

*The Battle Between*

# CONTENDING *and* CONTENTMENT





And Elisha said to him (*Jehoash, King of Israel*),  
“Take a bow and some arrows.” So he took himself a  
bow and some arrows. <sup>16</sup> Then he said to the king of  
Israel, “Put your hand on the bow.” So he put his hand  
on it, and Elisha put his hands on the king’s hands.

2 Kings 13:15-16



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And he said, “Open the **east window**”; and he opened it. Then Elisha said, “Shoot”; and he shot. And he said, “The arrow of the Lord’s deliverance and the arrow of deliverance from Syria; for you must strike the Syrians at **Aphek** till you have destroyed them.”

2 Kings 13:17



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Then he said, “Take the arrows”; so he took them. And he said to the king of Israel, “Strike the ground”; so he struck three times, and stopped. <sup>19</sup> And the man of God was angry with him, and said, “You should have struck five or six times; then you would have struck Syria **till you had destroyed it!** But now you will strike Syria only three times.”

2 Kings 13:18-19



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# 3 CATEGORIES OF CHRISTIANS

1. Doing what's right in their own eyes.
2. Doing what they're told.
3. Doing what's pleasing to God.



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# DOING WHAT IS RIGHT IN THEIR OWN EYES

*“He struck three times, and stopped.”*

- Verse 18 -



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# SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE OF APHEK

**‘Aphek’ = fortress or strength**  
*(In Hebrew) representing something  
fortified or unyielding.*



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# THE 'BATTLE OF TWO SYRIAS'

**'Syria' (Aram) = exalted or elevated**  
*(In Hebrew) symbolising pride or self-exaltation.*



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# THE 'BATTLE OF TWO SYRIAS'

- ***External Syria*** – the war on the land
- ***Internal Syria*** – the war within Jehoash's heart





# DOING WHAT THEY'RE TOLD

*“You should have struck 5 or 6 times!”*

- Verse 19 -



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# IS CHRISTIANITY A RELIGION OR A RELATIONSHIP TO YOU?

The Religious will stop at **WHAT** the Bible says; those in a Relationship with Jesus will explore **WHY** He said that.



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# *How Do I Know When to **Contend** and When to **Be Content**?*



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*Contentment becomes  
the **Foundation**  
of your Contending.*



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# DOING WHAT IS PLEASING TO GOD

*“Strike till you have destroyed them!”*

- Verse 17, 19 -



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“CONTENTMENT IS NOT THE ENEMY OF HUNGER.  
IT'S THE FOUNDATION FOR HOLY HUNGER.”



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# 2 REASONS WHY YOU'RE NOT HUNGRY

- You're Full
- You're Dead



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That you may walk worthy of the Lord,  
fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work  
and increasing in the knowledge of God...

Colossians 1:10



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