

# THE WICKED CONFOUNDED; GOD'S PROTECTION FOR THE RIGHTEOUS

**BIBLE TEXT** : II Kings 6:8-23; Luke 11:9-13

LESSON 315 **Senior Course**

**MEMORY VERSE:** "If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?" (Luke 11:13).

## **BIBLE TEXT in King James Version**

### **2 Kings 6:8-23**

<sup>8</sup> 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.

<sup>9</sup> 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.

<sup>10</sup> 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.

<sup>11</sup> 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?

<sup>12</sup> 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.

<sup>13</sup> 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.

<sup>14</sup> Therefore sent he thither horses, and chariots, and a great host: and they came by night, and compassed the city about.

<sup>15</sup> 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?

<sup>16</sup> And he answered, Fear not: for

## **BIBLE REFERENCES:**

### **I The Frustration of the Enemy**

1. God reveals the enemy's plans to Elisha, II Kings 6:8,9;

**1 Kings 20:22**

<sup>22</sup> And the prophet came to the king of Israel, and said unto him, Go, strengthen thyself, and mark, and see what thou doest: for at the return of the year the king of Syria will come up against thee.

2. Israel is saved through heeding the warnings, II Kings 6:10;

**Deuteronomy 6:24**

<sup>24</sup> And the LORD commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear the LORD our God, for our good always, that he might preserve us alive, as *it is* at this day.

**Deuteronomy 8:1**

<sup>1</sup> All the commandments which I command thee this day shall ye observe to do, that ye may live, and multiply, and go in and possess the land which the LORD sware unto your fathers.

3. God knows the thoughts of all men, II Kings 6:11, 12;

**Psalms 139:1-4**

<sup>1</sup> O LORD, thou hast searched me, and known *me*.

<sup>2</sup> Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off.

<sup>3</sup> Thou compassed my path and my lying down, and art acquainted *with* all my ways.

<sup>4</sup> For *there is* not a word in my tongue, *but*, lo, O LORD, thou knowest it altogether.

**Psalms 147:5**

<sup>5</sup> Great *is* our Lord, and of great power: his understanding *is* infinite.

**1 Chronicles 28:9**

<sup>9</sup> And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the LORD searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever.

**Hebrews 4:12**

<sup>12</sup> For the word of God *is* quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

### **II God's Care for His Own**

1. A great host surrounds Dothan, II Kings 6:13-15;

**Psalms 27:3**

<sup>3</sup> Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war should rise against me, in *this* will I be confident.

**Psalms 91:1-16**

<sup>1</sup> He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

<sup>2</sup> I will say of the LORD, *He is* my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.

<sup>3</sup> Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence.

<sup>4</sup> He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth *shall be* thy shield and buckler.

<sup>5</sup> Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; *nor* for the arrow *that* flieth by day;

they that *be* with us *are* more than they that *be* with them.

<sup>17</sup> 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.

<sup>18</sup> And when they came down to him, Elisha prayed unto the LORD, and said, Smite this people, I pray thee, with blindness. And he smote them with blindness according to the word of Elisha.

<sup>19</sup> And Elisha said unto them, This *is* not the way, neither *is* this the city: follow me, and I will bring you to the man whom ye seek. But he led them to Samaria.

<sup>20</sup> And it came to pass, when they were come into 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, behold, *they were* in the midst of Samaria.

<sup>21</sup> And the king of Israel said unto Elisha, when he saw them, My father, shall I smite *them*? shall I smite *them*?

<sup>22</sup> And he answered, Thou shalt not smite *them*: wouldest thou smite those whom thou hast taken captive with thy sword and with thy bow? set bread and water before them, that they may eat and drink, and go to their master.

<sup>23</sup> And he prepared great provision for them: and when they had eaten and drunk, he sent them away, and they went to their master. So the bands of Syria came no more into the land of Israel.

### **Luke 11:9-13**

<sup>9</sup> And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.

