



## Scripture



# 2 Kings 6:8-23

## Unit .13

## Session .04

# The Vision of God's Strength

**8** Once when the king of Syria was warring against Israel, he took counsel with his servants, saying, “At such and such a place shall be my camp.” **9** But the man of God sent word to the king of Israel, “Beware that you do not pass this place, for the Syrians are going down there.” **10** And the king of Israel sent to the place about which the man of God told him. Thus he used to warn him, so that he saved himself there more than once or twice. **11** And the mind of the king of Syria was greatly troubled because of this thing, and he called his servants and said to them, “Will you not show me who of us is for the king of Israel?” **12** And one of his servants said, “None, my lord, O king; but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the words that you speak in your bedroom.” **13** And he said, “Go and see where he is, that I may send and seize him.” It was told him, “Behold, he is in Dothan.” **14** So he sent there horses and chariots and a great army, and they came by night and surrounded the city. **15** When the servant of the man of God rose early in the morning and went out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was all around the city. And the servant said, “Alas, my master! What shall we do?” **16** He said, “Do not be afraid, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.” **17** Then Elisha prayed and

said, “O LORD, please open his eyes that he may see.” So the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw, and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha. **18** And when the Syrians came down against him, Elisha prayed to the LORD and said, “Please strike this people with blindness.” So he struck them with blindness in accordance with the prayer of Elisha. **19** And Elisha said to them, “This is not the way, and this is not the city. Follow me, and I will bring you to the man whom you seek.” And he led them to Samaria. **20** As soon as they entered Samaria, Elisha said, “O LORD, open the eyes of these men, that they may see.” So the LORD opened their eyes and they saw, and behold, they were in the midst of Samaria. **21** As soon as the king of Israel saw them, he said to Elisha, “My father, shall I strike them down? Shall I strike them down?” **22** He answered, “You shall not strike them down. Would you strike down those whom you have taken captive with your sword and with your bow? Set bread and water before them, that they may eat and drink and go to their master.” **23** So he prepared for them a great feast, and when they had eaten and drunk, he sent them away, and they went to their master. And the Syrians did not come again on raids into the land of Israel.

What do these passages about the Syrians teach us about God's heart for the nations?

Why are we tempted to doubt God's protection?



## 99 Essential Doctrines

### Work of the Holy Spirit in the Life of a Christian

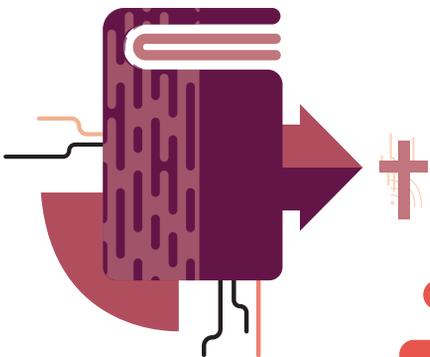
The Spirit's work in the life of a Christian begins in the work of salvation in bringing a person to faith in Christ. It is continued through the work of sanctification in helping the Christian to become progressively more like Christ throughout the course of his or her life. The Spirit also empowers and indwells believers, intercedes on their behalf, and equips them with special gifts for the service of God's kingdom. He is the Comforter to the believer and aids us in properly interpreting the Bible.

## Main Point

**Only God can open our eyes  
to see spiritual realities.**

**How have you seen God's protection displayed in your life and in the life of others?**

**What does this account teach us about kindness toward our enemies?**



## Christ Connection

Elisha prayed for the eyes of others to be opened so they could see God at work around them. Likewise, Jesus came to give sight to the blind—physically and spiritually—so that they could see that He is Immanuel—God with us.

**How does this passage emphasize our need for God to open up our eyes to see God's truth and grace?**

## In Defense



There are some who would try to argue that the physical is all there is—nothing immaterial or spiritual. However, this account argues quite the opposite. In addition to the material and physical world of matter, there also exists a spiritual reality containing immaterial beings that is just as real and present as its physical counterpart. This is the kind of world God created, consisting of both physical and immaterial, with Himself existing as Spirit (John 4:24). It doesn't take much to recognize the truth of these two different planes to reality—both the immaterial and material. There are plenty of things that we know to be immaterial in essence. Thoughts in our conscious state are an example. Sure, our brains are a part of this process, but the thoughts and ideas we have aren't physical by nature.

# Our Mission



## Head

What are some takeaways from the fact that God opened the eyes of Elisha's servant?

What are some things God has been opening your eyes to regarding His plan and purpose for your life?



## Heart

What can we learn about God's character based upon His treatment of Israel's enemies?

What does Ben-hadad's refusal to submit to God despite God's kindness reveal about the king's heart and character?

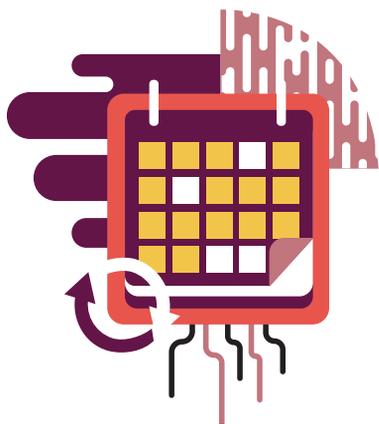


## Hands

What can we learn about the importance of prayer from this account?

Whom can you pray for this week for eyes to be opened to see the beauty of Christ?

