

Calvary Chapel of Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY  
TEACHER'S PACKET

3rd - 5th Grade

Sunday Morning

Study 14

*The Syrian Army Blinded*

# The Syrian Army Blinded

The Objective is the key concept for this week's lesson. It should be the main focus of the study.

These are the key verses that you will find helpful in teaching your study this week. The "Main passage" is the basis of the study, where the other verses support the objective of the lesson.

There is a memory verse for the students that relates to every study. If a student can memorize the verse for the following week you may give them a prize from the "reward box" found on your cart.

An introductory activity or question that will settle the class, draw their attention to the study and prepare their hearts for God's Word.

**Objective** To teach the students that there is always more happening around us than we can see and as we have opportunity, we should love our enemies.

## Key Verses

2 Kings 6:8-23—Main Teaching Passage

Psalms 27:3

Romans 12:20-21

Matthew 5:43-48

**Memory Verse** - Romans 12:21

"Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."

## Hook

Review last week's memory verse, Ephesians 2:8-9.

Ask the students to make some observations about the room (e.g. the lights are on, the door is open, the walls are painted white, etc.) Then ask if there are things about this room they *can't* see (e.g. electricity flowing through the wiring keeping those lights on, radio waves traveling through the room, etc.)

There are many realities in this life that we can't see. One of those is angels. As we will see today, God is working in many unseen ways all the time.

What does the Bible say? This is where we will read a passage or series of passages that teach on the subject of the day.

# BOOK

As we saw last week when we learned about Naaman, the Syrians had been going out on raids and taking Israelites as captives. In our study today, the King of Syria was sending out more raiding parties to Israel, but every time he did, Elisha warned the king of Israel and the raid failed. The King of Syria thought there must be a traitor in his army, but he was told that it was because of the prophet Elisha, who knew about the king's plans even when they were made in secret. So the king sent an army to get Elisha, who was in the city of Dothan.

Elisha's young servant woke up one morning to find Dothan surrounded by the Syrian army. Afraid, he asked Elisha, "What are we going to do?" But Elisha told him not to be afraid, because those who were with them were more than those who were against them. He then prayed for the young man's eyes to be opened, and they were! He saw an army of fiery horses and chariots covering the mountain. Elisha then prayed for God to blind the Syrian army, and He did.

Elisha called out to the army, helpless in their blindness, and led them straight to the king of Israel. After the army's long and dark march, Elisha prayed for their eyes to be opened. The King of Israel asked if he could kill these captives, but Elisha instructed him not. Instead, Elisha told the king to feed them and send them back to their king. So they ate a feast and returned to Syria, never to raid Israel again.

The interpretation/  
exegesis of the passage.  
What does this passage  
mean? How does this  
passage apply to my  
life?

# LOOK

Today's story gives us an interesting look into the spiritual realm that is all around us, though most often unseen. We may not think of angels often, but they are all around us, active participants in the war against the evil one. We don't know too much about specific angels. Only three are named in the Bible: Michael the archangel, Gabriel, and Lucifer, who fell from heaven. But the reality is there are many angels. Jesus Himself said He could have asked for over 12 legions of angels to come to His aid. These are the fiery warriors we see in today's story, surrounding the prophet of God. I am curious to get to heaven and learn how much of what has happened or not happened in my life had to do with angels.

As Psalm 46 tells us, our God is the LORD of hosts, and even if He did not have legions of angels faithfully serving Him, if God is for us, who can be against us? Everyone on the planet could have surrounded Elisha, and the outcome would have been the same. God is not troubled by numbers. The less likely it seems that His followers will be saved, the more glory He receives in rescuing them. Like the Israelites pinned against the Red Sea, or the disciples in the storm, God is able to do what seems impossible. His presence makes all the difference. A very present help in times of trouble.

# LOOK (Continued)

What happens next also teaches us a valuable lesson. Elisha led the army that came to imprison him to the King of Israel, and instead of having them killed, he tells the King Joram to give them food and drink before they return home. Proverbs tells us to feed our enemies when they are hungry and give them water to drink when they are thirsty, because this will heap coals of fire on their head. Paul adds after quoting that Proverb, “Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”

This is the exact opposite of what comes naturally to us. It doesn't seem to even make sense! Be kind to the people who are mean to me? No way! But this is exactly what God did for us. While we were still sinners (God's enemies) Christ died for the ungodly. When we are kind to our enemies, it shows them that God is real. That God loves them even though they are sinners. We can't do this in our own strength, we need God to fill our hearts with His love for the people who are mean to us. We may not always get an opportunity to feed them when they are hungry, or give them something to drink when they are thirsty, but we can always love them by praying for them (Matthew 5:43-48).

What is my response to this passage of Scripture? How should my life change according to what this passage teaches me? What are the practical things I can do throughout the week to make this true in my life?

# TOOK

As a class, memorize Romans 12:21.

**Pray:** Thank God for being in control and ask for help to trust Him, especially when we get overwhelmed. Ask Him to give you His love for your enemies.

