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Prayer Meeting Address by Mr. J. Delves at "Ebenezer" Clapham

16th. April, 1951

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Reading 2 Kings 6 (1- 23)

GOSPEL STANDARD BAPTISTS

The chapter is very instructive and confirming and has a number of particulars that I could not enter in detail into now, but I would like to notice one or two points; first how God revealed to His servant the very place where the Syrians encamped, according to the word of the king who said "In such and such a place shall be my camp." But God revealed that secret unto His servant. Nothing can be hid from the eye of God and in those days in particular some very remarkable things occurred wherein God disclosed certain secrets unto His servants the prophets, so that Elisha disclosed to the king of Israel the place where the Syrians were come down and warned him not to go there, and the king, regarding Elisha's warning, saved himself "not once nor twice".

Another point is that when it was told the king of Syria that Elisha, in the land of Israel, did tell the king the words that he spake in his bedchamber, the king of Syria sent an army to apprehend Elisha. But God was in this matter also and when the servant of Elisha the man of God was risen early and gone forth he beheld an host that encompassed the city and he was filled with apprehension. Going to his master he said, "Alas, my master! How shall we do?" Some of you may have come to such a pass as that at times when possibly some great and apparently insurmountable difficulty and danger has confronted you so that there may have seemed to be no way of escape. Have you sometimes come to a place where you have said, "O what shall we do, what can we do, what course can we take?" You are brought just to such a pass, and yet have you not seen the hand of God even in these extremities? Notice the confirming word of Elisha to his servant. He said, "Fear not, for they that be with us are more than they that be with them." Elisha knew a secret that was hidden from his servant. Elisha had wonderful faith in his God and believed and knew that no extremity or difficulty could be too great for God

to deal with. O what a mercy it is when we are favoured to view in some way the power of Heaven; when we can we shall not fear the powers of earth. "If God be for us who can be against us?".

"Fear not". It was a remarkable word, very confirming. O what a great thing it is when we are enabled to see God above all our enemies, above all our difficulties, above all our fears. Then Elisha prayed and said, "Lord, 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." That was a remarkable disclosure to him, he saw how God's divine protection was over His servant although there was an enemy army encompassing the city to apprehend him. No enemy can prevail against God. Great power was given to the Lord's servant in answer to his pleading. After praying that the Lord would open the young man's eyes he prayed again and said, "Smite this people, I pray thee with blindness", and the Lord smote them with blindness so that they were utterly helpless. To what purpose is it for man to attempt to fight against God? Then Elisha led them away, presumably inferring that they had mistaken their course into Samaria, and then he prayed again and asked the Lord to open their eyes and He did, and behold they were in the midst of Samaria, not encompassing Dothan. No, they had to be led away, for they were by the providence of God placed entirely in the hands of the very man whose life they sought; and yet, notice his compassion toward them. When the king of Israel said, "Shall I smite them? Shall I smite them?" Elisha said, "Thou shalt not smite them" and instead of that he made great provision for them, so that they did eat and drink and went their way. Hence we read in the precept "Be not overcome of evil but overcome evil with good". A gracious and seasonable teaching and may the Lord make it confirming to us, especially that word that I felt particularly that Elisha said, "Fear not; for they that be with us are more than they that be with them." Amen.

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Further reading Psalm 119.1-18 Hymns:196.1 and 6-9;1067