

Lesson 11.

ELISHA'S HEAVENLY DEFENDERS

April 2, 1911

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

Golden Text—For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.—Psalm 91 : 11.



8 Then the king of Syr'ia 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 Syr'ians 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 Syr'ia 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 Eli'sha, the prophet that *is* in Is'rael, telleth the king of Is'rael the words that thou speakest in thy bed-chamber.

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 Do'than.

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 Eli'sha 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 Eli'sha.

THE LESSON RETOLD

Once when Ben-hadad, the king of Syria, was making war against Israel, he planned with his officers to lie in wait so as to capture any Israelites who might pass by. But Elisha, the prophet, always warned Jehoram, king of Israel, where the Syrians were, so that he was able to save himself from them.

This happened so many times that Ben-hadad began to think that some of his own officers must be helping the king of Israel. So he gathered them all together, and asked them if any of them were friends of the king of Israel.

Then one of them answered for them all : " It is not one of us who is warning Jehoram in this way ; it is the prophet, Elisha ; he seems to know everything that happens, even the very words you speak in your own

room." Then Ben-hadad was troubled and said, " We must take this prophet prisoner." So he gathered his soldiers together and sent them, with horses and chariots, to Dothan, where he had heard Elisha was.

In the morning, when Elisha and the young man who was with him as his servant looked out, they saw that they were surrounded on every side by the great army of the Syrians. " Alas ! my master", cried the servant, " what shall we do now ? " " Do not fear", said Elisha, " we have a greater host than they to protect us." And he prayed God to open the eyes of the young man so that he might see what had been hidden from his sight. The Lord answered Elisha's prayer, and the young man saw the mountain on which the city stood, full of horses