

How should this event compared with other scriptures **listed below shape your prayers?**

Isaiah 19:21,22.

Psalm 107:12,13

Psalm 107: 27,28

Psalm 83:1,2,5,6, 7,8—15-18.

Prayer list:

The many millions of American young people being indoctrinated by modern campus life.

What should we pray for those indoctrinating the young people?

What would a revived church look like?

How great must the world to come be if “the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us”?

Have you prayed for boldness to witness?

Wath the documentary on YOU TUBE *Seattle Is Dying*

Mockers Sensationally Restrained: II Kings 2:19-25

This incident took place at Bethel after the great blessing of miraculously freshened water at Jericho. Contrast Elijah's 1st miracle with Elisha's 1st miracle.

Together with the city of Dan, Bethel had become the settled residence of the Idol worship introduced by Jeroboam. Jeroboam's religious/political policy was carefully thought through to effect the permanent separation of the northern ten tribes from Judah.

The golden calf worship instituted by Jeroboam was designed and carefully implemented “to annihilate all desire in his subjects after the Temple worship (JESUS CHRIST) of Jerusalem.” Note I Kings 12:25-28....these be thy gods....

Alas, for the repeating of such schemes: deviant worship attracts teaming masses.

Context: “And as he went up from thence (Jericho) unto Bethel....”

This stunning incident is no contradiction to the numerous testimonies in the scriptures about God's kind regard for children and young adults.

“Now therefore, do not be mockers, Lest your bonds be made strong; For I have heard from the Lord of Hosts, A destruction determined even upon the whole earth” (Isaiah 28:22).

I. Marvel at the contradiction of mockers forsaking their own mercy.

“Those who serve worthless idols forfeit the grace that was theirs.”
Jonah 2:9

A. Elisha approaches the city obviously deep in lively thought: “**..up from there...**” From Jericho with its healed waters. From its elated people. Fresh from the blessing of God with power and grace.

1. Elisha is more than a spiritual person with strong opinions.
2. Elisha is the embodiment of a new institution in Israel. He is the authoritative spiritual head of 10 tribes of Israel.
3. As he approaches Bethel to bless and recover what can be recovered of the city, it was already known what manner of man he was: ELIJAH'S SUCCESSOR.
4. Our version says "little children" but the words also signify *young people*.

B. These young people are products of idolatry—they have been bathed in it, basted in it, immersed in it.

1. These outbursts are not mere youthful indiscretions.
2. They are the belching out of evil malignity—spiteful malice.
3. Estimate "the world" correctly.

"The world cannot tolerate our separation from themselves, or that we should rise above their standard of moral excellence. They require us courteously to follow in their track, to adopt their thoughts and sentiments, and copy their actions, and if we only comply, we secure their favor and friendship. But the moment we show symptoms of desertion, the question of peace is at an end. The reason is obvious. Our departure from their ranks, ... vanities and enjoyments, is a more emphatic condemnation of them, than can possibly be expressed in words." F. W. Krummacher (1796-1868) A German pastor.

4. They came from behind, possibly from other directions also.

"You foul leper. You would-be prophet. We fear thee not. Go up. Go up. Imitate your master's hoax. Follow him through the clouds...etc..."

Such a generation of young people and older people did not disappear at Bethel. They live today.

II. Marvel at the correction of mockers forsaking their own mercy.

"...he turned back *and looked on them...*"

- A. "Cursed them in the name of the LORD..."

"The insolence of his opposers would have been raised to a higher pitch, and might have known no bounds. Doubtless, this was Satan's design—that Elisha's spiritual influence might be put down at once...his work stripped of its glory and his person rendered ridiculous..."

1. **God will vindicate his Gospel and His servants—sooner or later, often very conspicuously.**
2. **Observe the work of alarming destruction well.**

The avengers are fierce. Everything about it points to God's doing. Hunger can't be the reason for the attack. Two such creatures rushing a large band of youths—attacking so many at once, cannot be motivated by hunger. Tearing one victim, then another, then another, then abandoning them all? "Every beast of the field is mine" (Psalm 50:10). God caused it. Compare I Kings 13:28.

3. Do you think this event was talked about in the town of Bethel? How long did the scars on their bodies last?
4. Thus the people rightly feared Elisha and Elisha's God.

III. Marvel at the continuation of mockers forsaking their own mercy: II Timothy 4:14,15

Do things like this still happen? See *The Gospel In Bonds* by GEORGI VINS p.102 ff Pastor Ivan Kravchuk and the Russian Prosecutor.