This Time...I will See (really see) and not fear

#3 Elisha's Servant (2 Kings 6:8-23)

I. The Situation

A. Elisha

1. He is the God appointed successor to Elijah (1 Kings 19:16-21) because he was with Elijah when God took him home (2 Kings 2), God gave him a double portion of Elijah's spirit.

2. His ministry covered the reigns of Jehoram, Jehu, Jehoahz and Joash.

3. More miracles are attributed to Elisha than any other biblical figure.

4. His servant, Gehazi, was involved in his earlier ministry but the servant in this passage is not Gehazi.

B. The Syrian (Aramean) King, Benhadad was at war with Israel. Jehoram was the King of Israel at that time. Elisha was the prophet who continually informed Jehoram where the Syrian army planned to camp. Elisha was frustrating the plans of the enemy.

C. Benhadad assumes there is a spy in his camp. But he is informed that Elisha is the culprit. So he sends a great army to Dothan to capture Elisha.

Dothan: near Shechem in northern Samaria. Joseph was put into a well by his brothers there (Gen. 37:17). The city sits on hill surrounded by the plain of Esdraelon.

D. A larger army (with horses and chariots) encompasses the city. The servant is terrified: "Alas, my master! What shall we do?"

E. The message: "Don't be afraid, those who are with us are more than those who are with them."

F. The reality:

1. A huge army of enemy combatants was encompassing them

2. Another army of God's choosing also surrounded them.

G. Elisha's prayer: "Open his eyes Lord so that he may see"

II. Insight into the invisible spirit world

A. Jacob had a vision of God's angelic force in Genesis 32:2

B. Daniel got a "peak behind the curtain" in Daniel 10:4-14

C. Stephen got to look into Heaven in Acts 7:55-56

D. Elisha's servant was allowed to see the horses and chariots of fire – God's Army.

NOTE: Horses and chariots are significant in the scriptures:

1. Elijah was carried into heaven by them (2 Kings 2:11-12)

2. The bible indicates there are myriads of them (Ps. 68:17)

3. They are part of the pictorial representation of heaven (Ps. 104:2-3)

4. Christ's second return involves chariots (Isa. 66:15, Jer. 17:25)

✶✶It was his significant moment. "This time I can see…really see what's going on – and I am no longer afraid."

III. So what?

The insight was meant to bring peace. "Fear Not": There are 365 occasions that <u>command</u> it in the scriptures:

Ps. 34:7 "The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and he delivers them."

Zech. 9:8 "But I will encamp at my temple to guard it against marauding forces. Never again will an oppressor overrun my people, for now I am keeping watch."

Ps. 20:7 "Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God."

2 Cor. 4:16-18 "Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."

A. We all have troubles

Ps. 34:19 "The righteous person may have many troubles, but the LORD delivers him from them all;"

B. Those difficulties have a purpose

Rom. 8:28 "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who[a] have been called according to his purpose."

C. Renewal comes from our relationship with the Lord.

Isa. 43:2 "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze."

D. Our job is to keep our eyes open – really open to what God is doing all around us!

Discussion Questions:

1. Is it easy to "see", really "see" what God is doing or allowing to happen in a difficult situation? Why? Or why not?

2. Are you experiencing one of those times right now? How should you respond to the "fear not" command? Practical ideas?