



Lesson 134

Elisha and the Chariots of Fire

Story Elements

Text: 2 Kings 6:8-23

Setting: circa 845 B.C., at Dothan and Samaria

Main Characters: God, Elisha, the kings of Israel and Syria and Elisha's servant

Plot: The Syrians attempt to capture Elisha, but are divinely thwarted.

Key word(s): "open his _____"

Climax: *2 Kings 6:16 And he answered, Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them.*

Spy Suspected

1. (vv 8-10) During the prolonged war between Israel and Syria, the LORD would reveal to Elisha the secret plans of the Syrian king; Elisha would then inform the king of Israel (Jehoram) who would fortify the Syrians' targets and therefore _____ the attacks. This happened several times.
 - a) (v 11) The king of Syrian was so confounded by Jehoram's ability to stay one step ahead that he was convinced there was a _____ within his inner circle of advisors.
 - b) (vv 12-14) But one of the Syrian king's advisors knew who the informant was – none other than the great prophet Elisha who received his information divinely. A sizable force was immediately dispatched to capture Elisha at his location in _____.

Spiritual Sight

2. (vv 15-17) The next morning, Elisha's servant awoke to a city surrounded by armed Syrians. Frightened, he asked Elisha, "***How shall we do?***" Elisha, who was intimately familiar with the spiritual, responded, "***Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them.***"
 - a) Elisha then prayed that the LORD would open the servant's eyes to see the spirit world – He did, and the servant perceived with sight what Elisha knew by faith: the prophet's abode was surrounded by an _____ army.
 - b) (vv 18-19) Elisha prayed that the LORD would strike the enemy force blind – "not a total and material blindness, for then they could not have followed him, but a mental _____ (see Ge 19:11) so that they did not perceive or recognize him to be the object of their search."¹
 - c) Then, Elisha told his would-be captors that he would guide them to the city where they needed to be, and he led them to _____, Israel's fortified capital.

¹ Jamieson, Robert, A. R. Fausset, and David Brown. *Commentary Critical and Explanatory on the Whole Bible*. Vol. 1. Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997. Print.

3. (vv 20-22) Upon arrival, the Syrians' eyes were opened and they realized they had been led into a trap.
- a) Jehoram wanted to slay them all on the spot, but Elisha forbade him and instructed him instead to host the Syrians to a _____ and then send them peaceably on their way.
- b) (v 23) The Syrians received _____ instead of hostility and were sent back to their king. As a result of the mercy shown towards them, the Syrians that Elisha had encountered never again raided Israel.

Application

4. The Bible teaches that there is a spirit world that goes largely unseen by our physical eyes. In fact, Paul teaches that the locus of the Christian's _____ is in this invisible arena. ***“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.”*** (Eph. 6:12)
5. Angels have two purposes: serving the LORD and serving his people. Can you think of other examples in Scripture where angels helped people? _____
- _____
- _____
6. Elisha instructed Jehoram to show kindness to the Syrians. Elisha’s response to his would-be captors was much different than Elijah’s. Matthew Henry points out, “His predecessor had given a specimen of divine justice when he called for flames of fire on the heads of his persecutors to consume them, but he gave a specimen of divine _____ in heaping coals of fire on the heads of his persecutors to melt them. Let not us then be ***overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.***”²

Notes: _____

Answer Key: Key word(s): “eyes” • 1. repel; a) spy; b) Dothan • 2. a) angelic; b) hallucination; c) Samaria • 3. a) meal; b) hospitality • 4. struggle • 5. They delivered Lot from Sodom, ministered to Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane, and delivered Peter from prison. • 6. mercy

How to use this worksheet for personal Bible study: (1) Read the Bible passage given in the **Story Elements** section. (2) Read through the worksheet and try to fill in the blanks without looking at the **Answer Key**. (3) Check your answers with the key and make the necessary corrections. Keep in mind that some answers are a matter of opinion, and often more than one answer is correct. (4) Write down your own thoughts, applications, and questions for further study in the **Notes** section.

² Henry, Matthew. *Matthew Henry’s Commentary on the Whole Bible: Complete and Unabridged in One Volume*. Peabody: Hendrickson, 1994. Print.