TOPIC: God's Sovereignty

Blessings From The Unseen World
II Kings 6:8-23 (NKJV)

Our scripture text comes to us this morning from the Old Testament Book of II Kings. For now I would like for us to just read VERSES 8-12.

2 Kings 6:8-12 (NKJV)

8 Now the king of Syria was making war against Israel; and he consulted with his servants, saying, “My camp will be in such and such a place.”

9 And the man of God sent to the king of Israel, saying, “Beware that you do not pass this place, for the Syrians are coming down there.”

10 Then the king of Israel sent someone to the place of which the man of God had told him. Thus he warned him, and he was watchful there, not just once or twice.

11 Therefore the heart of the king of Syria was greatly troubled by this thing; and he called his servants and said to them, “Will you not show me which of us is for the king of Israel?”

12 And one of his servants said, “None, my lord, O king; but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the words that you speak in your bedroom.”

P R A Y E R
INTRODUCTION

Every day you and I awaken in a “fallen world.”

A world inhabited by over 7 billion people of different races, different languages and different cultures.

We see a world of BEAUTY with majestic mountains......spacious seas..... tropical paradise islands......luscious green pasture lands......and towering forests.

We see a world of FESTIVALS and PARADES where people of different religions and different cultures and different ethnic backgrounds come together to celebrate life.

But sadly, we also see a world of TRAGEDY and SORROW that is filled with WAR and SICKNESS and DISEASE and PAIN and HUNGER and POVERTY.

This is the world that is visible to us every day.

But every day we are also surrounded by AN UNSEEN WORLD.... A HEAVENLY REALM where GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY is constantly reigning over us in more ways than you and I will ever know.

We are given a wonderful “glimpse” of this “Unseen World” in this sixth chapter of II Kings.

In this chapter we see three wonderful blessings that come to us from God's “Unseen World.”
**Blessing 1: God Has Us Under Constant Surveillance (vs. 8-12)**

**ILLUSTRATION:** For years many Americans have been concerned that “BIG BROTHER IS WATCHING.” “Big Brother” being the code name for the American government.

Well last year those concerns were validated when news broke that we are under constant surveillance by the NSA. (National Security Agency) In an article written by David Bryan Bolick, who has been an electronics consultant to many major electronics companies over the past thirty years, Mr. Bolick stated: “Items we use in every day life, such as SMARTPHONES........GPS TRACKING DEVICES......FACE BOOK ACCOUNTS......GOOGLE SEARCH ENGINES ON THE INTERNET.......XBOX KONECT VIDEO GAME SYSTEMS........and COMPUTERS WITH MICROSOFT WINDOWS OPERATING SYSTEMS have allowed the NSA to invade our privacy and know our every move. We are constantly being watched.

1. Now I don't know about you, but it deeply concerns me that you and I are under constant surveillance by “Big Brother.” But I find it deeply comforting to know that you and I are under constant surveillance by OUR HEAVENLY FATHER.

2. VERSE 8 gives us the “setting” for our scripture text: “Now the king of Syria was making war against Israel.”

   It has been said, “Some things never change.” The conflict between SYRIA and ISRAEL is one of the most prolonged conflicts in the history of the world.

   The conflict between SYRIA and ISRAEL is in the headlines of our newspapers today, and it was in the headlines during the days of the PROPHET ELISHA, nearly 2,800 years ago.

3. Throughout the history of warfare, armies have always figured out ways to “spy” on their enemies. But here in our text we have the most unusual case of espionage ever seen.

4. Here was the situation: The King of Syria would plan his strategy and deploy his forces to attack Israel, but the LORD would overhear his plans........read his mind........study his documents......then reveal the information to the PROPHET ELISHA, who would then in turn, inform ISRAEL’S KING so he would be prepared for the attack.
5. After this happened several times, the furious SYRIAN KING demanded to know who “the double-agent” was who was spying on him. He was convinced that Israel had planted a spy in his palace.

6. But then in verse 12, one of the King’s servants tells him the culprit is not a spy or a double-agent, but rather it is the PROPHET ELISHA.

   v.12b “But Elisha, the prophet in Israel, tells the King of Israel the words that you speak in your bedroom.”

