

Title: Lord, Open our Eyes
Text: 2 Kings 6: 13-17
Date: March 28, 2021
Place: SGBC, New Jersey

Elisha the prophet is a type of Christ. In verses 8-12, Elisha the prophet knew the words of the enemy king of Syria which the enemy king spoke in his bedchamber. So he warned the king of Israel and saved him from the enemy king. Christ knows all the thoughts of every sinner. He protects his people from every enemy.

2 Kings 6: 8: Then the king of Syria warred against Israel, and took counsel with his servants, saying, In such and such a place *shall be* my camp. 9: And the man of God sent unto the king of Israel, saying, Beware that thou pass not such a place; for thither the Syrians are come down. 10: And the king of Israel sent to the place which the man of God told him and warned him of, and saved himself there, not once nor twice. 11: Therefore the heart of the king of Syria was sore troubled for this thing; and he called his servants, and said unto them, Will ye not shew me which of us *is* for the king of Israel? 12: And one of his servants said, None, my lord, O king: but Elisha, the prophet that *is* in Israel, telleth the king of Israel the words that thou speakest in thy bedchamber.

In verses 13-17, when the king of Syria sent a great host to surround Elisha and his men, Elisha's servant was afraid at the great host. The servant typifies us who believe on Christ. Elisha prayed for the LORD to open the servant's eyes. Christ intercedes with the Father and sends the Holy Spirit to open our eye of faith. When the LORD opened the servant's eyes he saw a great host of angels ready to protect them. Christ goes forth on his white horse with a great host of angels always protecting his people.

2 Kings 6: 13: And he said, Go and spy where he *is*, that I may send and fetch him. And it was told him, saying, Behold, *he is* in Dothan. 14 Therefore sent he thither horses, and chariots, and a great host: and they came by night, and compassed the city about. 15 And when the servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, behold, an host compassed the city both with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! how shall we do? 16 And he answered, Fear not: for they that *be* with us *are* more than they that *be* with them. 17 And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain *was* full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.

Then in verses 18-23 Elisha prayed to the LORD to blind the enemy. Having blinded them then Elisha led them to Samaria and opened their eyes. But rather than slay them he provided the captives bread and water. They were content and went to their master and left Israel alone from then on. Christ blinds our enemies and leads them away in order to protect his people. Christ even provides earthly things for our enemies making them content. So Christ sends them away so that they leave his people alone.

Notice the place where this occurred is "*Dothan.*" It means "two wells" or "double feast."

Proposition: What the enemy means as defeat to God's people, God turns into a double feast for his child, a double blessing from wells of salvation: one, Christ proves to us Christ is our Protector our intercessor providing for us continually, two, as he does so he increases our faith to see what no carnal eye can see.

Divisions: 1) The danger of natural sight; 2) The value of spiritual sight; 3) Spiritual sight is the gift of God

THE DANGER OF NATURAL SIGHT

2 Kings 6: 15: And when the servant of the man of God [the servant of Elisha] was risen early, and gone forth, behold, an host compassed the city both with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! how shall we do?

This young man was a servant of Elisha. All those born of the Spirit are servants of Christ. He arose early ready to do whatever needed to be done in the service of the Lord. But then he saw the enemy with his natural eye. Immediately his faith turned to unbelief. His zeal wilted into inactivity. This young man's fear of God turned into a fear of man. He cried, "Alas, my master! how shall we do?"

We are sometimes discouraged by carnal sight. Natural sight sees the danger but not the deliverance. But what appears to our physical sight as impossibilities are ways God has ordained to show his people that Christ is our Prophet, Priest and King, our Salvation, our Defender and our full Provision. We see our sin and all these enemies within make us doubt. Unbelief causes us to fear. But faith beholds Christ and hears the law speak for us, not against us.

Moses was a type of the law of God satisfied by Christ. Joshua means Jesus—he was a type of Christ. Moses (the law) bore witness that Joshua (Christ) must and would deliver the children of Israel into Canaan. The satisfied law of God says to every believer what Moses said,

Deuteronomy 31: 6: Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, he *it is* that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. 7: And Moses called unto Joshua, and said unto him in the sight of all Israel, Be strong and of a good courage: for thou must go with this people unto the land which the LORD hath sworn unto their fathers to give them; and thou shalt cause them to inherit it.⁸ And the LORD, he *it is* that doth go before thee; he will be with thee, he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed.

Christ satisfied justice for his people. Therefore, justice bears witness that Christ shall protect and lead and deliver all his blood-bought saints. The covenant of God declares Christ shall not and must not lose one.

THE VALUE OF FAITH OUR SPIRITUAL SIGHT

2 King 6: 16: And [Elisha] answered, Fear not: for they that *be* with us *are* more than they that *be* with them.

One thing this young believer did which was the best thing, he called for his Master. When in doubt call on Christ. Like Elisha, Christ teaches us to fear not. He declares the unseen things only faith beholds—*they that be with us are more than they that be with them*. This was great trouble to the young believer. But his trouble was light compared to what the servant was given faith to behold. So the apostle Paul declares that our afflictions are working for us.

2 Corinthians 4: 17: For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding *and* eternal weight of glory; 18: While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen *are* temporal; but the things which are not seen *are* eternal.

The only way we see God's glory is by faith. The Lord Jesus told Martha "If ye believe ye shall see the glory of the Lord." Hebrews 11 gives us a great cloud of witness who saw God's glory by faith. Notice, they did not know or see the things God would do beforehand. They obeyed by faith and later saw.

Hebrews 11: 7 By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.

Hebrews 11: 8: By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.

