



Life Guide

applying God's Word to life

September 29, 2024 - 19th Sunday after Pentecost
Followers of Jesus have Powerful Allies
God's Secret Service Protects Us!

2 Kings 6:8-17

⁸ Now the king of Aram was at war with Israel. After conferring with his officers, he said, "I will set up my camp in such and such a place." ⁹ The man of God sent word to the king of Israel: "Beware of passing that place, because the Arameans are going down there." ¹⁰ So the king of Israel checked on the place indicated by the man of God. Time and again Elisha warned the king, so that he was on his guard in such places. ¹¹ This enraged the king of Aram. He summoned his officers and demanded of them, "Tell me! Which of us is on the side of the king of Israel?" ¹² "None of us, my lord the king," said one of his officers, "but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the very words you speak in your bedroom." ¹³ "Go, find out where he is," the king ordered, "so I can send men and capture him." The report came back: "He is in Dothan." ¹⁴ Then he sent horses and chariots and a strong force there. They went by night and surrounded the city. ¹⁵ When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early the next morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. "Oh no, my lord! What shall we do?" the servant asked. ¹⁶ "Don't be afraid," the prophet answered. "Those who are with us are more than those who are with them." ¹⁷ And Elisha prayed, "Open his eyes, Lord, so that he may see." Then the Lord opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

1. Has there ever been a time in your life when you thought that an angel spared you from harm or danger? If you feel comfortable, please share your story.
2. Where did angels come from? (Psalm 148:2,5; Colossians 1:16); When were angels created? (Exodus 20:11; John 1:1-3); Why did God create them? (Psalm 91:11, Hebrews 1:14)

3. How does the fact that God is omniscient or all-knowing benefit Elisha? How does it benefit us?
4. When and how does doubt show itself in your life? What's the relationship between doubt and fear? Is it fair to say that doubt is sin?
5. Rather than scold his doubting servant, Elisha seeks to help him. What two things does he do for the servant? What help can we find in his example for ourselves and our brothers and sisters in Christ?
6. God opened the eyes of Elisha's servant, allowing him to see that the hills around Dothan were filled horses and chariots of fire. What is significant about the fact that God chose to send "horses and chariots"? What comfort can we draw from this vision for our lives?
7. How might God answer Elisha's prayer ("Open his eyes...") for us and our fellow Christians?
8. How does this account from 2 Kings help me to avoid an "unhealthy" view of angels?
9. Agree or disagree and why? I'm not important enough to be assigned angelic protection.
10. "Don't be afraid. Those who are with us are more than those who are with them." Share some ideas of how and when you might use these words this week to "steady your nerves." How and when might you use them to help a troubled soul?