7. The King of Syria’s bedroom had been “bugged.” Not by a spy using wire taps and hidden cameras.........his bedroom had been “bugged” by the ALL-KNOWING GOD who SEES ALL......and HEARS ALL.

Hebrews 4:12 tells us God is able to discern the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Psalm 139:1,2 (NKJV) “O LORD, You have searched me and known me. You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thoughts afar off.”

8. The Puritan writer, Stephen Charnock wrote, “The thoughts are the most closeted acts of man, hid from men and angels, unless disclosed by some outward expressions; but GOD descends into the depths and abysses of the soul and discerns the most inward contrivances; nothing is impenetrable to Him.” (THE EXISTENCE AND ATTRIBUTES OF GOD, by Stephen Charnock, Baker Book House, Grand Rapids, MI, Copyright 2005)

9. This means GOD has your life and mine UNDER CONSTANT SURVEILLANCE! GOD knows everything about you and about me, instantly........constantly........and thoroughly.

10. This can be disconcerting when we stop to consider that GOD knows our every sinful thought, our every sinful deed, and our every sinful intent.

11. But at the same time, knowing that GOD has our lives UNDER CONSTANT SURVEILLANCE can bring us great peace and comfort, when we realize He knows our every fear........our every heartache ..........our every tear........our every need.........and our every concern.
Hebrews 4:13 (New Living Translation)  “Nothing in all creation is hidden from GOD. Everything is naked and exposed before HIS eyes, and HE is the One to whom we are accountable.”

12. Whatever your going through right now.......whatever burden you are carrying.......whatever struggle you are dealing with......may you find peace and comfort in knowing GOD KNOWS EVERYTHING..... He has you UNDER CONSTANT SURVEILLANCE.

Now here's the second blessing that is ours' from THE UNSEEN WORLD....

**Blessing #2: God Has Us Under Constant Protection (vs. 13-17)**

Let's move on to **VERSES 13-17** in our text.

2 Kings 6:13-17 (NKJV)

13 So he said, “Go and see where he is, that I may send and get him.” And it was told him, saying, “Surely he is in Dothan.”

14 Therefore he sent horses and chariots and a great army there, and they came by night and surrounded the city.

15 And when the servant of the man of God arose early and went out, there was an army, surrounding the city with horses and chariots. And his servant said to him, “Alas, my master! What shall we do?”

16 So he answered, “Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.”

17 And Elisha prayed, and said, “LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see.” Then the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

1. Here's the scene. Elisha and his servant are in the town of Dothan. This town is only mentioned one other time in the scriptures and that is in **GENESIS 37**. Dothan was the town Joseph was sent to by his father, Jacob to find out how his brothers were doing. It was just outside of Dothan that Joseph’s brothers threw him in a pit and eventually sold him to some Midianite merchants headed to Egypt.
2. Well any way, ELISHA and his servant have spent the night in the town of Dothan. Elisha's servant wakes up the next morning and looks out over the city walls. He is alarmed when he sees that during the night the SYRIAN army had surrounded DOTHAN and they were demanding that the PROPHET ELISHA be turned over to them.

3. Naturally the servant was overwhelmed with fear because all he could see was THE VISIBLE ARMY surrounding the city. What he could not see was THE INVISIBLE ARMY OF ANGELS that had gathered to protect GOD'S PROPHET.

4. It was at this point ELISHA prayed to GOD to open his servant's eyes and let him see what his human eyes couldn't see. All the sudden, could see the mountains were full of horses and chariots of fire all around ELISHA. GOD HAD PLACED ELISHA UNDER HIS PROTECTIVE CUSTODY.

Psalm 34:7 (NKJV) The angel of the LORD encamps all around those who fear HIM.

Psalm 91:11 (NKJV) For He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways.

5. A few weeks ago we did a Bible study on “ANGELS.” And one thing that was brought out in that lesson is that Bible scholars are divided over the issue of whether or not GOD assigns “a guardian angel” to watch over each and everyone of us 24/7.
6. But one scriptural truth that is undeniable is that GOD does have you and me under His constant protective care. Whether that protection comes from angels or by some other means, we don't know for certain, we just know we are under God's constant protection.

