

chariots of fire around about Elisha.”

In answer to Elisha’s prayer, God opened the servant’s spiritual eyes, and he saw an angelic army with “horses and chariots of

The Great Things That

Hath Done

(II Kings 8:4)

One of the great prophets and miracle-workers of the Bible was Elisha. His ministry after the translation of his master Elijah covered over fifty years, and was marked by mighty evidences of the power of faith in God. Let us let our faith grow as we study what Elisha did.

Lesson #9:
A Miraculous Deliverance

Scripture:
II Kings 6:8-23

Key Verse:
II Kings 6:17
“And Elisha prayed, and said, Lord, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the Lord opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and

At a certain point in time, the Syrian raiding parties mentioned in II Kings 5:2 quit coming into Israel. The story studied in this week’s lesson explains why they “*came no more*” (II Kings 6:23). As we have seen, Syria was an enemy of Israel at this time. We are told in II Kings 6 that the king of Syria was perplexed and angered at how often the king of Israel seemed to anticipate his military movements (vs. 8-12). Finally he was convinced that there must have been a traitor among his close associates who sent word of his orders and plans to the Israelite king. Somebody said then that the king was wrong about this. The prophet Elisha was the source of Israel’s uncanny intelligence information. Through the power of his God, Elisha knew the Syrian king’s plans and told them to Israel’s king (v. 12). The pagan monarch believed this explanation and devised a plan (vs. 13-14). He would send a sizable military detachment to “*fetch*” the prophet. Possibly he was going to keep him as a prisoner of war so that he could no more help his king. Perhaps he was going to try to bribe Elisha into helping Syria. We’ll never know what he was going to do with Elisha, because he never captured him! The story of the prophet’s deliverance from capture is an amazing one with a powerful spiritual lesson.

I. Seeing Safety (II Kings 6:15-17)

It was early in the morning when Elisha’s servant (Gehazi’s replacement) got up and saw the Syrian soldiers that surrounded the town of Dothan where he and the prophet were staying. He ran to Elisha and cried, “*Alas, my master! How shall we do?*” Elisha’s reply was comforting to him and is also a comfort to all of us who belong to the Lord.

“*Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them.*” (verse 16)

This promise from the Lord through His prophet was accompanied by a prayer.

“*Lord, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see.*” (verse 17)

fire” on the mountain next to Dothan. There is an army of angels sent to aid and protect God’s servants. That’s why the Bible calls God “*the Lord of hosts*” (II Kings 3:14). The “*hosts*” are multitudes of angels. Look up Joshua 5:13-15.

“*The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.*” (Psalm 34:7)

“*Bless the Lord, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word. Bless ye the Lord, all ye his hosts; ye ministers of his, that do his pleasure.*” (Psalm 103:20-21)

Hebrews 1 teaches us that angels are created spirit beings that are “*sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation.*” There really were angels around Elisha and his servant, standing guard and ready to protect them from harm. The trouble was that the servant could not *see* them. To see some things, God must open our eyes. For example, Psalm 119:18 gives us a prayer to pray before reading God’s Word.

“*Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.*”

Pray and ask the Lord to open your spiritual eyes to the truths that guarantee your security. Let God make you aware of His love, His salvation, His sovereignty, His presence, and His watchcare. The servant had no reason to fear. He had a promise from God (v. 16), and he had received illumination from God (v. 17). Ask God for illumination (I Corinthians 2:12-16).

II. Seeing Danger (II Kings 6:18-23)

The same prayer Elisha prayed for his servant he later prayed for a troop of Syrians (See v. 20). We need for God to open our eyes for different reasons. The Christian needs to see his safety. The sinner needs to see his danger.

When the Syrians
“*came down*” to
seize Elisha, the
prophet prayed.
“*Smite this people.
...with blindness.*”
Instantly the Lord
answered and they
were all blind (v.
18).

Notes:

Then Elisha did an unusual thing. He spoke to them and urged the whole troop to follow him (v. 19). Blind and bewildered, the Syrian soldiers followed the voice of a man who said he would take them to the prophet. “*But he led them to Samaria,*” the capital city of Israel! When they were all within the city walls, Elisha prayed again.

*“Lord, open the eyes of these men,
that they may see.”* (v. 20)

When their eyes were opened, they saw where they were, captured in their enemies’ stronghold. The wicked Israelite king didn’t know what to do (See v. 21). The prophet told him to feed them and let them go (v. 22). As a result of this incident, the Syrians stopped sending raiding parties (“*the bands of Syria*”) into Israel.

The picture here is of what the Holy Spirit of God does for lost sinners. As sinners, men are spiritually blind.

“If our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.” (II Corinthians 4:3-4)

They need to see their lost condition and admit it before God.

“And Jesus said, For judgment I am come into this world, that they which see not might see; and that they which see might be made blind. And some of the Pharisees which were with him heard these words, and said unto him, Are we blind also? Jesus said unto them, If ye were blind, ye should have no sin: but now ye say, We see; therefore your sin remaineth.” (John 9:39-41)

The Holy Spirit takes the Word of God and opens the eyes of blind sinners to see that they are lost and in need of salvation. Jesus said of the Spirit,

“When he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment. . .”
(John 16:8)

This reproof and enlightenment is called conviction. Have you ever realized that your sins condemn you? You can never be saved until you realize that you are lost. Ask God to open your eyes and led you to Christ.

