

40th anniversary

S.D. July 10-83 A.M.
Washington - Aug 7-83 AM
Baltimore Richard Aug 14-83

"THE UNSEEN REALITIES"

2 Kings 6:8-17

V. 8
The Bible teaches us through this little episode which alarms a servant that there are some things that are unseen. Here is a story, (Benhadad) was the name of the King of Syria. He was the enemy of Israel. With his armies, he swept down to the South and again, and again trying to take the territory and the cities of Israel.

V. 9
But (every time) he plotted his strategy for another campaign, somehow the King and the armies of Israel found out about it. And they escaped his trap. And he was unsuccessful again, again, and again.

V. 10
So frustrated was he, that he became sonvinced and almost out of his mind with the fact that he had a traitor in his own camp. He had someone he was sure who was turning over - not only debate material to his enemies. But there must have been someone on his staff - maybe the General in his army. Who was a secret friend of Israel and was telling Israel all of his secret plans.

V. 11
The Scriptures tells us here in V. 11 - that his (heart was troubled) for the things. And he called his servants and said unto them, show me what it is. For the King of Israel. I want to know how you stand. Who is there that is a traitor. Someone is betraying every plan and confidence, that we have. Who is for the King of Israel. His (officers) were stunned. In V. 12 - and one of his servants said - none my Lord, oh King. But (Elisha) the prophet. That is in Israel - he is telling the king of Israel the words that you speak even in your bed chamber. Now we do not know how he does it. But somehow this man of God knows every secret that is whispered

V. 12

in this nation.

I imagine the King of Syria sputtered for a moment. So he is the enemy. The (man of God) is the enemy then.

13 - V. 13 - The King of Assyria gives an order. Go and spy where he is. That I may send and fetch him. They went - they returned. And they said, he is in Dothan. You will find him there where he has been living with the school of the prophets - down in that area.

Benhadad said, saddle up the horses. Engage the chariots, alert the army, we are marching right now. And when daylight arrives, we will encircle the city of Dothan. And we will besiege it.

14 - V. 14 - Therefore sent he the horses and chariots - and a great host. And they encompassed the city.

15 - Now the scene shifts. We leave Syria and go - and take up in V. 15 - with the (servant) of Elisha. I don't know, this young man probably was a Seminary student. He gets up early in the morning and he takes a walk. He goes over to the walls of the city, to get fresh morning air, and see the sun rising over the horizon. He looks out - he is terrified. All the way around - he sees a 1000 chariots, encircling the city. The sun is shining upon the chariots - the horses are straining at the bit.

And he sees back of them, 10's of thousands of soldiers in their full armour.
Their swords, their spheres, their shields. The city is besieged and will be taken.

In panic the servant comes to his Master with great alarm. Wake up, wake up
Master. We are surrounded. And in V. 15 - the episode closes. How shall we do. You
notice the young man did not say what shall I do, in his fright. He was saying, how
shall we do. The problem here was, there was some unseen realities that the young man
did not know about. Hence, he was calling upon Elisha, and saying how shall we do.

I. THIS IS A UNIVERSAL EXPERIENCE OF THE PRESENCE OF EVIL IN THIS WORLD

I think we need to first confront this - the forces of Benhadad, the enemies
of God, Satan himself are ever present. They are in this world.

And something else, they are constantly encircling our lives. The whole city was
surrounded, the servant said. This is a universal experience of the presence of evil.

You face it, and I face it. We arise out of the darkness and the rest of the night,
and we look out at the rising sun. All the hope for a new day is gone. Instead of the
joy of the sunrise - we see evil about men. Things have trapped us. We are threatened.

What do I mean. What am I talking about. Is this real.

If you could just walk in my steps for one week, and follow into homes, nursing homes, hospitals, I think it would take you only one day to stand and see the forces of Benhadad beseiging life after life, family after family, encircled by trouble. They cry out - what shall we do. What shall we do.

I might be greeted with someone who says the Doctor says there is no hope for my mother's eyesight. She is getting worse and worse. She will be totally blind in six weeks. But mother is coping. She still listens, to the tapes that are sent to her from the church. She says, I cannot see, but I can still hear. I am learning to use my ears. The forces of evil. The armies of Benhadad surround so many today.

