

OF WAR & FEAST. 2 KN. 6:13-23. 10/08/23. #13.

.....
¹⁸So he said, "Go and see where he *is*, that I may send and get him." And it was told him, saying, "Surely *he is* in Dothan." ¹⁴Therefore he sent horses and chariots and a great army there, and they came by night and surrounded the city. ¹⁵And when the servant of the man of God arose early and went out, there was an army, surrounding the city with horses and chariots. And his servant said to him, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?" ¹⁶So he answered, "Do not fear, for those who *are* with us *are* more than those who *are* with them." ¹⁷And Elisha prayed, and said, "LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see." Then the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain *was* full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha. ¹⁸So when *the Syrians* came down to him, Elisha prayed to the LORD, and said, "Strike this people, I pray, with blindness." And He struck them with blindness according to the word of Elisha. ¹⁹Now Elisha said to them, "This *is* not the way, nor *is* this the city. Follow me, and I will bring you to the man whom you seek." But he led them to Samaria. ²⁰So it was, when they had come to Samaria, that Elisha said, "LORD, open the eyes of these *men*, that they may see." And the LORD opened their eyes, and they saw; and there *they were*, inside Samaria! ²¹Now when the king of Israel saw them, he said to Elisha, "My father, shall I kill *them*? Shall I kill *them*?" ²²But he answered, "You shall not kill *them*. Would you kill those whom you have taken captive with your sword and your bow? Set food and water before them that they may eat and drink and go to their master." ²³Then he prepared a great feast for them; and after they ate and drank, he sent them away and they went to their master. So the bands of Syrian *raiders* came no more into the land of Israel.
.....

1. Man hunt

- a. Since Elisha was warning the Israelite king where Syria was going to attack, the Syrian king pursued him
 - a1. He wanted to punish Elisha
 - a2. He never figured that a God who reveals secrets can also protect His prophets
- b. Elisha was staying in Dothan (NE of Samaria)
 - a1. Syrian king sent an army to capture him
 - a2. Shows his power & glory
- c. Elisha's servant (not Gehazi) arises early & sees army surrounding Dothan
 - a1. He knows that they are after Elisha
 - a2. He believes the situation is hopeless

2. The army of the Lord

- a. Elisha tells his servant that there are more with them than with Syria
 - a1. He prays for the servant's eyes to be open
 - a2. The hill was full of fiery horses & angels
- b. God surrounds us with ministering spirits (Hb. 1)

- c. At times God uses His angels to protect us
 - a1. Daniel in the lion's den
 - a2. 3 Heb. in the furnace
 - a3. David before Goliath
 - a4. Peter & John released from jail

- d. At times God allows suffering
 - a1. Stephen martyred
 - a2. John the Baptist beheaded
 - a3. James beheaded

- e. In this case, Elisha is protected by God

3. From bounty to banquet

- a. Elisha prays that the army would be blinded (either literally or to the truth)
 - a1. El. tells them that the man they seek is not here, but he will lead them to him
 - a2. They sought Elisha, but ultimately wanted to defeat the king of Israel
- b. El. leads the army to Samaria
 - a1. This is the capital of Israel
 - a2. When God opens the army's eyes, they are surrounded by Israelite troops
- c. Isr. king asks if he should kill the Syrians
 - a1. Notice that the king recognizes Elisha's authority from God, but doesn't submit to God
 - a2. El. asks the king if he would slay men that he had not taken with his sword
- d. El. commands that the king feed the Syrian army
 - a1. A great banquet is set before them
 - a2. To eat with an enemy is to swear an oath of friendship & fellowship to him
 - a3. King of Syria doesn't raid Israel anymore
- e. Again, neither king submits to God
 - a1. Syrian king recognizes God's superiority
 - a2. Syrian king finally realizes he can't win
- f. By receiving the immediate point (I can't beat this God), he missed the greater point (I need to worship this God) that Naaman understood
 - a1. When God shows His power, take note
 - a2. Every man in army should have converted