

## Elisha and the Army of Fire (Part 1) - 2 Kings 6: 8-18



The king of Syria was stubborn. He wanted a war with Israel and planned surprise attacks.



But every time the King of Syria planned a secret ambush this is what happened. The king of Syria would spread out a map, study it for a while, then decide the best place to send his soldiers.



Then he would call in his military advisors to make the final plans together.



Soldiers were then sent to the place where they thought the King of Israel and his army would be. But when they got there the Israelite army was not to be found.

**Someone must have told their plans to them. Can you guess who it was?**



The King of Israel knew what the Syrians were up to because the prophet Elisha would tell him. 'Don't go to such and such a place,' as the Syrians are planning an ambush there.'



The King of Israel knew that **God** was letting Elisha hear the enemy plans and so he avoided all the ambushes being planned. The King of Syria would plan another surprise attack ...



... but when the Syrian king arrived at the spot there was no-one to fight. It was most annoying. 'Who keeps telling the King of Israel about my plans?' he fumed.



'Not me! Not me!' the King's officials protested. 'We would never betray you.'

'It's that prophet Elisha, He seems to know everything!'



'Does he know when I whisper in my bedroom?' asked the startled King. 'Apparently so,' said the officials. 'We have no idea how he does it.'



The King decided to do some spying of his own. He sent undercover agents everywhere to find out where Elisha was. They reported back to say that **Elisha was living in Dothan.**



'Send an army and surround that town,' the King of Syria ordered. '**I want a ring of fighting men and chariots all around the city to make sure there is no way for the prophet to escape.**'



So that night, under cover of darkness, a small army surrounded the city of Dothan.





The next morning, Elisha's servant got up as usual to start his daily chores. He looked out of the window and was shocked to see the sun gleaming off hundreds of spears, helmets and swords!



The servant rushed to find Elisha. 'Help! We are surrounded by enemy soldiers. We are going to die!'



**Don't be afraid,'** Elisha replied. **'There is a much bigger army out there too and it is on our side.'** 'Where?' asked the servant. Elisha led his servant up onto the flat roof of his house.



Elisha bowed his head and prayed, 'Lord, please open my servant's eyes.'



As soon as Elisha prayed the servant suddenly saw another army - a huge army - burning powerfully with fire.



The servant gazed in wonder at the glorious sight. He could hardly believe his eyes.



And then, as Elisha and his servant watched this amazing sight, the King of Syria's army began to march up to Elisha's house.

What happened next? Next week, we will find out more in part 2 of this story!!

This story shows us that we cannot see everything that is real with our eyes. Some things are invisible until God shows them to us. The servant was afraid of the enemy's army but the prophet Elijah saw the heavenly armies of God, who protected him and God's people.

Elijah said, "Don't worry about it - there are more on our side than on their side." When he prayed for his servant, his servant suddenly could see God's army too.



It says in God's word...

"The Lord saves those who honour him. His angel surrounds them."

Psalm 34 verse 7

Let's pray this prayer:

Dear Father God,

Thank you for the true power of your invisible protection.

Help us to trust you and talk about you to people around us.

We ask you to protect us, our friends and families.

Amen

## Powerpoint slideshow

Free Bible Images - Elijah and the Army of Fire - Part 1

<https://freebibleimages.org/illustrations/rg-elisha-army-1/>

## Videos

We are telling this story over 2 weeks but these videos tell the whole of this story so for Part 1 only you can stop the video at the time shown below each link.

Bible Heroes of Faith - Elisha and the Army of Fire

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nTpRV1c7-5c>

For Part 1 only, stop the video at 4.05mins

Life Kids - Elisha's Servant see an Army of Angels

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D8LN1py7XxQ>

For Part 1 only, stop the video at 2.07mins

Adria Star - Elisha and the Invisible Army

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SZpM1Subt2E>

For Part one only, stop the video at 4.37mins

ShareFaith Kids - Horses and Chariots of fire

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Knep8\\_SoFY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Knep8_SoFY)

For Part one only, stop the video at 2.16mins

In next week's email we will tell the second part of the story!

