

## Support Troops-Chariots of Fire



**Scripture:** [2 Kings 6: 8-17](#)

*Key Verse: 2 Kings 6:17*

*And Elisha prayed, and said, Lord, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the Lord opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and behold, the mountain was full of horses and **chariots of fire** round about Elisha.*

### **Introduction:**

The King of Syria was trying to conquer Israel and kill their king. But every time he would send his army, Elisha would warn the King of Israel.

The Syrian King thought someone in his own camp was a traitor; he had an investigation to discover what was going on. How did these Israelis know his every move?

When he finds out that Elisha keeps telling the Israeli king where his troops are; he decides to capture or kill Elisha. What the Syrian King did not recognize is that GOD was telling Elisha because of their close relationship and then Elisha was warning the King of Israel.

Elisha's reputation went before him. He was known as a prophet of the True and Living God. So the King of Syria knew he was up against someone powerful; but he thought he could get him nonetheless.

**So he sends an army to capture one preacher.**

Can you imagine if the President of the United States sent the entire Army to surround your town just to capture the preacher?

What made Elisha a War Hero and so fearsome?

### **Elisha's Call:**

Back in [1 Kings 19:19](#) God told Elijah, the great prophet of God that had called down fire from Heaven, that he was to train a young man to follow as the next prophet. That young man Elisha is found by Elijah while he is plowing with 12 yoke of oxen.

That means he was farming a really big piece of land. It is really HARD WORK to control that big of a team. So we see right off that he was not lazy and not afraid to take on a big difficult job.

Examine yourself. Your habits now indicate what you will accomplish later on in your life. Most people that are lazy as a child will be a lazy adult. If you take shortcuts in what you do now, you will likely take shortcuts all of your life and never develop into what God wants you to be.

If you routinely cheat or lie now, guess what? Your life is being developed by what you are doing as a young person.

Do you think God would have had the "great" Elijah go find Elisha if he had been hanging out on a street corner? Or playing games all afternoon?

When God called Elisha to go with Elijah he made the hard decision to leave his "normal" life behind. He told his parents good-bye; killed an ox that he had been plowing with; burned the farm equipment. He had just severed ties with his old career of farming and ranching.

It is a hard thing to trust the Lord. The things of security and familiarity in this world are hard to walk away from. We say we believe the Bible and trust God to take care of us, but do we really? When God asks you to do a hard thing and step out by faith and do something impossible, will you do it?

### **Elisha's Chance:**

In **2 Kings 2: 9-10** after serving under Elijah and learning from him for ten years, Elisha looked the greatest prophet of all time right in the eye; and asked him a hard question: to get God to give him a **DOUBLE PORTION** of God's Spirit. He said I don't want to be just like you, I want to have twice as much power with God.

You can read anywhere you want in the Bible and you will never find a place where God said "you are asking for too much".

He may say you are asking for the wrong thing; but never, you are asking too much. How much faith do you have in God? How much do you want to accomplish for God?

### **Elisha's Chariots of Fire:**

Now to **2 Kings 6: 8-17**. Elisha was doing God's will and preaching God's Word. In fact, he was now at the point in his life where he had a young preachers' school with young men training under his leadership just as he had been taught under the great Elijah.

The King of Syria is making his move on the people of Israel. God speaks to Elisha telling him precisely the military tactics, camp sights, and battle plans of the enemy, Syria. He then directly reports to the King of Israel. The enraged Syrian King decides to do something about this Preacher Elisha.

Elisha prayed two prayers when the Syrian army showed up. Most of us would pray for God to get us out of the situation or that God would destroy them all. Look at what Elisha prayed.

*2 Kings 6: 16-18 And he answered, **Fear not; for they that be with us are more than they that be with them.** And Elisha prayed, and said, Lord, I pray thee, **open his eyes, that he may see.** And the Lord opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: **and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.***

**The Support Troops showed up!** What an army it was! The mountainside was covered in the Lord's Heavenly Army; not visible to the normal vision of a man; but visible to the vision of a man whose eyes were opened to the presence of God.

Notice that Elisha's first prayer was to get God to open the eyes of the young servant so that he could see the power of God. Is your first desire in every situation to glorify God?

Elisha's second prayer in **verse 18** was to blind them, not kill them. In fact, he never had any of them killed. He led them to the King of Israel so that the army of Israel could take charge of them; then he had God restore their sight. Then he commanded that they be fed and sent home.

In doing so, he told all of Israel and Syria that he had nothing to fear from any army or any man. He only feared God.

Elisha was not worried when the problems showed up. But his young apprentice was. Why? Because Elisha could see beings that were not part of this world. They are here, but most never see them.

It is easy to get caught up in our problems and miss the blessing God sends during problematic times.

God's Warriors, Elisha's Support Troops would do the fighting for him.

Elisha did not have to lift a finger to fight on God's behalf. God fought for him.

***Psalm 34:7 The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.***

*Psalm 68:17 The chariots of God are twenty thousand, even thousands of angels; the Lord is among them, as in Sinai, in the holy place."*

## **Summary & Conclusion:**

Elisha was pumped up and powerful because he was not afraid to work out. His work out was hard and it was long. He didn't just get up one day and "I am tired of farming, I want to be greater than the greatest prophet". It takes character and determination to get power with God. You won't get God's power sitting at home living for yourself.

You can't spend all of your time thinking about what you want. To power up for God, you need to see what he is asking of you in the work out manual, God's Word.

What if God asks you to surrender to be a preacher or a missionary? Would you do it? Are you already in training to serve Him or would you need to make drastic changes? If you are born again and are not already in training to be the best Christian that you can be, then you will miss the blessings God had in mind for you.

If you are not saved, then you need to get that settled first. You will never have any hope to live a powerful life if you have not accepted the Savior who has all of the power.

*(Present salvation here.)*