

SURROUNDED

2 Kings 6:8-23

INTRO: Turn your Bible, or turn them on, to the O.T. Book of 2 Kings. The easiest way to find 2 Kings is to go to 1 Kings, then 2 Kings is the next book. (lol, I'm sorry) 2 Kings is the twelfth book of the O.T. It comes after 1 & 2 Samuel, and 1 Kings, and just before 1 & 2 Chronicles.

When you find your place at 2 Kings, go to chapter 6. Our passage this morning is one of the greatest accounts of God protection that we read in the Bible. I love this story! There is so much going on here. God, for a moment takes us beyond the natural world. He pulls the veil aside and gives us a peek into the supernatural. This supernatural realm is bustling with activity all around us, all the time. You and I are just not privy to it on a day to day basis. But every once in a while, God makes a way for us to see what He sees. And when He does, it's astounding!

Today, I want to preach on the subject, **SURROUNDED**.

Let me give you a quick back story to what's going on in our passage before we read together God's Word. Some of you are familiar with Elisha the prophet. He is the protegee and successor of Elijah the prophet. Elijah was a big deal! He was the prophet of record during the reign of Ahab the King of Israel. Elijah was a man who enjoyed the big display! He alone, once challenged 450 prophets of Baal, and 400 prophets of Asherah, to a showdown of sorts at a place called Mt. Carmel. There, they all prayed asking their gods to send fire down from Heaven to prove whose god was real. After the Prophets of Baal had prayed all day, Elijah stepped up in dramatic fashion and prayed a short simple prayer. Then God, the only true God, sent fire from heaven and consumed a water soaked sacrifice that Elijah had prepared. It's just an awesome story!

Shortly after the showdown on Mt Carmel, God introduces Elijah to Elisha and tells him that Elisha is to take his place. When it came time for God to take Elijah up into the heavens to be with Him, Elisha made it very clear that he would not leave Elijah's side until it happened. Although Elijah told Elisha to go on, Elisha would not. Finally, Elijah asked Elisha, what would you like for me to do for you before I leave. And Elisha replied, give me a double portion of your spirit. Elijah said, you've asked a hard thing, but if you see me go, I will give you what you ask for. And as they walked on, a chariot and horses of fire caught Elijah up into a whirlwind and took him off into the heavenlies. And when Elisha retrieved his masters cloak which had been left behind, he also received the double portion he asked for. It's this Elisha that we are going to read about today. **READ WITH ME...**

2 Kings 6:8-23 *"Now the king of Syria was at war against Israel. After consulting with his servants, he said, "My camp will be in such and such a place." 9 Then the man of God sent word to the king of Israel: "Be careful passing by this place, for the Syrians are going down there." 10 So the king of Israel sent word to the place the man of God had pointed out. Time and again Elisha warned the king, so that he was on his guard in such places. 11 For this reason the king of Syria became enraged and called his servants to demand of them, "Tell me, which one of us is on the side of the king of Israel?" 12 But one of his servants replied, "No one, my lord the king. For Elisha, the prophet in Israel, tells the king of Israel the very words you speak in your bedroom." 13 So the king said, "Go and see where he is, that I may send men to capture him."*

Now, notice with me...

I) THE DESPERATE SITUATION: vv 13b-14 “On receiving the report, “Elisha is in Dothan,” 14 the king of Syria sent horses, chariots, and a great army. They went there by night and surrounded the city.”

Dothan was a small village, unwallled and unguarded about twenty miles from Samaria.

II) THE DISHEARTENED SERVANT: v 15 “When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early in the morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. So he asked Elisha, ‘Oh, my master, what are we to do?’”

III) THE DIVINE SALVATION: vv 16-23 “Do not be afraid,” Elisha answered, “for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.” 17 Then Elisha prayed, “O LORD, please open his eyes that he may see.” And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw that the hills were full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha. 18 As the Syrians came down against him, Elisha prayed to the LORD, “Please strike these people with blindness.” So He struck them with blindness, according to the word of Elisha. 19 And Elisha told them, “This is not the way, and this is not the city. Follow me, and I will take you to the man you are seeking.” And he led them to Samaria. 20 When they had entered Samaria, Elisha said, “O LORD, open the eyes of these men that they may see.” Then the LORD opened their eyes, and they looked around and discovered that they were in Samaria. 21 And when the king of Israel saw them, he asked Elisha, “My father, shall I kill them? Shall I kill them?” 22 “Do not kill them,” he replied. “Would you kill those you have captured with your own sword or bow? Set food and water before them, that they may eat and drink and then return to their master.” 23 So the king prepared a great feast for them, and after they had finished eating and drinking, he sent them away, and they returned to their master. And the Syrian raiders did not come into the land of Israel again.”

V 16 “Do not be afraid...” Elisha lived in the calm sense of God's immediate presence.

Romans 8:31 “...If God be for us, who can be against us?”

CONCLUSION: