

Date: 1 March 2020

Speaker: Rev Clement Chew

Topic: Prophets of Fire and Water: The Weeping Prophet

Scripture text: 2 Kings 8:7-15

1. A prophet is a spokesman for God, used by Him to rebuke, encourage and guide God's people in the light of His Word. The heart of a weeping prophet is the kind of heart every Christian should have. There are times to rejoice and times to weep.

2. Hazael, the servant of the king of Syria, went to seek advice from Elisha regarding the king's recovery from a disease. Elisha pronounced that the king will recover, but will surely die without mentioning the cause of death. Elisha then wept because of the untimely death of the king. On many occasions, the king witnessed the power of the LORD and saw the good testimony of Elisha, yet he hardened his heart and rejected salvation in the Lord Jesus Christ. We should weep for those who die without salvation in Christ because their ends are sealed and will face eternal condemnation in the lake of fire.

3. Elisha wept because of Hazael's hardened heart. Elisha prophesied that Hazael will be the next king of Syria and he will wickedly destroy the homes and lives of the Israelites. Instead of seeking the LORD for grace to not commit the inhumane acts, he continued to sin by assassinating the king and reigning in his stead. We should weep for those with hardened hearts and backslidden believers, that the LORD will have mercy upon them.

4. Elisha wept for the children of Israel because he knew the tragedy that would befall them. It was God's righteous judgment upon the Israelites because of their rebellion and idolatry despite receiving God's Word by the prophets. We should pray, love and encourage one another in the Lord and build one another up in the faith.