**ALAS MY MASTER! WHAT SHALL WE DO?**

*Dave Wineinger*

The prophet Elisha lived during the times of the Divided Kingdoms of Israel and Judah. In 2nd Kings, Chapter 6, the story is told of the King of Syria’s plans to attack the northern kingdom of Israel. From afar, Elisha the Prophet was aware of his plans. Multiple times, he warned the King of Israel of impending battles. With his plans repeatedly foiled the King of Syria was greatly irritated. So much so that he sought to seize Elisha in Dothan, located in the middle of the northern kingdom. By night, his great army with horses and chariots surrounded Dothan. In the early morning, the servant of Elisha awoke to see the plight before them. It’s easy to understand his cry of distress, “Alas, my master! What shall we do?” (2 Kings 6:15)

We are all living through a war of sorts right now. Don’t we know!

Unlike the servant of the man of God who could see the enemy, we can’t.

He knew that they were surrounded. So do we.

Fear was then. Fear is now.

Read on through Elisha’s response in 2 Kings 6: 16-18.

He said, “Do not be afraid, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.” Then Elisha prayed and said, “O Lord, please open his eyes that he may see.” So, 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. And when the Syrians came down against him, Elisha prayed to the Lord and said, “Please strike this people with blindness”. So he struck them with blindness in accordance with the prayer of Elisha.

God knew Elisha’s plight. He knows ours, too. Our eyes may not be able to see God’s warriors around us, but they are there. Here’s a concept rarely discussed – God’s warriors are also within us. Without a doubt, the number of people that have died and will die from COVID-19 are frightening. However, it’s time to hit ‘pause’ to consider all of those who haven’t died from this virus. Society will ask, “How are some people so lucky to be barely sick while, for others, it is deadly”. With certainty, luck isn’t the answer. The correct answer is God’s design of the complex immune system within us. Upon exposure to this Corona virus, the “Marines & Special Ops” of the immune system lead the lymphocytic response with Natural Killer Cells. These cells send out the call for reinforcements (cytokines, interleukins). Responding to the call to action, our B & T lymphocytes interact with each other and quickly multiply (ie, our “swollen glands”).

Some mature into Plasma cells which pour out virus neutralizing antibodies by the millions. With all branches of our defense system called into action, the battle within is waged, generally with success.

The media experts always seem to have the only answers. More masks. Better medicines. Quicker response times. Vaccines. When have you ever heard them fit in time to praise God for His design of our wonderfully complex immune system? Textbooks describe it in great but unexplainable detail. God’s faithful believe with certainty the words of King David,

“I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.” Psalm 139:14

In addition to the **Battle of Dothan** above, God has shown himself to be the true victor of many other battles. Here are a few along with the accompanying words of God.

**The crossing of the Red Sea**

“and I will get glory over Pharaoh” (Exodus 14: 17)

**The fall of Jericho**

“See I have given Jericho into your hand” (Joshua 6:2)

**The battle at Gibeon** against 10 foreign King’s armies and the sun stopped

“There has been no day like it before or since, when the Lord heeded the voice of a man, for the Lord fought for Israel.” (Joshua 10:14)

**Gideon’s victory with 300 men** over a multitude of Midianites

“And the Lord said to Gideon, with the 300 men who lapped; I will save you and give the Midianites into your hand” (Judges 7: 7)

Let it be an encouragement to all of us in this time of war, that, like Elisha’s servant, we all remember who is really in control. While being thankful for everyone here on earth that is fighting for victory, we can regularly praise God who is around us and within us. Let’s give the credit where it is due. God deserves it and desires it, as He told Gideon,

“The Lord said to Gideon, the people with you are too many for me to give the Midianites into their hand, lest Israel boast over me, saying, My own hand has saved me.” (Judges 7: 2)

Peace and love be with you all.

Dr. Dave