

2 Kings 6 : 8-23—Memory Verses, 15-17.

Golden Text—The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.—Psalm 34 : 7.

behold, the mountain *was* full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.

18 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.

19 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 Sama'ria.

20 And it came to pass, when they were come into Sama'ria, 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 Sama'ria.

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

22 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.

23 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 Sy'ria came no more into the land of Is'rael.

THE LESSON RETOLD

The Syrians were among the strongest enemies of Israel. But it often happened, when the King of Syria would send his army to fight against the Israelites, that Elisha would warn the King of Israel where the Syrians were about to encamp, in time for them to be chased out of the country.

Not knowing how his plans were discovered, the King of Syria began to suppose that there was a traitor in his own camp, who helped the Israelites, until one of his servants said, "It is none other than Elisha the prophet, who is at the bottom of the trouble. By some strange power he tells the King of Israel all our secrets." "Then he must be taken prisoner, and if possible put to death," answered the king.

8 Then the king of Sy'ria warred against Is'rael, and took counsel with his servants, saying, In such and such a place *shall be* my camp.

9 And the man of God sent unto the king of Is'rael, saying, Beware that thou pass not such a place; for thither the Sy'rians are come down.

10 And the king of Is'rael sent to the place which the man of God told him and warned him of, and saved himself there, not once nor twice.

11 Therefore the heart of the king of Sy'ria 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 Is'rael?

12 And one of his servants said, None, my lord, O king: but Elisha, the prophet that *is* in Is'rael, telleth the king of Is'rael the words that thou *speakest* in thy bedchamber.

13 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.

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

15 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?

16 And he answered, Fear not: for they that be with us *are* more than they that *be* with them.

17 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.

18 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.

19 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 Sama'ria.

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23 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 Sy'ria came no more into the land of Is'rael.

So the Syrians came by night and surrounded the hill-town of Dothan where Elisha was staying, and when in the early morning Elisha's servant went out, he saw the whole valley full of Syrians, and came in crying, "Alas, master! what shall become of us?" But Elisha answered, "Fear not, there are more on our side than on theirs." And Elisha prayed and said, "O Lord, open the eyes of my servant, that he may see." Then when the young man looked, he saw that the whole mountain between the prophet's house and the valley was filled with horses and chariots of fire, ready to protect his master and himself from the Syrians.

Then Elisha prayed that the Lord would send blindness among the Syrians, and when