

September 5, 2010

**Ephesians 6: The Ways of War**  
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**2 Kings 6:8-17**

*2 Kings 6:8 Once when the king of Syria was warring against Israel, he took counsel with his servants, saying, "At such and such a place shall be my camp." 9 But the man of God sent word to the king of Israel, "Beware that you do not pass this place, for the Syrians are going down there." 10 And the king of Israel sent to the place about which the man of God told him. Thus he used to warn him, so that he saved himself there more than once or twice. 11 And the mind of the king of Syria was greatly troubled because of this thing, and he called his servants and said to them, "Will you not show me who of us is for the king of Israel?" 12 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." 13 And he said, "Go and see where he is, that I may send and seize him." It was told him, "Behold, he is in Dothan." 14 So he sent there horses and chariots and a great army, and they came by night and surrounded the city. 15 When the servant of the man of God rose early in the morning and went out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was all around the city. And the servant said, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?" 16 He said, "Do not be afraid, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them." 17 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. 18 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.*

• **There is a spiritual world.**

**Two objections:**

- *This is primitive.*
- *This isn't prevalent in the Bible.*

**Two dangers:**

- *Fanatical*
- *Forgetful*

• **There is a spiritual war.**

**The conflict is real.**

**The conflict is between two kingdoms.**

**The conflict is personal.**

- *Hebrews 12:4 - Against sin*
- *1 Peter 2:11 - For our souls*

- Jude 3 - For the faith
- Philippians 1:27 - For the gospel
- 1 Timothy 6:12, 1 Timothy 4:7 - We fight the good fight
- 2 Timothy - 2:3 - We are soldiers
- 2 Corinthians 10:4 - We have weapons and armor

**The consequences are eternal.**

### **Ephesians 6:10-20**

*Ephesians 6:10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. 14 Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. 16 In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; 17 and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, 18 praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, 19 and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.*

- **There is a spiritual enemy.**

*Satan was created.*

*Satan is cunning.*

*Satan is controlling.*

*He can't make us do anything, but he promotes, entices and empowers us.*

### **1 John 5:19**

*1 John 5:19 We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.*

- **God is victorious.**

*Satan has been defeated.*

*Satan is not yet destroyed.*

### **Genesis 3:14-15**

*Genesis 3:14 The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. 15 I will put enmity between you and the*

woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

### **Colossians 2:13-15**

13 And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, 14 by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. 15 **He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.**

#### **• Closing considerations:**

**Consider your life.**

**Consider your kingdom.**

**Consider your church.**

- *Is there war-time urgency and sacrifice in your life? It won't be evident in your church if it isn't evident in you.*