Here is another who comes and says - the young mother has no chance to make it because of cancer. Maybe a 50/50 chance - we'll have to wait and see. And she looks out and she sees all of the chariots that are gathered against her and are closing in-- and then she cries out, what shall I do. What shall I do for my family. What shall I do for myself. What shall I do.

How shall we do the prophet's servant said.

Here is a man in his 50's who has lost his job. They will not be starting this plant up again - there will not be any work like this. We look at the news on T. V. I cannot start over again at my age - who will hire me at this age. The skills I have had in manufacturing. I do not know what I am going to do. The chariots have surrounded him.

The truth of this story is - this is a universal experience that I am telling you about. The presence of enemies surrounding us. You cannot stick your head in the sand and say - they are not out there - they do not exist.

We cannot say that evil does not exist - it is like a lion that would charge upon us and eat us up alive. The enemy would destroy us.

Now the servant said this to the prophet. But the servant had not been able to see everything. These universal experiences come to us. But the servant did not know that the weapons or the man of God are not carnal - but are spiritual.

Folks in Church are like that - Not Able to see God's plan, Blind to spiritual things. True because carnality blocks their vision - Take eyes off of self & put on the Kingdom - get Revelation.

And Elisha was able through his wonderful spiritual insight to save the King of Israel not once, or twice, from the traps that were set for him. As given in V. 9-10.

So we ask the question. *How shall we do?*

II. WHAT RESPONSE WILL THE PROPHET OF GOD MAKE?

Now as we think about the prophet of God making a response here - we shall look at two or three things. First, he surveys the situation and turns to prayer. In V. 13 - 15 - we find him being made aware of the situation. V. 16 - he answered, fear not, for they that be with us - are more than they that be with them.

FR Jones - Unseen Things -

~~40 years ago~~ - lots of Unseen Realities -

Healing - Teaching - Preaching - Ministering -

Org - New Testament Church Aug. 1st Sunday.

Has been spiritual - spirit led - loving - praying - giving

Missionary Church -

Ministering Church -

Bible: Ex. 16:35 "The children of Israel did eat manna, forty years, until they came to the borders of the land of Canaan"

Virginia Heights - God has fed ^{sted} his Church 40 yrs. Every Day Church

1st Day's Before - st's complete or houses up Woman's Missionary Union planted seeds -

Mrs. Luzie Martin, Sec. President, Paul Burke, etc. Brought Louise Fletcher to begin SAs - P.A. = Simeon's +

work s.s. in homes. March 1943 local Ministers held some Sun. afternoon services.

Attychee June 1, 1943 Employed by W.M.U. 3 months -

\$500.00 - Community Center - conducted s.s. Woods - Dove Sat. P.M. -

V.B.B. - use of houses not yet occupied - 4 weeks -

School - Pineville - Clark R (SS) and (Puck) prayer meeting -

God's manna sufficient - growth - 100 in prayer service -

Another s.s. Ingle side - Assistant Prucha called & divided another ch. org. today Ingle side Bapt - still King! (58) charter members - multiplied - a hundred each year -

v.16
So Elisha said there are some unseen realities. Look out - look and see. Yes, there is Benhadad - there are all of his chariots, his soldiers, the enemies have surrounded us. But I want you to remember this. The boy could not understand how we are a thousand chariots. The King of Israel does not have 1000 chariots - and the ones that he does have are not even his. But there are tens of thousands out there. But you said there are more with us than with them. One, two, - two of us. 10,000 of them. It cannot be.

The unseen reality is something the servant could not understand. That is always the response that must come from God himself. The prophet declared remember - however strong the forces of evil might be, just remember, there are more of us than there are of them.

The man of God lived by faith and we look not of the things which are seen - but of the things which are unseen and eternal. Greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world. If God be for us - who can be against us. Rom. 8:31.

These spiritual things are not created. But they are revealed to those who have faith.

Therefore surveying the situation - he next invites the boy to kneel and pray. He prayed with him. The young man expected the prayer to be - Oh Lord, save us. Get us out of this. We are in trouble - help us.

