

When Eyes Are Opened

2 Kings 6:8-23

⁸Now the king of Syria was making war against Israel; and he consulted with his servants, saying, "My camp will be in such and such a place."⁹And the man of God sent to the king of Israel, saying, "Beware that you do not pass this place, for the Syrians are coming down there."¹⁰Then the king of Israel sent someone to the place of which the man of God had told him. Thus he warned him, and he was watchful there, not just once or twice.¹¹Therefore the heart of the king of Syria was greatly troubled by this thing; and he called his servants and said to them, "Will you not show me which of us is for the king of Israel?"¹²And 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."¹³So he said, "Go and see where he is, that I may send and get him." And it was told him, saying, "Surely he is in Dothan."

¹⁴Therefore he sent horses and chariots and a great army there, and they came by night and surrounded the city.¹⁵And when the servant of the man of God arose early and went out, there was an army, surrounding the city with horses and chariots. And his servant said to him, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?"¹⁶So he answered, "Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them."

¹⁷And Elisha prayed, and said, "LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see." Then 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.¹⁸So when the Syrians came down to him, Elisha prayed to the LORD, and said, "Strike this people, I pray, with blindness." And He struck them with blindness according to the word of Elisha.¹⁹Now Elisha said to them, "This is not the way, nor is this the city. Follow me, and I will bring you to the man whom you

seek.” But he led them to Samaria. ²⁰So it was, when they had come to 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 there they were, inside Samaria! ²¹Now when the king of Israel saw them, he said to Elisha, “My father, shall I kill them? Shall I kill them?” ²²But he answered, “You shall not kill them. Would you kill those whom you have taken captive with your sword and your bow? Set food and water before them, that they may eat and drink and go to their master.” ²³Then he prepared a great feast for them; and after they ate and drank, he sent them away and they went to their master. So the bands of Syrian raiders came no more into the land of Israel.

—2 Kings 6:8–23

Read 2 Kings 6:8–23

I love to hear testimonies of God’s salvation and deliverance, don’t you? It is always so comforting and inspiring to remember that our God hears our prayers, sees us, and knows everything that is going on in our lives and on the earth. *And there is no creature hidden in His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account* (Hebrews 4:13). Not only does God hear, see, and know what is going on in our lives, but He also is working in the midst of our circumstances to save His own. Psalm 37:40 promises, *The LORD shall help them and deliver them; He shall deliver them from the wicked, and save them, because they trust in Him.*

A title used of God in the Bible is *The LORD of Hosts* or *The LORD of Heaven’s Armies*. This title alludes to the fact that God presides over a vast array of angelic beings. These servants of the Lord have been endued with great power and are committed to doing the will of God (Psalm 103:20). Though we can’t see these divine creatures, God is, nevertheless, commissioning them to guard us and help us (Psalm 91:9–11, Hebrews 1:14).

In our text this week, God opened the eyes of Elisha’s servant in order to enable him to see the great assembly of God’s invisible army poised to save the prophet.

**FOOD
FOR THOUGHT**

The Syrians mentioned in this text are not the Syrians of today, but rather the ancient Arameans. For the sake of historical accuracy, some Bible translators use the word “Aram” instead of “Syria.”

Today, it is through the eyes of faith that we come to realize the greatness of our God, as well as His divine love, care, and protection of His own. Though, like Elisha’s servant, we cannot see the spiritual realities that surround us, we can nevertheless take to heart and believe the word of the prophet. *Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.*

As you study the passage this week, ask God to open your eyes to all the great things He is accomplishing in your life and on the earth.

1. From 2 Kings 6:8–10, comment on the actions of:
 - a. The king of Syria
 - b. The man of God (Elisha)
 - c. The king of Israel
2. Use the conversation between the king of Syria and his servants in 2 Kings 6:11–12 to remark on:
 - a. The king’s suspicion
 - b. The declaration of the king’s men concerning Elisha

**FOOD
FOR THOUGHT**

Elisha did not pray that God would change anything in the situation. His only request was that his servant could actually see the reality of the situation. God answered Elisha's prayer. When a person is blind to spiritual reality, only God can open his eyes.¹⁶

—David Guzik

**FOOD
FOR THOUGHT**

Faith is never the imagining of unreal things. It is the grip of things which cannot be demonstrated to the sense, but which are real.¹⁷

—G. Campbell
Morgan

3. How did the king respond to the report of his men?
2 Kings 6:13–14
4. From 2 Kings 6:15–16, describe:
 - a. The terrifying sight seen by Elisha's servant
 - b. The servant's reaction to what he saw
 - c. Elisha's declaration
5. Comment on:
 - a. What Elisha prayed
 - b. What happened after Elisha prayed
 - c. What the servant saw after Elisha's prayer
6. According to 2 Kings 6:18–20:
 - a. What did Elisha do

- b. What happened to the Syrian soldiers
7. How did the king of Israel react to what he saw?
2 Kings 6:21
8. What did Elisha instruct the king to do? 2 Kings 6:22
- a. What does this instruction convey to you about Elisha?
9. Use 2 Kings 6:23 to remark on the outcome of this confrontation.
10. What is your greatest takeaway from 2 Kings 6:8–23?

**FOOD
FOR THOUGHT**

Therefore “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head.” Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

—Romans 12:20–21

**FOOD
FOR THOUGHT**

Jesus was known for opening the eyes of the blind (Isaiah 42:7; Matthew 9:30; John 9:14; Psalm 146:8a).

**FOOD
FOR THOUGHT**

When the disciples’ eyes were opened, they recognized Jesus was with them (Luke 24:31).

**FOOD
FOR THOUGHT**

While we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

—2 Corinthians 4:18