

Warrington
1/13/68

"The Horses and Chariots of God"

Baily
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Scripture Lesson: - 2 Kings 6: 17.8-18.

Text: - 2 Kings 6: 17. "Behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire around about Elisha".

Introduction: - The king of Syria was making war against Israel. But things did not go well with the army of Syria, and the king could not understand it. He had the troops, and his orders obeyed to the letter, but the strangest things happened. Though he carried on his work as secretly as possible, the king of Israel seemed to know just what his plans were. If he set a trap to ambush the Israelites, in some unaccountable manner they changed their route and went another way. If he sent an army to attack them at a weak point, his soldiers found it reinforced when they got there. It became so astonishing that finally the king of Syria became convinced that he must have traitors in his army. One day he said, "Will ye not show me which of us is for the king of Israel? One of his officers said, "None, my lord, O King". but Elisha, the prophet that is in Israel, tellest the king of Israel the words that thou speakest in thy bedchamber".

This was news to the king. But he determined that he would set a trap for Elisha and catch him, and then Israel would be at his mercy. So during the night, when Elisha was quietly sleeping, the Syrians were placed around the town of Dothan. ~~In the morning,~~ When the servant of

Elisha went out the next morning, he was amazed and terrified by what he saw. There were tents of the Syrian soldiers everywhere. He went in to his master and said, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?" He then told Elisha how they were surrounded, and would be captured by the Syrians. Elisha only said, "Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them". Elisha lifted his face toward heaven, and prayed, "Lord, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see". In response to the prayer God opened his eyes, and the young man saw, "the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha". *Isn't that thrilling? We have same god today. Do you ever feel he sends help to you?*

I. God is the unseen factor in the lives of men and women. The king of Syria made his plans, and tried to carry them out, but they all went wrong. Why? Because he was fighting against God. He did not take God into account. God is the most important factor in our lives. *Don't fight against him* There is absolutely no guarantee of success unless God is working in harmony with us. He had left God out of his calculations. You cannot fight against God. Every day you live in sin you put yourself on one side while God is on the other. You may lay all the plans you please but if you are not at peace with God you will up and find yourself defeated. "There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked" I beg of you to change over to God's side. *He will help fight your battles. Ps. 91 says he will give his angels charge over you.*

II. In the second place, the spirit world is near to us. This world is not a dumb, dead world, all clay and iron and gold, with no voice of hearing. The ingenuity of heaven was not exhausted when he made the human body. God has millions of angels clothed upon with spiritual forms; bodies that we do not see with our earthly eyes, but bodies real and infinitely more enduring than those we do see. The Bible is a book of angels. Jesus says that he could have summoned to his aid, any time he wished legions of angels. All through the Bible angels are coming and going as God's messengers, showing us that the angelic world is not far off. *(Our loved ones in heaven interested in us & how they want us to live)* When Christ was tempted in the wilderness, angels were near by to sustain him; they ministered to him at the close of his temptation; in the agony he had in the garden of Gethsemane angels came and ministered to Jesus. On the first Easter morning it was a bright shining angel, with a face like lightning who was revealed to the soldiers guarding the tomb, and who rolled back the stone of the sepulchre; it was a group of angels who revealed to the broken-hearted women the resurrection of their Lord. Angels opened the door of the dungeon to Paul and Silas; an angel led Peter out of prison in his escape from king Herod, and an angel stood by Paul on the storm-swept deck in the Mediterranean with words of comfort and good cheer. And we have the assurance that God's angels are all ministering spirits, who are sent forth to minister to those who are heirs of salvation. Will you have God's angels on your side

Do you ever feel them near guarding & guarding you?
I do - Car.
or against you! The host of angels smote the Syrian army with blindness, but they were Elisha's defense and protection. I ask you to make your peace with God, through Jesus Christ and all the angels of God shall become your friends and your protection.

Isn't that wonderful to think God loves us that much?

III.

Then, the army of God encamps between the trust-soul and his enemies. When, in answer to Elisha's prayer God opened the eyes of this young man, he saw that the whole mountain inside the Syrian army was full of the horses and chariots of God. The military of heaven greatly exceeded that of the Syrians. *God's army is greater than that of the Devils* He knew that the Syrians had no possibility of getting at Elisha. It is like that with the Christian today. Take Job, for an example. As the news of his losses confronted him, he grew ever more faithful to God. "Though he slay me, yet will I trust him". What was the secret? Inside the army of sorrows that encompassed him were encamped the angels of God.

My friends, I would speak a word of encouragement to you. Do not for a moment believe that Satan is able to overcome you. He can never do it as long as you trust in God. So long as you keep faith with your heavenly Father and with tender prayerfulness trust God, they that be for you shall be greater than those that be against you. Trust God, and you may lie down to sleep as quietly as Elisha slept in Dothan while the Syrians were pitching their tents about him.

IV.

Through prayer we may pass from the life of sight into the life of faith. Elisha prayed God

that this young man's eyes might be opened, so that he could see spiritual things. And, when with true repentance and self-surrender, at the foot of the Cross, you take Jesus Christ as your Savior, God will give you a vision of Jesus that is altogether lovely. You will behold his atoning life and his atoning death in a different light from any view that you have ever had before. Then you will begin to walk by faith, not by sight. You will know that the unseen world is the real world; that hope, faith, justice, mercy, truth, & goodness are more real than gold and silver and houses and lands; ~~that God in Christ, angels and heaven, and the witness of the Spirit in your own conscience,~~ ^{and} that you are at peace with God. ~~is~~ ^{is} a reality.

Conclusion: - I call you this morning to this life of faith, the life immortal. When you enter upon this life, this life divine, old things will pass away, and all things will become new. I call you to the full inheritance as a child of God. An inheritance forfeited through sin, but redeemed by the blood of Jesus Christ. God give you wisdom to accept it! Surely there is some one here who will this morning accept Jesus Christ. *Don't you want to be on the side of our great God who will help you & give you power to overcome burdens & problems of this life. Life is too full of problems to live alone without God. Satan tells you to wait, you'll make it alright but he's a liar & wants you to wait & be lost. Don't listen to him. Come.*