

"The Omniscience of God"

Part 3

2 Kings 6:8-17

Introduction: Last week in our study of Elisha's life we were looking at 2 Kings 6:8-17.

Notice 2 Kings 6:8-14

God had foiled the plans of the king of Syria by giving the details of the planned ambush to Elisha and he then sent word to the king of Israel to warn him. Every time the king of Syria tried to trap the king of Israel the king of Israel was always one step ahead of him. This made the king of Syria suspect that one of his own men were leaking the information to the king of Israel concerning the ambush. There was however a servant of the king of Syria who knew that it was Elisha who was warning the king of Israel. This servant of the king must have learned of Elisha through Naaman.

This servant is a picture of many people today who know ABOUT Jesus Christ and they know ABOUT the love of God, but they have not permitted the knowledge to penetrate their heart because they have suppressed it and therefore they continue to war against God.

Now when we stopped last week we were looking at the persistence of our enemy. The king of Syria attempted to launch the ambush on the king of Israel and his plan was frustrated multiple times but in verse 13 we saw how he was sending to Dothan to capture Elisha. His ambush was foiled but now he had another plan and that was to eliminate Elisha, so he could then carry out an attack. He was very persistent.

James 4:7

⁷ Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Last week I reminded you that when we resist the enemy he will flee from us, but we must also know that he will eventually return with another planned attack.

This now brings us to where we are tonight.

"Faith becomes Sight"

Notice 2 Kings 6:13-14

There are several lessons within these verses that we need to see.

1. **The enemy hates those who speak Words of warning.**

This attack is against Elisha because he had warned the king of Israel against the ambush.

Application:

Let us know and understand that when we speak the Words of warning to believers or unbelievers the enemy hates it and therefore we become a target of Satan. I have learned that when we step up to teach or share the Word of God the enemy is going to launch an attack in which he will do his best to discourage or distract us. He has a way to stir others around us so that we will either be discouraged, or we will be distracted.

I have been in situations where we are studying the deep Truths of God's Word here at church and out of no where someone comes with a situation that has no spiritual value at all. It may be a complaint, or it may be something they believe is a problem when in fact many times it is nothing. But in those times the enemy will cause you to get the complaint or the situation in your mind and you cannot shake it. It becomes something that steals away your thoughts and it is all an attempt to either discourage or distract. I have learned that when that happens the remedy is to keep pushing forward. This is one of the places where if we resist the Devil he will flee but I also know he will return. I have come to the place in my life where I get nervous when things are going to smoothly.

Someone recently said to me, "If you enter into the battle and there is no resistance then you can be sure it is an ambush." That by the way is great advice to keep in your mind.

2 Timothy 3:12

¹² Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

Psalm 37:12-14

¹² The wicked plotteth against the just, and gnasheth upon him with his teeth.

¹³ The LORD shall laugh at him: for he seeth that his day is coming.

¹⁴ The wicked have drawn out the sword, and have bent their bow, to cast down the poor and needy, and to slay such as be of upright conversation.

Notice what Jesus said to the scribes and the Pharisees.

Matthew 23:34

³⁴ Wherefore, behold, I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes: and some of them ye shall kill and crucify; and some of them shall ye scourge in your synagogues, and persecute them from city to city:

From all of this we need to know that when we become the voice of warning we will come under attack just as Elisha here in our text. Satan will do all he can to silence the voice of warning. That tactic by the way is exactly what is behind the "Politically Correct

Movement" today. It is a spiritual attack against the church to get us to stop calling out sin.

2. **The enemy will try to attack when we are spiritually asleep.**

Notice 2 Kings 6:13-14

We see here that the king of Syria sent his military to Dothan at NIGHT while Elisha was asleep.

Application:

Within this verse we can see one of the ways of the enemy when he attacks the children of God. Our enemy will do his best to catch us at a time when we would be spiritually asleep. This might be a time following a spiritual victory. It is often after a victory in our lives that we then relax but really in this spiritual battle that we are in there is no time to relax. I believe we can clearly see this tactic in the life of Joseph.

Genesis 39:1-7

And Joseph was brought down to Egypt; and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him of the hands of the Ishmeelites, which had brought him down thither.

² *And the LORD was with Joseph, and **he was a prosperous man**; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian.*

³ *And his master saw that **the LORD was with him, and that the LORD made all that he did to prosper in his hand.***

⁴ *And Joseph found grace in his sight, and he served him: and **he made him overseer over his house, and all that he had he put into his hand.***

⁵ *And it came to pass from the time that he had made him overseer in his house, and over all that he had, that the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; and the blessing of the LORD was upon all that he had in the house, and in the field.*

⁶ *And he left all that he had in Joseph's hand; and he knew not ought he had, save the bread which he did eat. And Joseph was a goodly person, and well favoured.*

⁷ *And it came to pass **after these things**, that his master's wife cast her eyes upon Joseph; and she said, Lie with me.*

It was AFTER Joseph experienced great blessings and found favor in his master's eyes, that the enemy moved the heart of Potiphar's wife to pursue Joseph. This could have very

easily been a time when Joseph was relaxed and a time when he dropped his guard, but Joseph was spiritually alert, and he would not be lured into the temptation.