   **PSALM 23:4 (NKJV)** Yeah though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; FOR YOU ARE WITH ME, Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

   **PSALM 46:1 (NKJV)** GOD is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

   **PSALM 121:7,8 (NKJV)** THE LORD shall preserve you from all evil; He shall preserve your soul. The LORD shall preserve your going out and your coming in, from this time forth, and even forever more.

   **II TIMOTHY 4:18 (NKJV)** And the LORD will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom.

7. Just like Elisha's servant, you and I may not see an army of angels surrounding us, but we can **REST ON THE COMFORTING PROMISES IN GOD'S WORD, THAT WE ARE UNDER HIS CONSTANT PROTECTION.**

   **WE ARE UNDER GOD'S CONSTANT SURVEILLANCE.**
   **WE ARE UNDER GOD'S CONSTANT PROTECTION.**

Now here's our third blessing from THE UNSEEN WORLD.......
Blessing #3: We Are Under God's Constant Grace (vs. 18-23)

Let's move on in our text to VERSES 18-23.

2 Kings 6:18-23 (NKJV)

18 So when the Syrians came down to him, Elisha prayed to the Lord, and said, “Strike this people, I pray, with blindness.” And He struck them with blindness according to the word of Elisha.

19 Now Elisha said to them, “This is not the way, nor is this the city. Follow me, and I will bring you to the man whom you seek.” But he led them to Samaria.

20 So it was, when they had come to Samaria, that Elisha said, “Lord, open the eyes of these men, that they may see.” And the Lord opened their eyes, and they saw; and there they were, inside Samaria!

21 Now when the king of Israel saw them, he said to Elisha, “My father, shall I kill them?”

22 But he answered, “You shall not kill them. Would you kill those whom you have taken captive with your sword and your bow? Set food and water before them, that they may eat and drink and go to their master.”

23 Then he prepared a great feast for them; and after they ate and drank, he sent them away and they went to their master. So the bands of Syrian raiders came no more into the land of Israel.

1. If you have ever read this passage before, chances are you were so focused on that invisible army of angels GOD sent to protect Elisha that you missed this part about the incredible grace that was shown to the Syrian army.

2. Here we get a glimpse of Elisha's sense of humor. He asked GOD to afflict the SYRIAN ARMY with blindness. Then Elisha went out to the “blinded” Syrian troops and told them they were at “the wrong address.” He told them to “Follow him” and he would lead them right to where ELISHA was.
So here you've got this powerful army following the very man they are looking for. Elisha led them all the way to Samaria, then asked GOD to open their eyes so they could see where they were. **They had been delivered right into the hands of ISRAEL'S KING.**

**KING JEHORAM** asked Elisha if he should “kill all the captive soldiers.” Now here's where we see an act of GOD'S AMAZING GRACE. Elisha told King Jehoram, instead of killing the Syrian soldiers, prepare a feast for them, then send them on their way back to their king.

As a result of that wonderful act of GOD'S GRACE, **VERSE 23** says, “the bands of SYRIAN raiders came no more into the land of ISRAEL.”

3. Just like those Syrian soldiers, you and I have the wonderful privilege of being **UNDER GOD'S CONSTANT GRACE.** It is the grace we can only enjoy through JESUS CHRIST. It is that constant grace of GOD that forgives us when we have failed.......and sustains us through every trial and trouble we go through in this life.

> “Wonderful grace of Jesus, greater than all our sin,  
> How shall my tongue describe it, where shall my praise begin?  
> Taking away my burden, setting my spirit free,  
> And the wonderful grace of Jesus, reaches me.”
CONCLUSION

WE ARE UNDER GOD’S CONSTANT SURVEILLANCE!

WE ARE UNDER GOD’S CONSTANT PROTECTION!

WE ARE UNDER GOD’S CONSTANT GRACE!

These are just a few of the blessings that come to us from GOD’S HEAVENLY REALM ........AN UNSEEN WORLD where GOD has “a storehouse” of His richest treasures and unlimited resources that are ours' for the asking, each and every day.

What do you need from GOD today?

Do you need STRENGTH? ............ASK!

Do you need WISDOM and GUIDANCE? ............ASK!

Do you need COURAGE? ............ASK!

Do you need HOPE? ............ASK!

GOD HAS EVERYTHING YOU NEED IN HIS STOREHOUSE OF BLESSINGS !