<sup>6</sup> *Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday.*

<sup>7</sup> *A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee.*

<sup>8</sup> *Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked.*

<sup>9</sup> *Because thou hast made the LORD, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation;*

<sup>10</sup> *There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling.*

<sup>11</sup> *For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.*

<sup>12</sup> *They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.*

<sup>13</sup> *Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder: the young lion and the dragon shalt thou trample under feet.*

<sup>14</sup> *Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name.*

<sup>15</sup> *He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him.*

<sup>16</sup> *With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation.*

**Psalm 118:6**

<sup>6</sup> *The LORD is on my side; I will not fear: what can man do unto me?*

2. Elisha has faith, II Kings 6:16;

**2 Chronicles 32:7**

<sup>7</sup> *Be strong and courageous, be not afraid nor dismayed for the king of Assyria, nor for all the multitude that is with him: for there be more with us than with him:*

3. The young man's eyes are opened, II Kings 6:17;

**Numbers 22:31**

<sup>31</sup> *Then the LORD opened the eyes of Balaam, and he saw the angel of the LORD standing in the way, and his sword drawn in his hand: and he bowed down his head, and fell flat on his face.*

**Luke 24:31**

<sup>31</sup> *And their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight.*

**Luke 10:23-24**

<sup>23</sup> *And he turned him unto his disciples, and said privately, Blessed are the eyes which see the things that ye see:*

<sup>24</sup> *For I tell you, that many prophets and kings have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them.*

**Ephesians 1:18**

<sup>18</sup> *The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,*

4. The enemy is blinded, II Kings 6:18-20;

**Ephesians 4:18**

<sup>18</sup> *Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:*

**2 Corinthians 4:3**

<sup>3</sup> *But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:*

**2 Corinthians 4:4**

<sup>4</sup> *In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.*

5. "If thine enemy hunger, feed him," II Kings 6:21-23;

**Romans 12:20**

<sup>20</sup> *Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head.*

**Proverbs 25:21**

<sup>21</sup> *If thine enemy be hungry, give him bread to eat; and if he be thirsty, give him water to drink:*

6. "Ask, and ye shall receive," Luke 11:9-13;

**John 14:12-14**

<sup>10</sup> For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

<sup>11</sup> If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if *he ask* a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent?

<sup>12</sup> Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion?

<sup>13</sup> If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall *your* heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

<sup>12</sup> Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater *works* than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

<sup>13</sup> And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

<sup>14</sup> If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do *it*.

**John 16:23-24**

<sup>23</sup> And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give *it* you.

<sup>24</sup> Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.

**Matthew 7:7-11**

<sup>7</sup> Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:

<sup>8</sup> For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

<sup>9</sup> Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone?

<sup>10</sup> Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent?

<sup>11</sup> If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?

### **NOTES:**

#### **Intelligence Service**

The element of surprise has ever been an important factor in warfare. To overcome this element, man has employed numerous methods of espionage and sent out observers on land and sea and in the air. In recent years many new devices such as radar and sound equipment have been used to detect the presence of the enemy. Often, ships have been saved and troops warned by such detecting devices. Long before the advent of modern inventions, Israel was saved through a greater intelligence service than man has been able to devise. God, who looks down and reads the thoughts of man, relayed to his prophet the very ideas that the king of Syria had in his bedchamber, even before his plans were presented to his generals.

This Intelligence Service saved Israel on numerous occasions by putting them on their guard. It is a source of comfort to God's children today to know that Satan can make no surprise-attack upon the Christian without cognisance first being taken by God, and that He has provided them with ample defence to meet the attack. "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it" (I Corinthians 10:13).

#### **Fear Not**

When the king of Syria heard that Elisha was the one whom God used to relay His messages, he immediately sent to take that man of God. Why does mortal man think that he is able to thwart the plans and work of the Almighty? Too often man feels he can escape God's eternal edicts. With his armies encircling the small town of Dothan it seemed to the king of Syria a simple matter to take this one lone man. This would have been the case if the army had only man with whom to reckon.

