

## LORD OPEN HIS EYES

2 Kings 6:17

17 And Elisha prayed, "O LORD, open his eyes so that he may see." Then the LORD opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all round Elisha.

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### **King of Aram at war.**

This king worshipped Rimmon the Aramean demonic god of War. He king had become like the demon he worshipped - hungry for land and people to honour him. Wanting to kill and destroy.

The king onferred with officers. He was organised as are principalities powers described in Ephesians 6.

**The king set up camp.** Targeted a particular place and in particular a leader in a position of influence. Satanic powers target all Christians but in particular denominational leaders, church leaders, housegroup leaders.

**The targeted leader was in touch with the prophetic** even though he wasn't one himself. We need the prophetic in the church. We need those who prophesy to move into the ministry of seeing the moves of the enemy, bringing warning and guiding the leadership into the ways of God and the leadership may not necessarily ever have such a ministry.

**Beware of passing that place.** Flee from the very appearance of evil. We need to watch the places we pass. Certain places are the very places that Satan has set up camp with a view to entrapping the unwary. Just passing by can be accompanied by the invite "just come in and look". Satan has numerous guises.

1     **The accuser.** You're no good God can't use you God doesn't love you. You made a mistake and now you're in the wrong place. He whispers thoughts and then accuses "How could you think such things?" Watch out for the invitation to listen to those things squeezed into your mind by the accuser.

2     **The father of lies.** Don't stop by at the place where we pick up

the whisper of an untrue message designed to catch our ears but intended to deceive and bring hurt .Did you know about so and so? He loves to spread rumours and falsehood about other Christian intending to hurt and divide.

3 **Angel of light.** Satan disguises himself as such. The false cults. Basically anything innocent which in the final analysis takes our eye and desire away from Jesus is probably initiated by the demonic in angelic disguise.

**King of Aram enraged.** The fact is God is mightier and will always be one step ahead. God knew the very things that the king of Aram didn't want his troops to know and saying it quietly wouldn't help. **He didn't succeed in getting the leader so he went for the prophet- Elisha.** That's the danger in being a prophet. They were stoned in the OT when people didn't like the message. Why he thought he could get the prophet when he couldn't get the king I don't know.

**Then he sent his horses and chariots and a strong force to Dothan.** An overkill? An army for one man. Like Jesus in Gethsemane. Is Satan really that afraid? It seems so. We have been given authority over him and he takes it seriously.

**Went by night.** Some unpleasant things happened by night. Judas betrayed Jesus by night. Peter denied Jesus by night. The darkness hides things. God knows that night can hold terrors but He says **we should not be afraid of the terror by night. Ps 91:5**

**As the enemy came down.** Things now change from a distant involvement to direct confrontation between the prophet Elisha and the people driven by orders from the source of evil. Jesus knew the faceless voice of Satan in the wilderness tempting Him but eventually came face to face with people driven by Satan's hatred for him. "If You are the Son of God come down off the cross." He faced opposition almost daily from people. Moses and Aaron did in Egypt and Paul had an incident with Elymas the sorcerer.

**The servant got up.** He looked out and saw the soldiers. Watch mornings. We can be vulnerable at such times. It is easier to take us by surprise when we first wake. Fear can take hold easily when we are vulnerable. Our waking thoughts can affect our day. Police will do a dawn raid when they want to use the element of surprise. It's good to focus on God ASAP in the morning. So:-

**Elisha prayed.** He goes on the offensive and prays in the face of danger. Things which are familiar can soon lose their value in our estimation. Prayer can get like that. Elisha could have said, "Its no good praying we need to **do** something here" Sometimes prayer is our only hope. It's just that He has chosen to work that way.

**The servant sees.** With his natural eyes opened he saw the visible human world of danger. When his eyes of faith opened, he saw the unseen world safety. Look, says Elisha, those who are for them are greater than those against. The angels of God camp around those that fear Him and He delivers them. Ps 41:2. Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world. That doesn't mean there won't be a fight. Resisting the devil is a scriptural act but it is a fight to do it. Fight the good fight of faith really is what it says.

**Strike these people with blindness.** Now it's down to how we deal with people who come against us because of our faith.

**First, Elisha wished them no harm.** They were men under orders and had to obey. They may not even of understood what they did. **“Father forgive for they know not what they do”**. Sometimes people used by Satan have just have had a bad time or may not be feeling well. They may not be fully aware of our circumstances but without realising it are being used by Satan to say and do mean things.

**Second Elisha did not raise his voice and argue.** If he had have done so, many people could have been hurt. He prayed that God would so something in the circumstances to make them see things differently.

**Third Elisha demonstrated the love of God to them.** He did that by feeding his enemies thereby causing the bands of Aram to stop raiding the territory of Israel. That is something which can be hard to do but, as it is an act expected of us as Christians - and bearing in mind that God is our ever present help, it isn't something which is impossible.

The net result was peace for the people of God and a situation similar to that experienced by Jesus after the temptation in the wilderness where Satan left Him for a season and angels ministered to Him.