17 But Elisha prayed another prayer. He said open - V. 17 - his eyes, that he may see.

Did you get that - open his eyes, he is blind. Let this servant of mine see. Amen.
Now he says, come on son, stand up again. Lord open these eyes. The chariots were
still there. The armies were still there. But then, he looked unto the mountains and
there were chariots of fire. Surrounding Elisha in the city of Dothan. God's chariots
of fire - higher in the mountains - were all around in every direction. Encamped around
that besieged city. Look up higher.

The challenge this morning is to look up higher. The prayer you need to pray this
morning and I need to pray. We have been looking at too low a level. Looking at the
world and only the world. We have been looking straight out - we need to look up. And
looking up with open eyes - we see, there is another world up here. A world above and
beyond this world. Power beyond the power of the world. There are forces beyond the
forces of this world.

There is sickness, there is trouble, there is death, there is disappointment, there
is heart-break, and hurt - but there are some forces greater than that at work in the
world. In this vast unseen spiritual world - that is the real world up there. This is
the only world that is eternal. This is the world that is victorious over time and space
and the physical world. Look and see - so remember, here is a universal experience of
the presence of evil and trouble all about us. These unseen realities. They are all
about us.

2 - Second, the second response of the prophet following prayer was -- he said God is
in every human situation. And God is there. And let us not forget that God is in your
situation - you may not see him, but that is not a sign that He is not there. You do
not have the eyes open. God is in the circumstances and the situation that you are in.

And God has not abandoned you. He has not abandoned me. He has not abandoned this world. He did not abandon Dothan. He did not abandon Elisha. He is in every human situation if you will but see it.

*Dr. Karl Barth visiting Union Seminary Richmond was asked by student "after all of your great life, lifetime of study - what is greatest discovery that you have made?"
Barth's answer, as he made - "Jesus loves me this I know for the Bible tells me so"*

So all the trouble you are having - the sin that has grasp your life and paralyzed you. The fright that you have today - God is still there. God is present. Seeing the presence of God in every human situation is what is needed.

3 - Thirdly, Elisha responded by seeing that the power of God can deliver us in this situation. The power and presence of God are there also. Evil has not taken over. Benhadad is not winning the battle. He has not outsmarted God. God is not only present, but he is there with power sufficient to over-come every enemy. Even the last enemy - death itself.

So what happens, the Scripture says that God intervened. As a young man looked, the Lord opened his eyes. There were horses and chariots of fire.

What happened here in the Scriptures - that God intervened. It says that God struck Syrians blind. I do not know how he did it. I would not pretend to tell you or to give you a natural explanation. But friend, this is not a natural event. It was a supernatural happening. I believe in a supernatural God - not a natural God. And I believe in a God that rises above and beyond the physical world and intervenes in a supernatural way.

God did this with Jesus Christ, His son. When he sent his Son into the world to die on a cross. He resurrected him from the grave, alive forever. Now you take away the supernatural in my faith and I have nothing in which to have faith anymore. The supernatural away from the word of God, and you don't have anything left. Somehow, God in his power came, and in his supernatural way - made manifest of the Syrians - that they were absolutely paralyzed, and unable to move. And in blindness, they staggered around and had to be led home, in total defeat.

Now that is the simple story which we read here. About the unseen realities.

Some men are blind to these realities. Elisha's servant could not see - alas, Master, what shall we do. It is like the unbelieving spy that went into the land of Canaan. And unanointed eyes which cannot see. God's way of deliverance. To him, their condition was hopeless. The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God. I Cor. 2:14. How shall we do - shall we surrender to these evil forces about us. And become captive to them.

After 40 yrs ↓

Now what application can we make from this simple story. How can we claim the power of God in our present situation. Right where we are today. Let me suggest two or three things. And you can undertake.

Prayer - he prayed and the first thing that we have to do is get on our knees and pray. I want to pray this through. I have done everything I can do to think it through.

We might even confess to God that we tried to fight our way through.

We have tried to ~~work~~ our way through. But now Lord, I want to pray it through.

And as I pray, I want something to happen to me. I am not going to tell you what to do Lord, I am not going to tell you how to solve the problems that I have.

Elisha did not say, Lord, I want you to strike them blind. He just said that I want you to open the eyes of this servant of mine, and see the unseen realities.

