jordan earlier in the presence of the sons of the prophets (2 Kings 2:13-15).

But the healing of the water of Jericho was the first public miracle performed by Elisha:

(2 Kings 2:19) "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.'"

**QUESTION:** Why did the water of Jericho need healing?

**This lesson will study five aspects of the Healing of the Waters of Jericho as the first public miracle of the prophet Elisha.**

### **1. The fact that the water of Jericho needed divine healing infers that it must have been cursed.**

The curse of the water of Jericho could have come from three different sources.

- One possibility could be Joshua pronouncing a curse upon Jericho during the Conquest (Josh.6:27-28).
- A second possibility could be a curse associated with Elijah during the reign of King Ahab (1 Kings 17:1; James 5:17-18).
- A third possibility could be part of the cycles of divine discipline upon the priest-nation of Israel (Deut.28:15-19, 23-24; Lev.26:3-5, 18-19).

### **2. Many believe that the second and third possibilities fit the period for the healing of the water of Jericho.**

King Ahab mounted an attack upon shadow Christology teachings within the priest-nation of Israel. He replaced it with the idolatrous phallic cult religion (1 Kings 16:30-34; **18:13**; 21:25-26).

(1 Kings 16:33) "So he erected an altar for Baal in the house of Baal, which he built in Samaria. And Ahab also made the Asherah. Thus **Ahab did more to provoke the Lord God of Israel than all the kings of Israel** who were before him."

(1 Kings 21:25) "Surely there was no one like Ahab who sold himself to do evil in the sight of the Lord, because Jezebel his wife incited him. And he acted very abominably in following idols, according to all the Amorites had done, whom the Lord cast out before the sons of Israel."

### **3. However, the curse of Joshua also seems to fit the period of King Ahab.**

(1 Kings 16:33-34) "And Ahab also made the Asherah. Thus Ahab did more to provoke the Lord of Israel than all the kings of Israel who were before him. In his days **Hiel the Bethelite built Jericho**; he laid its foundations with the loss of his youngest son Segub, **according to the word of the Lord, which He spoke by Joshua** the son of Nun."

(Josh.6:26-27) “Then **Joshua** made them take an oath at that time, saying, ‘**cursed before the Lord** is the man who rises up and builds this city Jericho; with the loss of his firstborn he shall lay its foundation, and with the loss of his youngest son he shall set its gates.’”

Since we are not told in our lesson text what the source of the bad water of Jericho, it remains speculative to the Bible student. But these are three possibilities based on the word of God.

**4. But this is what we know - the water of Jericho was bad, the land unfruitful, caused death, and required divine healing.**

We also know that Elisha performed a spiritual ceremony over the bad water of Jericho.

(2 Kings 2:20-21) “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.’”

The Hebrew word for **purified** is rapha (niphil impf). [Rapha means to be healed]

The **new jar, salt, and word of Lord** were ceremonial ingredients used in this divine healing. The thing that these three have in common is sacrificial offerings of Shadow Christology. (NOTE: Search our Website Database under Subject: “Christology, Shadow” for more information on the subject)

**5. A Covenant of salt was involved with Shadow Christology.**

(Ezek.43:18-24) “Every grain offering of yours, moreover, you shall season with salt, so that **the salt of the covenant** of your God shall not be lacking from your grain offerings you shall offer salt.” (Lev.2:13; Num.18:19; 2 Chron.13:5)

(Heb.9:13-14) “For if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling those who have been defiled, sanctify for the cleansing of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God.”

Elisha made the point that it was **the Lord** that healed the water of Jericho (I have purified these waters).

In this way, Elisha taught the people their sins could be forgiven in Christ in spite of their reversionism.

(2 Kings 13:23) “But the Lord was gracious to them and had compassion on them and turned to them because of His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and would not destroy them or cast them from His presence until now.”

Believers in Jesus Christ are called the salt of the earth.

(Matt.5:13) [Fifth cycle of discipline] “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.”

(Mark 9:50) “Salt is good; but if the salt becomes unsalted, with what will you make it salty again? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.”

**WILL YOU BELIEVE THAT THE LORD WANTS TO HEAL  
THE TROUBLED WATERS IN YOUR LIFE?**