To some people the Word of God that "the angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them" might seem like a vague, poetical phrase, but to Elisha it was a living reality. It is not likely that the heavenly host was always visible to Elisha, but in time of need he knew it was there. Elisha was a man who lived close enough to God always to know what to do. His instructions came from Heaven. His ear was in tune

with his Creator. When his servant saw the host of the Syrians surrounding the city, and in consternation cried out, "Alas, my master! How shall we do?" Elisha was not alarmed nor troubled about his next move. "Fear not", were the reassuring words of the man who knew his God. Then in a simple request he asked the Lord to open the eyes of the young man. The servant's natural vision was not impaired. He could see the Syrian army as they moved into position to take the city. Elisha wanted him to get a glimpse of what he had seen, "The chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof" (II Kings 2:12).

### **Natural and Spiritual Eyesight**

It is easy to let one's eyes be so filled with the objects round about him that his spiritual visibility is zero. It is the work of the enemy to so surround a person with the cares of this life that his time and energy are entirely consumed in worldly pursuits. An earthly ambition can fill a person's vision so completely that the heavenly goal is entirely obscured. From a spiritual standpoint such a one is driving at a reckless pace in a blinding fog. "To be carnally minded is death" (Romans 8:6). "They are the enemies of the cross of Christ: . . . who mind earthly things" (Philippians 3:18,19). May the Lord open the eyes of all to see beyond the horizon of this sphere on which we live.

Elisha's eyes were opened when he left all and began to follow Elijah. He saw the chariot of fire when with determination he stayed with Elijah to the end. Our eyes will be opened when we start to seek after heavenly things; and if we pursue that course steadfastly unto the end, all the glories of Heaven will some day break into our view, and the worldly pleasures of earth will seem so cheap and insignificant that we shall wonder what we ever saw in them. What are these things for which men barter their souls? How fleeting are the days of man upon earth! To one who had laboured hard for this world's goods, God said: "Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?" (Luke 12:20).

### **A Prayer**

May the prayer of every Christian be: "Lord, open the eyes of the sinners that they may see the folly of their own ways, and the beauties and advantages of the Gospel. May they recognize the difference between the temporal and the eternal. And may those who know God get an ever clearer vision of that path 'that shineth more and more unto the perfect day' (Proverbs 4:18). Lord, open the eyes of the young men that are wasting their time on things that profit little and neglecting godliness that 'is profitable unto all things' (I Timothy 4:8),"

### **Impenetrable Defence**

"And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw" — and what a view! The mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha. What chance had the enemy to penetrate that line of defence? "No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper: . . . This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD" (Isaiah 54:17). Satan said of Job. "Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side?" (Job 1:10). God has armament for every child of His, that neither Satan nor any force of hell can overcome.

When the enemy came down to Elisha he asked the Lord to smite them with blindness. God answered, and the man of God led the docile, blind army into the midst of Samaria. Imagine their surprise and chagrin when their eyes were opened and they found themselves captives in the midst of Samaria. When the eyes of Elisha's servant were opened he saw victory. When the

eyes of the Syrians were opened they saw defeat.

### **Simple Faith**

What unquestioning faith Elisha had when he talked with God! Waiting until the army had moved right down upon him, he simply asked God to smite them with blindness, and God smote them with blindness. Jesus instructs us to have this same implicit faith by telling us, "Ask, and it shall be given you." Then, realizing our unbelief, he gives the plainest of all examples: "If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone?" What could be a greater encouragement to anyone to ask and believe that God will grant his request? "How much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?"

### **QUESTIONS**

1. Compare the warnings given by Elisha with modern means of detecting the enemy.
2. How many times did Israel save themselves by heeding the warnings?
3. How did the king of Syria think his plans were being foiled?
4. What did Elisha say when he heard that he was surrounded?
5. What did the young man see when his eyes were opened?
6. How did Elisha handle the army of Syria?
7. Compare the opening of the servant's eyes with the opening of the eyes of the Syrian army.
8. What was the Scriptural grounds for the feeding of the Syrians?
9. Jesus said, "Ask, and ye shall receive." Give some passages of Scripture that tell us why we do not always receive when we ask.
10. With what did Jesus compare our asking?