And that is the first thing that we need to do. To see that God is with us. And God will be with us - when we see that. We are all right. We may not know how he is going to solve it. But we know he is going to be with us. Open my eyes, and let me see. That is the prayer you ought to pray.

There is the Spirit of St. Louis hanging - the plane which Charles Lindberg flew the Atlantic more than a half century ago. It is a tiny plane. When you think of that and the great big planes that fly today. The Spirit of St. Louis, in his book, said that he took off. He moved out from the mainland, swinging to the North, he got into a cloud bank. Just solid fog. He saw that the fog was generating enough moisture on the wings - and began to ice up. He knew if the ice continued to accumulate, he would slowly be pulled down, down, down. And crash into the water and be wiped out. He said, what shall I do. I will take my chance, I believe it is better weather higher up. So he headed that plane straight up, up, up. And higher and higher - sure enough, he broke out of the clouds and the fog into a brilliant sunlight. When the sun, immediately dissolved the ice on the wings. Then he could level out - and by compass stay on the right

course.

Now there are many of us who are flying too low. We fly through the fog bank. And the weights, worries, anxieties, and troubles, they are just pulling our wings lower and lower. And we are unaided by the power of God, we are going to crash.

Everyone of us will - we need to take hold and say, I am going higher. I am going to move up into the presence of God. I am going to pray and say, Oh Lord, here I am. I do not know what you are going to do with the mess in my life. I do not know what you are going to do - or how you are going to get me free, from Benhadad and all of his forces. I do not know what is going to happen. But Lord, I just want to see you and want to get your light and your presence. And I want you to give me the assurance. Open my eyes and let me see. And let me have this peace.

Riverside Church, N.Y. - Guide - Pointing out - Home - Cafe - Parking, roads, elevators etc - Man asked "Where do they buy the food?"



2 Second, express faith. We need to exercise faith. If we can see God, we need to have faith in him. And that is step number two. Prayer will open our eyes, and faith will help us to take hold. As we leap out in the light. I cannot straighten my

life out until I have faith. Jesus Prayed John 17 I have glorified Thee on the earth - Faithful Do you have a good Prayer Basis - Can you say, Father hear me; on the faithfulness of my church attendance, faithfulness of my soul worshiping life, faithfulness to the Bible + Love for my Pastor + payment of Tithes offerings + trustfulness + Kindness + Sacrifice + outstanding Heart for evil + God. What did he mean by the word "see"...we are saying, open my eyes and let me see

the Kingdom of God. I thought that meant that he would never see Heaven, he would never walk through it some day. But it means far more than that.

Unless you are changed and born into the new Kingdom - the spiritual Kingdom, you do not have eyes capable of seeing the Kingdom of God. Even though the Kingdom of God might be right at hand. Right in your own back yard and you'll never see it. You can live in the very presence of the Kingdom of God, and never be born into it.

*Henry F. Lyte - English clergyman - Doctor informed serious illness - change climate
Preached Farwell sermon Sept over century ago, Devonshire coast of Eng -
After noon, told Walk in Words, wrote Words hymn, "Abide with me" - based on Emmaus Disciples
Abide with us -*

Jesus was saying, you have to be born into the Kingdom in order to experience and to know that it exists. That is why the person who is not a Christian, who has not been born again, looks at this world. They are born into the world. And all they can see, are the forces and the powers of the world that will destroy them. Naturally they are depressed - they cannot find peace and joy. They cannot get victory over all the world that is around them. If you are born out of this world and out of the flesh, and born into the Spirit. You will never know what it is like.

So pray and ask God to open your eyes. And be born into a Kingdom where you can see the chariots of fire. And the presence of God all about you.

3 Third, and finally obedience. Paul said for we know that all things work together for good, to them that love God and are called according to his purpose. That is simply a reaffirmation that when we move into the Kingdom by faith, our eyes are open to see God and his providences at work, and we say nothing can happen to me - but that God can take it and use it, and work it together to make it good.

If I am living in that Kingdom, and if I am obedient, yielded and surrendered,
ful
how wonder/it will be for me.

