

Elisha, the Prophet of Grace

9) Overcome Evil With Good

'Now the king of Syria was making war against Israel; and he consulted with his servants, saying, "My camp will be in such and such a place." And the man of God sent to the king of Israel, saying, "Beware that you do not pass this place, for the Syrians are coming down there." Then the king of Israel sent someone to the place of which the man of God had told him. Thus he warned him, and he was watchful there, not just once or twice. Therefore the heart of the king of Syria was greatly troubled by this thing; and he called his servants and said to them, "Will you not show me which of us is for the king of Israel?" And one of his servants said, "None, my lord, O king; but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the words that you speak in your bedroom." So 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"'

(2 Kings 6:8-13)

- ✓ Elisha gave the king of Israel information, which was divinely revealed to him, about his enemies intentions
- ✓ And the king of Israel checked it out for himself and saved himself there, 'not once nor twice'
- ✓ The warnings of God's Word are not idle ones, whether to the saved or the unsaved
 -
 - ✓ But we need to learn from the example of the king here; follow no preacher blindly, *'Test all things; hold fast what is good'* (1 Thes.5:21)

- ✓ **The king of Syria thought one of his men was a traitor. However, there was not a Judas in the camp, but a God in Israel**
- ✓ **Once he knew that it was Elisha who was revealing his whereabouts he sent to deal with him**

'Therefore he sent horses and chariots and a great army there, and they came by night and surrounded the city. And 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?" So he answered,

"Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them."

And 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'

(2 Kings 6:14-17)

- ✓ **When Elisha's servant saw the horses and chariots and a great army surrounding their city, he was naturally afraid**
- ✓ **Elisha did not pray for God to change the situation; but that his servant could see the reality of the situation**
- ✓ **It seemed unbelievable to him that there were more with them than against them. He could not see anyone who was with Elisha and him**
- ✓ **Faith is not imagining unreal things. *'Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen'* (Heb.11:1), not seen but promised by God**

- ✓ **When his eyes were opened he saw the horses and the chariots of fire**
- ✓ **When a person is blind to spiritual realities, only God can open their eyes. He may do it through the words someone speaks, but only He can do it**
- ✓ **Angels are God's soldiers sent to guard His people**
- ✓ **They are called 'the host of heaven', the Greek word means 'soldiers' or, 'men of war'. Jesus reminded His disciples that 'more than twelve legions of angels' were at His disposal (Matt.26:53)**
- ✓ **There were two hosts around Dothan that day. Mahanaim = two camps**

When his eyes were opened he saw that there were more with them than with their enemies

'He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world' (1 John 4:4)

'The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? When the wicked came against me to eat up my flesh, my enemies and foes, they stumbled and fell. Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war should rise against me, in this will I be confident' (Psa.27:3)

'I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people who have set themselves against me all around' (Psa.3:6)

- ✓ **The host of angels was in the form of fiery horses and chariots, which were encamped around Elisha, ready to fight for him, 'The chariots of God are twenty thousand, even thousands of thousands' (Psa.68:17)**
- ✓ **They are many and they are mighty. One is called 'the destroyer' (Ex.12:23), while another slew 185,000 Assyrians in a night**
- ✓ **Their operations continue in this Christian era, 'Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?' (Heb.1:14). See Acts 12:7-10**
- ✓ **They will continue with us until we leave this life, then escort us to Paradise, Luke 16:22**

'So 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. Now 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. So 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! Now when the king of Israel saw them, he said to Elisha, "My father, shall I kill them? Shall I kill them?" But 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." Then 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'

(2 Kings 6:18-23)

***Elisha prayed that the Syrians might be smitten with blindness. Compare Gen.19:11. Not with a total blindness, that they could see nothing, for then they would not have followed him; but with a partial blindness**

***However, he led them back to Samaria where the king of Israel was**

***Instead of killing these enemy soldiers, Elisha told the king of Israel to treat them with kindness**

***This is grace. 'Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good' (Rom.12:21)**

***'Overcome' is a war word. It means to defeat. Evil will either overcome us or we will overcome it. Darkness is not overcome with darkness, but light. Light overcomes darkness because it has more power. Good is more powerful than evil**

***Christians are not pacifists. We must fight evil and overcome it. There is nothing passive about the cross. Jesus didn't have His life taken from Him, He laid it down. In doing so He laid hold upon the most powerful weapon, good, and with it He overcame evil**

***The weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but spiritual and mighty through God**

****'Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. Therefore "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head"' (Rom.12:19-20)***

***Hot coals poured on his head is not revenge. It is a warfare tactic**

***This is God's own method for subduing His enemies. Rom.2:4; 5:8&10. The gospel was preached first in Jerusalem, where Jesus was crucified**

***Discover a legitimate need in that person's life, and meet it**