Hebrews 11: 32: And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and *of* Barak, and *of* Samson, and *of* Jephthae; *of* David also, and Samuel, and *of* the prophets: 33: Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, 34 Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.

Looking at Elisha as a fellow believer, we see that through faith we are able to comfort our fearful brethren as Elisha comforted this young believer, "*Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them*." " By faith, Elisha's confidence was the same as the apostle John when he wrote,

1 John 4: 4: Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

“*Ye are of God, little children.*” That is a good combination: almighty God our Father and we, his little children. Ye are of God, little children—chosen of God the Father in Christ unto salvation. Redeemed by our victorious Redeemer to that in Christ we have already overcome all our enemies.

Isaiah 40: 1: Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. 2: Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the LORD’S hand double for all her sins.

To the young believer’s physical sight it looked like God’s people were sheep ready for slaughter.

Romans 8: 36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. 37 [But faith said] Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

Our consolation is that all the enemies of God’s people are God’s enemies. Elisha said, “*Fear not*”—fear not men, fear not carnal weapons, fear not any enemy—fear God.

Psalms 56: 3: What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee. 4: In God I will praise his word, in God I have put my trust; I will not fear what flesh can do unto me.

We do not underestimate the power of the devil, sin or this world—but our Redeemer is greater than all.

Isaiah 8: 13: Sanctify the LORD of hosts himself; and *let him be* your fear, and *let him be* your dread. 14: And he shall be for a sanctuary; but for a stone of stumbling to the enemy

God has provided his elect righteousness in Christ his Son—Christ delivered us from the power of sin, Satan, death, judgment, and hell. Therefore Christ our Lord promises full provision and security in this earth by his mighty hand till he brings us home.

John 10: 28: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any *man* pluck them out of my hand. 29: My Father, which gave *them* me, is greater than all; and no *man* is able to pluck *them* out of my Father’s hand. 30: I and *my* Father are one.

We see in Elisha how brethren need brethren! When we are unbelieving and fearful God provides brethren who he has strengthened in faith to remind us “Fear not there are more with us than with the enemy.” When Ammon and Moab came up against Judah, Jehoshaphat strengthened his brethren like Elisha.

2 Chronicles 20: 15: And he said, Hearken ye, all Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem, and thou king Jehoshaphat, Thus saith the LORD unto you, Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle *is* not yours, but God’s....17: Ye shall not *need* to fight in this *battle*: set yourselves, stand ye *still*, and see the salvation of the LORD with you, O Judah and Jerusalem: fear not, nor be dismayed; to morrow go out against them: for the LORD *will be* with you....20: And they rose early in the morning, and went forth into the wilderness of Tekoa: and as they went forth, Jehoshaphat stood and said, Hear me, O Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem; Believe in the LORD your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper.

Not only did God give them victory, they were three days gathering the spoil of riches and precious jewels. They called it the Valley of Blessing—for there they blessed the Lord for giving them the victory. Brethren, Christ has given us the victory and from now throughout eternity we shall be gathering the spoils of his victory. We are in the valley of blessing in Christ. So David declares,

Psalms 46: 1: God *is* our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. 2: Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; 3: *Though* the waters thereof roar *and* be troubled, *though* the mountains shake with the swelling thereof. Selah.

ONLY GOD GIVES SPIRITUAL SIGHT

2 Kings 6: 17: And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain *was* full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.

Christ intercedes for his people to God our Father and by the Holy Spirit he opens our eyes—only God can do so. He increases our faith to see things as they really are.

Psalm 119: 18: Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.

We desire to behold more of God's redemptive glory in Christ. Moses prayed,

Exodus 33: 18...I beseech thee, shew me thy glory.

Christ came to give sight to the blind—when he has given us faith, we are not presumptuous as the Pharisee's who thought they saw.

John 9:41: Jesus said unto them, If ye were blind, ye should have no sin: but now ye say, We see; therefore your sin remaineth.

But having experienced the new birth, we know spiritual things are seen only by spiritual sight and only God can give us faith to see "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." (John 3: 3) So we depend upon our great Prophet because only God can increase our faith—we pray, "Lord, "I believe, help thou mine unbelief."

By his grace, the LORD shall open the eyes of his people, "*And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.*" When God strengthens faith to behold Christ high and lifted up we see that God is greater than every enemy and obstacle in our way. Right now God has us surrounded with his holy angels. Christ is our Refuge, our Stronghold, a very present help in trouble and his chariots of fire are round about!

Believer, God only puts enemies in our path so he might give us the victory and grow us in faith to trust him more. Christ promises his blood-bought child, "*Because I live, ye shall live also.*"

Isaiah 49: 16: Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of *my* hands; thy walls *are* continually before me.

Isaiah 60: 18: Violence shall no more be heard in thy land, wasting nor destruction within thy borders; but thou shalt call thy walls Salvation, and thy gates Praise.

Romans 8: 31: What shall we then say to these things? If God *be* for us, who *can be* against us?

King David sometimes was overcome with unbelief and prayed for God to open his eyes. But when God did so, he wrote,

Psalm 23: 3: He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. 4: Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou *art* with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. 5: Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. 6: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

Who can describe the riches of believing the Lord's goodness and mercy are truly following us all the days of our life! Poverty! What poverty! Enemies! What enemies! He uses our unbelief to show us without Christ we can do nothing then opens our eyes of faith to assure us

Philippians 4: 13: I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

Our seasons of unbelief does not change God's grace toward those he has given faith. Hagar's well in the desert was there the whole time, even when she could not see it (Gen. 21:19). So Christ our Deliverer is there all the time. When he opens our eyes then shall we *“go with joy and [are] led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills...break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field...clap their hands.”* (Isa 55:12)

Amen!