These unseen realities will bring you a new vision. The mountains are full of horses and chariots of fire. And they can only be seen and trusted by those who receive them. When the servants eyes were opened - there was rest and satisfaction. He was no

Obedient more upset. — We All Sing — "Must Jesus Bear The Cross alone & all the World go free. No other crown for anyone"

Dr. Broadus says — The original Hymn Reads — "Must Simon Bear The Cross alone, & other Saints go free. Each Saint of Mine, shall find his own, And there is one for me."

The reality and the perpetual presence around us and about us - help us to know that there is something in the doctrine of the spirit. And the doctrine of angels. The Bible says something about 10,000 angels in the book of Psalms and Job.

Obedience as individuals

The perpetual realization of this presence by those possessed by faith. Now there is no reason to believe that Elisha saw these angels, with his bodily eyes. But he knew that they were there. He was sure that God had not deserted him. David said the angel of the Lord encampeth round about them, that fear him and delivereth them.

Ester Reed — Funeral yesterday — I thought servant's "How shall we do?" "Hospital — Pastor, Bad news today circulation in leg & foot bad — Alan Amputate — This man of courage, with sword, he went in faith —

Not long — Pastor now bad news my other leg has gone bad & say I must lose it! — I thought — The world I have said? How would such news be handled!

Both leg gone — Strong robust man — Now depends on Paul realized this when he said we are made a spectacle unto the world, and the angels and the men. I Cor. 4:9.

Talked to Jeff from Bed to Chair — Bible Reading — Prayer — Twinkle in his eye — Doing my best — Lord's help —

God's presence, those who have faith, will have a vision. And will be able to see. The prophet prayed - and his eyes were opened. The Lord opened the eyes of the young man.

God is present with his servants. And wherever we go, God will be with us. All about us, we realize there are enemies - and yet we know that there is the unrealized presence.

obedience of church

There was a mistake in England when they persecuted the reformers. And also in Scotland, France, and Switzerland. There was a mistake when Pharaoh refused to let the children of Israel go. There was a mistake that Herod made the decision to crush the new Kingdom, and kill all the helpless babies in Bethlehem. It was a mistake when Nero persecuted the Christians in Rome. And it was a mistake when they put on the scaffold to the stake - the Waldensians in Spain. They did not realize the presence of God with His church. And in the midst of his believers.

Father took his little boy to the community where he grew up to visit the church, About to fall down, window lights broken, pews overturned. Father point, Pews, family sat, down this aisle when saved - started out - Pews - what is this - Bell Pews, I used come early, so could ring the Bell - Dad says ring the Bell again. They pulled together! Ring Bell. Sometime some one at door - what's going on? Yard full people - Boy - Daddy you said when you used to ring the bell people came - you went in & read the Bible. I wonder if this presence is realized among ourselves. I'll ask the Master, how why don't we invite them in - Pews Righted - Sang a song - Church that had faded - reorganized - living again - Dynamic again Because Little Boy "let's Ring the Bell again".

families. And we in a nervous way ask - what shall we do. Here is a sufficient God, who is present in our church and in our midst. With what power we ought to preach this. Because John the Baptist says there comes one mightier than I - after me. What shall we do. Who will roll away the stone for us. Sometimes we only see the hindrances, and half-heartedness in religious work. The greatest hindrances to our success, like the spies frightened and said - let us now grow up. God's presence will be with those who will meet the test. Abraham left his native land - why? Because he knew that God was with him. Nehemiah an exile went and rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem. He had plenty of opposition. But he said, the Lord God of Heaven, will prosper us. Therefore, we his servants will arise and build.

let's Ring for you to ring the Bell again - commitments have been forgotten - to Jesus & This Church -

Contact This Flame From Heaven Joseph Parker said "without Enthusiasm
The Church is like a volcano without -15- fire, Niagara without water,
the sky without the sun. We know this is the church's need because we know it's our
own."

When the ~~Spanish Armada~~ was defeated - it was not the English warship - or
English power - that turned away that invasion. But it was the winds and the waves
of Him who holdeth the sea in the hollow of his hand.

The practical application is - it is well to be on God's side. Our eyes may be
closed - how many like the young man, missed the realities of the providences of God.
But when his eyes were open, he saw that he was not defenseless or helpless.