

Watchman Part 22

(The watchman is a good minister who can see God's host and His power and wisdom in times of troubles.)

"17 And Elisha prayed, "O LORD, open his eyes so he may see." Then the LORD opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha." (2 Kings 6:17)

The above Scripture was the prayer of Elisha to the Lord to open the eyes of his servant so he can see the big army of the Lord to protect them and vindicate them. Let us read carefully below the whole story:

"8 Now the king of Aram was at war with Israel. After conferring with his officers, he said, "I will set up my camp in such and such a place." 9 The man of God sent word to the king of Israel: "Beware of passing that place, because the Arameans are going down there." 10 So the king of Israel checked on the place indicated by the man of God. Time and again Elisha warned the king, so that he was on his guard in such places. 11 This enraged the king of Aram. He summoned his officers and demanded of them, "Will you not tell me which of us is on the side of the king of Israel?" 12 "None of us, my lord the king," said one of his officers, "but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the very words you speak in your bedroom." 13 "Go, find out where he is," the king ordered, "so I can send men and capture him." The report came back: "He is in Dothan." 14 Then he sent horses and chariots and a strong force there. They went by night and surrounded the city. 15 When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early the next morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. "Oh, my lord, what shall we do?" the servant asked. 16 "Don't be afraid," the prophet answered. "Those who are with us are more than those who are with them." 17 And Elisha prayed, "O LORD, open his eyes so he may see." Then the LORD opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha. 18 As the enemy came down toward him, Elisha prayed to the LORD, "Strike these people with blindness." So he struck them with blindness, as Elisha had asked. 19 Elisha told them, "This is not the road and this is not the city. Follow me, and I will lead you to the man you are looking for." And he led them to Samaria. 20 After they entered the city, Elisha said, "LORD, open the eyes of these men so they can see." Then the LORD opened their eyes and they looked, and there they were, inside Samaria. 21 When the king of Israel saw them, he asked Elisha, "Shall I kill them, my father? Shall I kill them?" 22 "Do not kill them," he answered. "Would you kill men you have captured with your own sword or bow? Set food and water before them so that they may eat and drink and then go back to their master." 23 So he prepared a great feast for them, and after they had finished eating and drinking, he sent them away, and they returned to their master. So the bands from Aram stopped raiding Israel's territory." (2Kings 6:8-23)

The watchman is the man who can see events the way that God sees things. There are certain troubles and problems that will cross our lives but the watchman can see the way out and the solution of God. In the passage that we had read there were lot of characters who were spiritually blind and were not able to see the things that Elisha the prophet of God was seeing.

In the above real story, Elisha, the prophet of God, was able to see and discern by the Spirit of God the movement of the army of the king of Aram, and he was reporting these movements to the King of Israel, to protect him. The king of Aram, when his plans to attempt to attack Israel, was failed he thought that his officials are unfaithful and one of them is the one who was reporting to Israel their movements: **"Will you not tell me which of us is on the side of the king of Israel?" (2Kings 6:11b)** Truly he was not able to see that he was reported by God to the Israelites through His prophet Elisha.

And even when he came to know the truth he did not repent but he defied God and went ahead to arrest Elisha. *He truly was blind.* He sent his army that surrounded the city where Elisha was located. When this happened the servant of Elisha woke up and he saw ***an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city.*** That what he was able to see, the enemy! *He was blind as well and was not able to see the army of God surrounding them;* therefore he cried to the prophet Elisha, ***"Oh, my lord, what shall we do?" (2Kings 6:15b)*** Elisha replied to him with an assuring answer, ***"Don't be afraid," the prophet answered. "Those who are with us are more than those who are with them." (2Kings 6:16)*** Then he prayed to the Lord, ***"And Elisha prayed, "O LORD, open his eyes so he may see." Then the LORD opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha." (2Kings 6:17)***

"As the enemy came down toward him, Elisha prayed to the LORD, "Strike these people with blindness." So he struck them with blindness, as Elisha had asked." (2Kings 6:18) Elisha was able to see the power and the effectiveness of a tactful prayer to paralyze the power of the enemy. And truly he was able to capture all of them and led them all as prisoners to Samaria without the need to fight, ***"20 After they entered the city, Elisha said, "LORD, open the eyes of these men so they can see." Then the LORD opened their eyes and they looked, and there they were, inside Samaria." (2Kings 16:20)***

The king of Israel wanted to kill them because he was seeing prisoner that he can kill. *He was spiritually blind and was not able to see the things of God,* but Elisha as a watchman he saw another thing that he need to do, ***"22 "Do not kill them," he answered. "Would you kill men you have captured with your own sword or bow? Set food and water before them so that they may eat and drink and then go back to their master." (2Kings 16:22)*** This would remind us of the saying, ***"20 On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head. 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." (Romans 12:20-21)***

The king of Israel heed to the advice of Elisha, ***"23 So he prepared a great feast for them, and after they had finished eating and drinking, he sent them away, and they returned to their master. So the bands from Aram stopped raiding Israel's territory." (2Kings 6:23)*** And we can see clearly the fruit of that decision and action, ***"So the bands from Aram stopped raiding Israel's territory."***

My Dear and Beloved: Do not be blinded like the King of Aram, neither like the servant of Elisha or the King of Israel. The message is a real challenge for you to be true watchmen to see and discern, to speak and do the things of God as you agree to pray.

My Prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins, who was buried and rose from the dead on the third day to give me eternal life. Lord I repent of self-righteousness. Lord opens my eyes and renews my mind in order to be transformed and be able to see your will and take decisions and actions that are pleasant to you. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.*