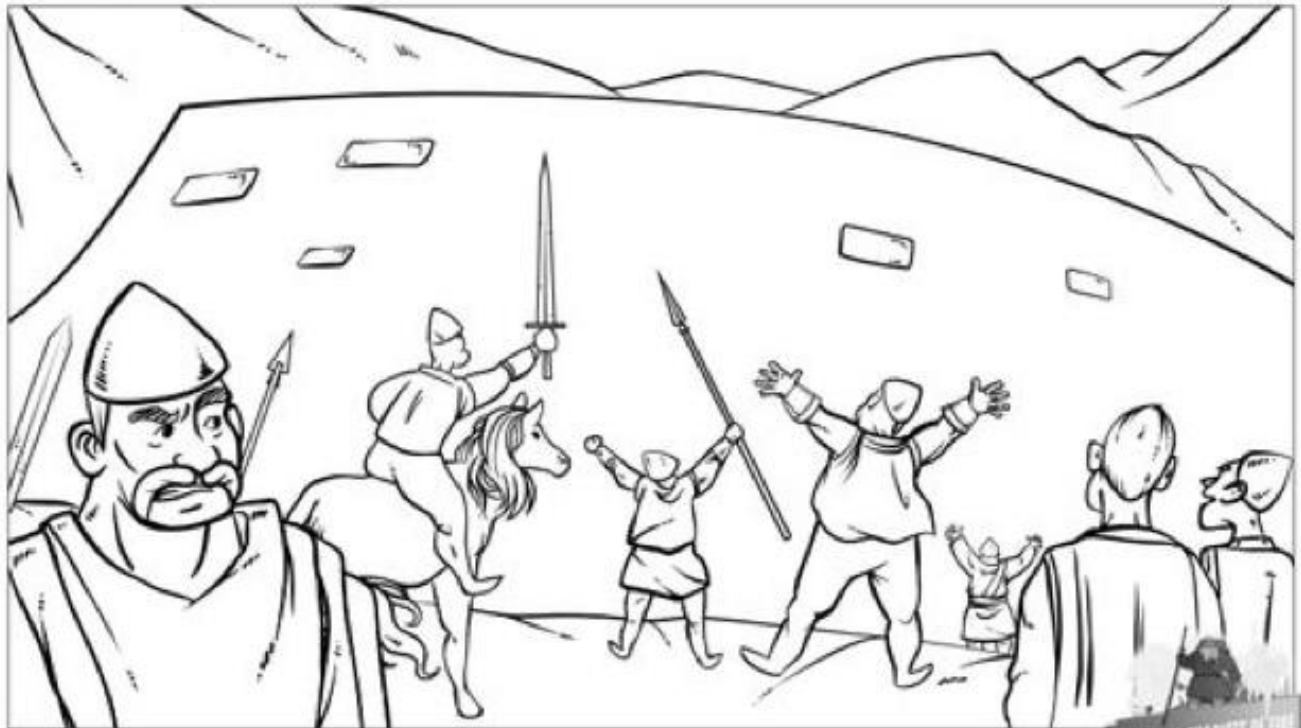
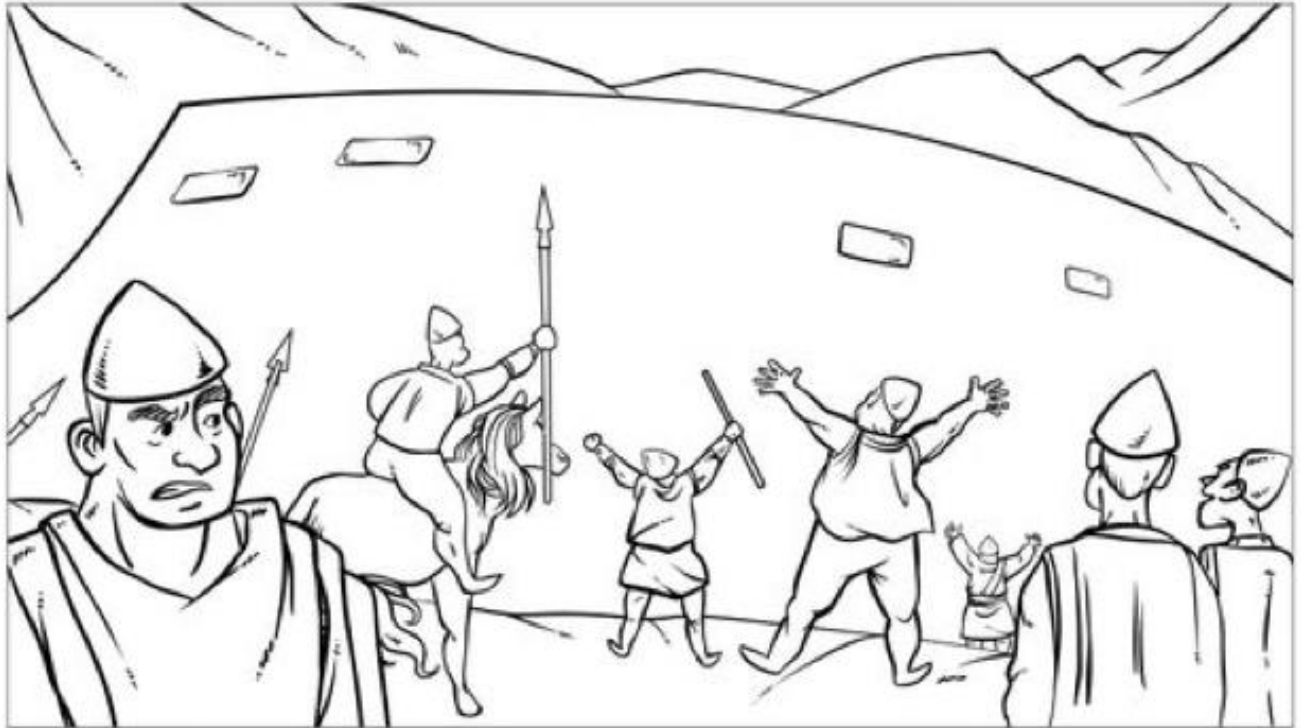
**Next week**





# HORSES & CHARIOTS OF FIRE

Spot 8 differences between the two pictures.





Elisha and his servant see God's Army of Fire



# Elisha and his servant see God's invisible army