Now let us get back to our text.

Notice 2 Kings 6:14-15

I find it very interesting how much fire power the king of Syria sent to capture one man. Here in these verses we see the subject of the miracle and he is a servant of Elisha. This unnamed man is in a period of training as he travels with Elisha. When he sees the army which the king of Syria had sent out the servant of Elisha panics and begins to be overwhelmed with fear. This was a time of testing for this servant. It would be Elisha that would disciple him through the test.

Application:

Every one of us needs to be reminded that God often allows tests to come into our lives. The sad truth is that many of God's children today are just like this servant with Elisha. They know ABOUT God, but they do not know Him INTIMATELY and because they do not know Him intimately they therefore do not know His ways either. So, when test or a trial comes into their lives they begin to question what is happening. They cannot figure out why God would allow THEM to face this situation and so because they do not know His ways they now begin to question God's love and God's goodness.

I heard a Pastor speak on this very subject this past week and he used the example of Moses and Israel.

Exodus 33:11-14

¹¹ And the LORD spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend. And he turned again into the camp: but his servant Joshua, the son of Nun, a young man, departed not out of the tabernacle.

¹² And Moses said unto the LORD, See, thou sayest unto me, Bring up this people: and thou hast not let me know whom thou wilt send with me. Yet thou hast said, I know thee by name, and thou hast also found grace in my sight.

¹³ Now therefore, I pray thee, if I have found grace in thy sight, shew me now thy way, that I may know thee, that I may find grace in thy sight: and consider that this nation is thy people.

¹⁴ And he said, My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest.

Moses longed to know God in a deep intimate way and he did. He longed to know God's ways and God made them known to him. The end result was God gave him rest. In the midst of the trial and the tests Moses could rest because he knew God and he knew God's ways. Very few believers ever experience this. They are more like Israel than they are like Moses. Israel knew ABOUT God, but they did not seek to know Him in an intimate way nor did they seek to know His ways. Therefore, when the trials and the difficulties came they did not rest in God but instead they complained. Let me show you a few examples.

Exodus 17:1-3

And all the congregation of the children of Israel journeyed from the wilderness of Sin, after their journeys, according to the commandment of the LORD, and pitched in Rephidim: and there was no water for the people to drink.

² Wherefore the people did chide with Moses, and said, Give us water that we may drink. And Moses said unto them, Why chide ye with me? wherefore do ye tempt the LORD?

³ And the people thirsted there for water; and the people murmured against Moses, and said, Wherefore is this that thou hast brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our cattle with thirst?

Remember Israel's response when the spies which Moses sent out returned?

Numbers 14:1-3

And all the congregation lifted up their voice, and cried; and the people wept that night.

² And all the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron: and the whole congregation said unto them, Would God that we had died in the land of Egypt! or would God we had died in this wilderness!

³ And wherefore hath the LORD brought us unto this land, to fall by the sword, that our wives and our children should be a prey? were it not better for us to return into Egypt?

Israel complained almost every time there was a trial. Let me show you the end result.

Hebrews 3:8-12

⁸ Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness:

⁹ When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my works forty years.

¹⁰ Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do alway err in their heart; and they have not known my ways.

¹¹ *So I swear in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest.)*

¹² *Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.*

Israel missed the rest which God had provided for them. There are many believers today who are also missing the rest of God because they do not know His ways.

This servant of Elisha's was still learning, and so Elisha was very patient with him. But for those who have been saved for a time God expects us to know Him and His ways.

Hebrews 5:12-14

¹² *For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.*

¹³ *For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe.*

¹⁴ *But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.*

Notice 2 Kings 6:17

When Elisha prayed God opened the eyes of the young man and he was able to see the angels which surrounded them for their protection.

Application:

What an encouragement this is for you and me! Though we cannot see the heavenly host we can be sure that we too are surrounded and protected by God's righteous angels. I believe this is the HEDGE which Satan referenced when speaking with God in Job 1.

Job 1:8-10

⁸ *And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?*

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.*

We must also keep in mind the words of the writer of Hebrews.

Hebrews 1:13-14

¹³ But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool?

¹⁴ Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?

Conclusion:

So, we can be sure that we also are guarded and protected by God's heavenly host. Paul understood this Truth and we can see that in the words he wrote in chapter 8.

Romans 8:31-32

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

³² He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

Let me pull all of this together.

When we step out in faith we can be sure there will be attacks from the enemy. He will try every tactic he has to silence us as we speak out with Words of warning and so we must never relax our guard. He will come at us with powerful and intimidating people in an attempt to cause us to retreat but we must never forget that we are surrounded by God's protection. Let us therefore seek to know God in an intimate way and let us seek to know His ways so that when the trials come we can teach others and not be in need of someone to teach us.