**Parent Question:** How does God want you to love your enemies?

# FURTHER STUDY

## Commentary on 2 Kings 6:8-23 by David Guzik

B. God protects Elisha from the Syrians.

1. ([2Ki 6:8-13](#)) The king of Syria plots the capture of Elisha.

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.”

a. **And the man of God sent to the King of Israel:** Elisha did not support the corrupt monarchs of Israel, but he knew that it was even worse for Israel to be conquered and subjugated under Syria. Therefore, he gave the **King of Israel** information from divinely inspired espionage.

i. “A more sensible king, Jehoram, now sits on the throne of Ahab, and the prophet of the Lord is no longer a dreaded antagonist, but the king’s trusted counselor. Elijah was a fugitive constantly on the run from a wrathful king, but now Elisha is a welcome visitor in Jehoram’s court.” (Dilday)

b. **Will you not show me which of us is for the king of Israel?** The King of Syria was naturally mystified by the way the King of Israel knew all of Syria’s plans beforehand. He was convinced there was a traitor among them until one servant revealed that **Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel**, knew and revealed these things.

2. ([2Ki 6:14-17](#)) Elisha sees his invisible, spiritual protection.

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.

a. **Alas, my master! What shall we do?** When Elisha’s servant saw the **horses and chariots and a great army** surrounding their city, he was naturally afraid. He knew that there was little chance of escaping or surviving an attack from so many.

b. **Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them:** This seemed unbe-

lievable to Elisha's servant. He saw the **horses**, the **chariots**, and the **great army** surrounding them. He could not see *anyone* who was **with** himself and Elisha.

i. We also notice that Elisha gave his servant a *reason* to **not fear**. This was not empty hope or wishful thinking; it was a real *reason* for confidence, even if the servant could not see it.

c. **Lord, I pray, open his eyes that he may see**: Elisha did not pray that God would change anything in the situation. His only request was that his servant could actually *see* the reality of the situation. Yet, Elisha also did not try to persuade the servant of the reality of **those who are with us**. The servant could not have this explained to him nor could he be persuaded into it. He had to **see** it.

d. **Then the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw**: God answered Elisha's prayer. When a person is blind to spiritual reality, only God can open their eyes. God may do it through the words someone speaks, but the work of spiritually opening eyes is spiritual work and belongs to God alone.

e. **And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha**: When his eyes were opened, the servant saw the reality that he could not see before. He saw that there really were more with him and Elisha than those assembled against them.

i. The previous lack of perception on the part of Elisha's servant did not make the reality of the spiritual army any less real. If there are 50 people who do not see something, it doesn't invalidate the perception of one who *does* see.

ii. "Faith is never the imagining of unreal things. It is the grip of things which cannot be demonstrated to the senses, but which are real. The chariots of horses and fire were actually there." (Morgan)

iii. "That you have not perceived spiritual things is true; but it is no proof that there are none to perceive. The whole case is like that of the Irishman who tried to upset evidence by non-evidence. Four witnesses saw him commit a murder. He pleaded that he was not guilty, and wished to establish his innocence by producing forty persons who did not see him do it. Of what use would that have been? So, if forty people declare that there is no power of the Holy Ghost going with the word, this only proves that the forty people do not know what others do know." (Charles Spurgeon, *Three Sights Worth Seeing*)

iv. **Horses and chariots** were the most sophisticated and mighty military instruments of the day. But the invisible army of God had literally more firepower than the horses and chariots of the Syrians. The spiritual army had **chariots of fire all around Elisha**.

v. "If our eyes were opened, we should see the angel-hosts as an encircling fence of fire; but whether we see them or not, they are certainly there." (Meyer)

3. ([2Ki 6:18-23](#)) The blinded Syrians are led to Samaria.

**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.**

a. **Strike this people, I pray, with blindness:** The Syrian soldiers could not see the spiritual army, so they did not hesitate to approach Elisha. But just as he previously prayed that God would give sight to his servant, he then asked God to **strike this people... with blindness**. God answered this prayer; just as He previously answered the prayer to give perception to the servant.

i. This shows us that God may grant sight or send blindness, according to His wisdom and in response to the prayers of His people.

ii. “Not with a total blindness, that they could see nothing, for then they would not have followed him; but with a partial blindness, that they could not distinctly discern the man they sought; which might be by some alteration made by God in their brain, or in the air.” (Poole)

b. **Follow me, and I will bring you to the man whom you seek:** Here Elisha told a technical truth but certainly intended to deceive. He did in fact bring them to the man they sought (when their eyes were opened, Elisha was there with them). However, he led them back to Samaria – the capital city of the Kingdom of Israel and an unfriendly place for a group of Syrian soldiers.

i. Yet, the Elisha’s gentle deception demonstrates a principle: *the blind are easily deceived*. Those who are spiritually blind should appreciate that they can be easily deceived regarding spiritual things.

c. **You shall not kill them:** Instead of killing these enemy soldiers, Elisha instead commanded the King of Israel to treat them with kindness and generosity. This practice of answering evil with good successfully changed the policy of free-lance raiders from Syria (**So the bands of Syrian raiders came no more into the land of Israel**).