

BOOK OF 2 KINGS
HOW SHALL WE DO?
2 KINGS 6:8-23

I. WE SEE A WAR GOING ON BETWEEN SYRIA AND ISRAEL.

A. The King Of Syria Counseled And Planned With His Servants! (Vs 8)

No doubt they had some good war plans as war plans go!

But all the plans in the world combined with all the armament in the world are not enough to overcome the counsel of the LORD!

B. Elisha, Who Was Privy To The King Of Syria's Plans, Shared That Plan With The King Of Israel. (Vs 9)

Now how did that happen? Did Elisha have mole (i.e. a traitor) planted in the Syrian army? No! He didn't have to!

Elisha had something better than a mole! He had the LORD God revealing to him what Syria was going to do! **The absolute best counsel is that which comes from the LORD!**

Amos 3:7—"Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets."

Understand that Jehoram (a/k/a Joram) the wicked son of Ahab is still the King of Israel here at this time.

So, why was the LORD helping wicked Joram and Israel? I believe it was for the same reason that the LORD helped Ahab! **It was for the LORD's own glory to be revealed unto Joram and Israel even though Joram refused to acknowledge the LORD!**

C. The King Of Israel Profited From The Information Elisha Shared! (Vs 10)

It makes for a better war when you have some "inside" information!

The better the source the better the information!

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You can't get a better source than the LORD God!

Listen, we'll do better in the spiritual war we find ourselves in if we listen to God's inside information that he has given to us in His Word! (Ephesians 6:10ff)

D. The Heart Of The King Of Syria Was "Sore Troubled" About This Because He Thought He Had A Mole In His Midst! (Vs 11)

Can you imagine! Thinking you have a traitor in your midst that is sharing all of your plans with the enemy! That would have been very troubling indeed!

E. The Servants Of The King Of Syria Told Him That Elisha Was The One Sharing His Secret Plans With The King Of Israel. (Vs 12)

Now, how they knew that we are not told. But think with me, Elisha's fame had, no doubt, spread far and wide after the healing of Naaman, who was the captain of the host of Syria!

Naaman was convinced that Elisha had the LORD's ear!

F. The King Of Syria Sent Spies Out To Figure Out Where Elisha Was For The Purpose Of Fetching Him! (Vs 13)

I do believe he had some sinister plans of what to do with Elisha once he fetched (i.e. captured) him. But we're not told.

The spies figured out that Elisha was in Dothan, which was a town about twelve miles due north of Samaria.

G. Once He Located Where Elisha Was, He Sent A Large Number From His Army Secretly By Night And Surrounded The City With Horses, Chariots And Soldiers! (Vs 14)

Now, with Elisha knowing all of his plans, did he really think that the LORD wouldn't reveal **THIS PLAN** to Elisha?

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II. **WE SEE ELISHA’S SERVANT GOT UP EARLY AND STEPPED OUTSIDE AND SAW THEY WERE SURROUNDED!** (Vs 15)

What he saw terrified him! Just put yourself in his shoes! He and Elisha were completely surrounded by the Syrian army with no apparent way out! It appeared to the servant to be a hopeless situation!

The servant ran to Elisha and said, “*Alas, my master! How shall we do?*” In other words he was saying, “*What are we going to do?*”

All he could see was the Syrian army. His heart and his mind were filled with negative thoughts because of what he saw in the circumstances they faced. “*What are we going to do?*”

III. **WE SEE ELISHA MAKE A STATEMENT THAT PROBABLY PUZZLED HIS SERVANT!** (Vs 16)

The servant was looking with only his physical eyes. What the servant did not see was what the Prophet of God could see through his spiritual eyes! Elisha saw God’s glorious provision that was already in place!

IV. **WE SEE ELISHA PRAYED!** (Vs 17a)

Elisha prayed for the LORD to open the eyes of his servant that he might see what Elisha saw!

It took the LORD opening the eyes of Elisha’s servant for him to see what was already there! Elisha couldn’t get him to see it! It took God!

There is no such thing as a hopeless situation when you have the LORD! Because, with the LORD in your life, there is always hope! (e.g. *Hebrew Children facing the fiery furnace; Daniel and the lions.*)

There are provisions of God that some folks just can’t see or don’t see that are available for every desperate situation of life!

God is still at work today. We need our eyes opened to the glorious and mighty workings of God in and around us!

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When our eyes are opened to God’s glorious provision it will drive away our fear and it will strengthen our faith!

There is a lot more to life than what we see with our physical eyes! Things are not always what they seem to be!

We can look at things with our physical eyes and let the circumstances of life get us down, discouraged, and even desperate sometimes. We end up thinking that there is no hope and fearfully ask, “*What are we going to do?*”

What we really need is to have our Spiritual vision renewed and see things through the eyes of God! That is, we need to see things from God’s perspective rather than from our perspective!

When we don’t have a spiritual vision or when we lose our spiritual vision of the things of God, our outlook can be dim!

However, when God opens our eyes and we begin to see things from His perspective, we can realize we are better off than we ever could dream!

V. **WE SEE WHAT THE LORD HAD REVEALED TO ELISHA AND THEN TO ELISHA’S SERVANT!** (Vs 17b)

The LORD had His hedge of protection around Elisha!

Psalm 34:7–“The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.”

Job was hedged in by God before the LORD lifted it for His purposes! **Job 1:9-11**–“9 Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought? 10 *Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land. 11 But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face.*”

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Abraham knew of the LORD's hedge in his life!

Genesis 15:1—*“Fear not, Abram: **I am thy shield**, and thy exceeding great reward.”*

Israel knew it as they fled from Pharaoh. **Exodus 14:19-20**
(i.e. The pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night)

David knew it as he faced Goliath, Saul, Absalom, and other enemies.
Psalm 3:3—*But thou, O LORD, art a shield for me; my glory, and the lifter up of mine head.*

Psalm 5:11-12—*“But let all those that put their trust in thee rejoice: let them ever shout for joy, because thou defendest them: let them also that love thy name be joyful in thee. For thou, LORD, wilt bless the righteous; with favour wilt thou compass him as with a shield.”*

And here we see it again! Don't you know that had to be an awesome sight! A mountain full of horses and chariots of fire round about them!

What Elisha had said in **verse 16** was true!

VI. WE SEE HOW THEY DID! (Vs 18)

Elisha prayed again for the LORD to strike this contingent from the Syrian king blind! And the LORD did!

Look at **verses 19-20** as we see Elisha led them on a twelve mile journey to Samaria! That's right, Elisha was in Dothan and he led these soldiers to Samaria!

Look at **verses 21-23** as we see the final result of this venture!

In much the same way that Elisha prayed to the LORD for his servant's eyes to be opened, **I pray that the LORD might open our eyes today to see the things that we need to see by faith!**