# Daily Devotions



Day 1

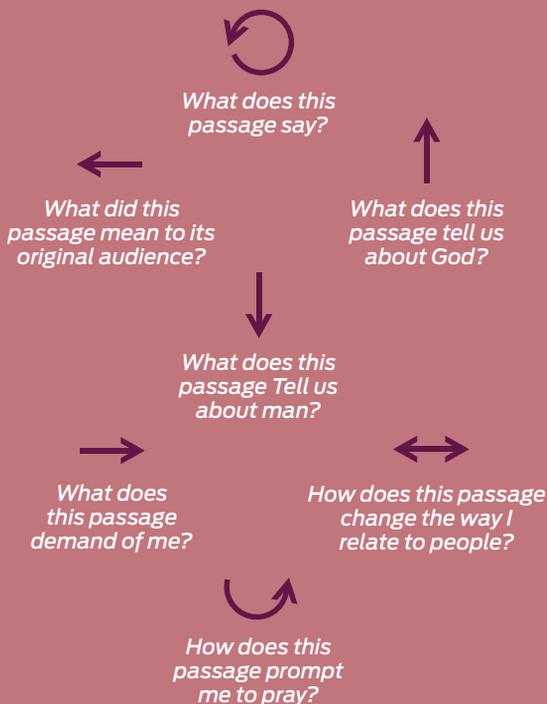
## 2 Kings 6:1-16

At first glance, this opening story in chapter 6 seems unnecessary. Who cares about a floating ax head? Well, someone cared about it! We aren't given his name, but one particular prophet would never forget this story about God's miraculous provision.

God cares about world events, and He cares about giving us daily bread—or even an apparently lost ax head. Be encouraged by this fact. This was a simple need, but it was a real need. Indeed, this is the type of care and provision Jesus ascribed to God in the Sermon of the Mount (Matt. 6:31-34).

We can take every care to God as we seek to fulfill His will for our lives. He is a God you can call out to in your emergencies, and trust that He provides for His children. He may provide in “mundane” ways or “miraculous” ways, but either way, it comes from our good and gracious Father (Jas. 1:17). Trust Him. Seek Him. Believe He responds to our cries. God's servants can rely on God to supply their needs.

### The 7 Arrows of Bible Reading



**What needs do you have today? Bring your petition to the Father.**

# 2 Kings 6:17-20

One of the most basic prayers we can pray is that God would open up the eyes of people to see the truth of the gospel. Elisha prays first for his servant to see. And God answered this prayer, enabling the servant to see horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha (v. 17). Then, once in Samaria, Elisha prayed for the Lord to open up the eyes of the Syrians. And God answered this prayer, enabling them to see that they were in the middle of Samaria.

When Jesus was on the road to Emmaus in Luke 24, we read that Jesus gave a Bible study about the Old Testament, explaining how all of Scripture points to Him. Luke adds that in this process, Jesus “opened their minds to understand the Scriptures” (v. 45). We too need to carefully study Scripture, and we too need the Lord to open our eyes that we may behold wonderful things from His Word (Ps 119:18).

**Will you take a moment to pray that the members of your family and your church may have eyes to see the beauty of the gospel?**

# 2 Kings 6:21-23

This remarkable story highlights the kindness of the prophet, who reflected the kindness of our God. Instead of having the king of Israel kill the raiders of Syria, the prophet told the king to feed them. A feast was prepared for the raiders before they are sent home. Following this dramatic turn of events, you would have expected to see the heart of the king of Syria melt before the God of grace. But that didn't happen (v. 24). He hardened his heart against God.

Sadly, many, despite being blessed by Yahweh, refuse to acknowledge Him as Lord and God. Every gift and success that a person has comes from the hand of God, Maker of heaven and earth. In response to God's revealing grace, Paul says that people sinfully exchange the glory of the Creator for the created things. Because they suppress the truth revealed to them, they're without excuse and therefore condemned (Rom 1:18-25). When it comes to proclaiming the gospel, since we're dealing with hardened human hearts, we must pray for God to open eyes and transform hearts if anyone is to repent and believe and thus go from being condemned to being spared by divine grace.

**How does God display His kindness and grace to the unbelieving world today?**

# 2 Kings 6:24-32

The context of the story involves war and famine, which probably was the result of Israel's unfaithfulness. Syria executed a full invasion on Israel. Because their siege on Israel lasted for an extended period of time, the conditions were terrible in Israel.

In response, the king is distressed. In anguish, he tore his clothes, a symbol of repentance (v. 30). Because this is a story of divine judgment, it was right for the king to be repenting. However, Joram (or Jehoram) didn't have a real heart for repentance. As we read next, he didn't patiently trust in and wait on God for deliverance. He acted like his mother, Jezebel, seeking to kill the prophet. He may have sackcloth on the outside, but that didn't make up for his unrepentant heart.

**Have you ever practiced false repentance? What's the difference in true repentance and false repentance?**

# 2 Kings 6:33-7:20

Elisha proclaimed deliverance, but the captain responded with a cynical, unbelieving heart. Elisha told the captain that he would see God's provision and the people will eat, but he would not eat any of it, for he would die.

Enter the four unnamed lepers. They make the bold decision to go to the Syrians' camp. Shockingly, when they got there, they found no Syrians. The Lord made the Syrians hear the sound of a great army, so they fled. As a result, the lepers found a treasure trove full of food, gold, and clothing. The lepers eventually went and told the king's household the news. But the king didn't believe. Then one of the king's servants proposed a reasonable solution. Take five men to check it out. The king sent them off. And these men found the lepers story to be true. The people heard the news and headed off and plundered the camp of the Syrians.

Elisha's word then came to pass regarding the flour and barley. What about his word concerning the skeptical captain? It came true as well. The rushing mob "trampled him in the gate" and he died (vv. 17,20). God takes unbelief seriously and puts it to shame as He brings to pass His plans and purposes in the world.

**Are you hesitant to believe the promises of God? Why or why not? Why is unbelief toward God and His Word such a serious matter?**