

Washington church of Christ

27 Grand Avenue, Washington, NJ 07882

Phone: 201-546-1284

washingtonnjchurchofchrist.com

Order of Services

Sunday, January 20, 2013

Song Leader	David Osinski
Prayer	Derald Sanchez
Preaching	Bob James
Lord's Supper	
Prayer for the Bread	Scott Thomas
Prayer for the Cup	Brian Jeffries
Prayer for the Collection	Cameron Wydro
Assisting at the Table	Bob Celentano Jr
Closing Prayer	Bob Wydro
Announcements	Ralph Ruggiero

Schedule of Weekly Services

Sunday Morning Bible Classes	9:30 am
Sunday Morning Worship	10:30 am
Sunday Evening Worship	6:00 pm
Wednesday Evening Bible Classes	7:30 pm

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Seeing from a Spiritual Perspective...

To me the text in 2 Kings 6:16 emphasizes the importance of seeing things with spiritual insight and faith.

Let's consider the context of this passage.

We see in 2 Kings 6 that Elisha, "the man of God" had been informed by God of the Syrian plan for ambush. Immediately the prophet sent a warning to King Jehoram to change any plans he had for travel in that area. Jehoram took the prophet's warning seriously and on several occasions sent out military patrols to verify it.

Based on Elisha's warnings, Israel's troops went to the places where king Ben-Hadad had planned to ambush them before his troops got there, and set up a fortified camp. This foiled Ben-Hadad's plan and frustrated him greatly.

The king of Syria suspected that some traitor among his troops was relaying private information to the enemy. He asked for an explanation and was told that it was Elisha's fault. The great prophet's reputation was known even among the soldiers of Ben-Hadad! Apparently, his "supernatural" knowledge was legendary ...

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." (2 Kings 6:12 NKJV)

Since they were aware of Elisha's ability to know their plans it is kind of strange that they did not assume that the prophet would see through their new strategy as well ... it seemingly never occurred to the Syrians that the prophet who knew miraculously where they were planning their ambush would also know when and where they were planning to come for him.

In any event, an army of Syrian soldiers marched at night, and before dawn they surrounded the unsuspecting city of Dothan, where Elisha was staying.

In the morning Elisha's servant woke, looked through his window and saw that the Syrian army had the city, as well as he and Elisha, surrounded. The servant went frantically to Elisha, and seemingly in a panic because of their situation wondered loudly what they were going to do ... to which Elisha responds ...

So he answered, "Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them." (2 Kings 6:16 NKJV)

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Elisha then prays to God asking that He would open the servant's eyes. God's doing this allows the servant to see, in the distant mountains surrounding Dothan, the horses and chariots of fire ready to defend them.

Before, the servant saw the situation from his perspective ... after God's work, he saw the situation from God's perspective.

Looking at the Christian's faith from the outside, many of our critics describe it as dull, legalistic, unintelligent, and unappealing. But from the inside it is something else altogether. Through the eyes of faith, the Christian life is beautiful, majestic, powerful, and full of joy and meaning.

Similarly, through the eyes of fear and unbelief, the situation at Dothan looked hopeless to Elisha's servant. But Elisha, facing the identical situation, saw things differently. Through spiritual eyes, the horses and chariots of divine protection were clearly visible. Elisha asked God to give his servant the same 20/20 vision on the spiritual eye-chart, so he too would not be afraid.

I like the thought of Lloyd J. Ogilvie when he said ... "Seeing is believing" is the motto of the secular world. "Believing is seeing" is the motto of faith.

A far worse army surrounds us in these days of spiritual warfare ... we face demonic foes incomparably more evil than the human soldiers who surrounded Dothan. The apostle Paul warns us ...

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. (Ephesians 6:12 NKJV)

In spiritual warfare it is not sufficient to whistle in the dark and try to lift discouraged hearts with a cheery "Fear not!" Human words of encouragement are not sufficient. We must through eyes of faith see the evidence of God's powerful presence.

Elisha's servant personifies the despair and fear that come when we depend on human judgment and common sense ... Elisha personifies the confidence that comes from faith, when we depend on God's power. Notice that Elisha did not pray that God would send help ... it was already there. He simply prayed for open eyes to see it.

The story is told about a man whose house was in a low area threatened by rising flood waters. As the water rose right up to his door, the National Guard came by in a four-wheel-drive vehicle to pick him up, but he refused to go, saying, "God will take care of me." When the water was three feet deep inside the house, a Red Cross motorboat came by to rescue him, but he again refused, saying, "God will save me." Finally the rising water drove him to the roof of his house, where a military helicopter hovered overhead and lowered a rope ladder to pluck him to safety. But he refused, saying, "God will rescue me." The man soon slipped from the roof and drowned. Sometimes the appropriate prayer is not "O God, rescue me," ... but ... "O God, open my eyes that I may see Your providential presence."

... Bob James

Our Prayer List...

- ⤴ Georgia DeLorenzo ... Everett Guyton ... Donna Banghart ... Glenn Montgomery's father ... Mary Celentano ... our young people here at Washington ... our young people away at college ... the men and women in military service ... leaders of our nation ... leaders of our congregation ... our congregation.

"This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him." (1 John 5:14-15 NIV)

Items of Note...

- ⤴ There will be a Ladies Bible Study on Thursday, January 24th, starting at 7:30pm.
- ⤴ We will begin a series of Men's Leadership Studies. The first class is scheduled for Thursday, January 31st.
- ⤴ The weekly topics and reading assignments for the Bible Studies are posted on the home page of our website and the lesson material can be printed from the Member's Shared Files section.
- ⤴ Remember, as a part of our Bible School program each family should strive to have a review each week of the material discussed in our classes.
- ⤴ Anyone desiring a family or an individual Bible Study should contact me (Bob James). I keep Tuesdays and Thursdays open for these studies.

Coming Events - Home & Away...

- ⤴ It's getting closer ... that is our Spring 2013 Gospel Meeting with Tommy Peeler from FC. The dates are March 10th – 13th ... that's Sunday – Wednesday. Please plan your 2013 spring vacations and travels around that date if at all possible.
- ⤴ Additionally, our Fall 2013 Gospel Meeting is scheduled for October 11th – 13th. Joe Works from the Fair Lawn, NJ congregation will be preaching.