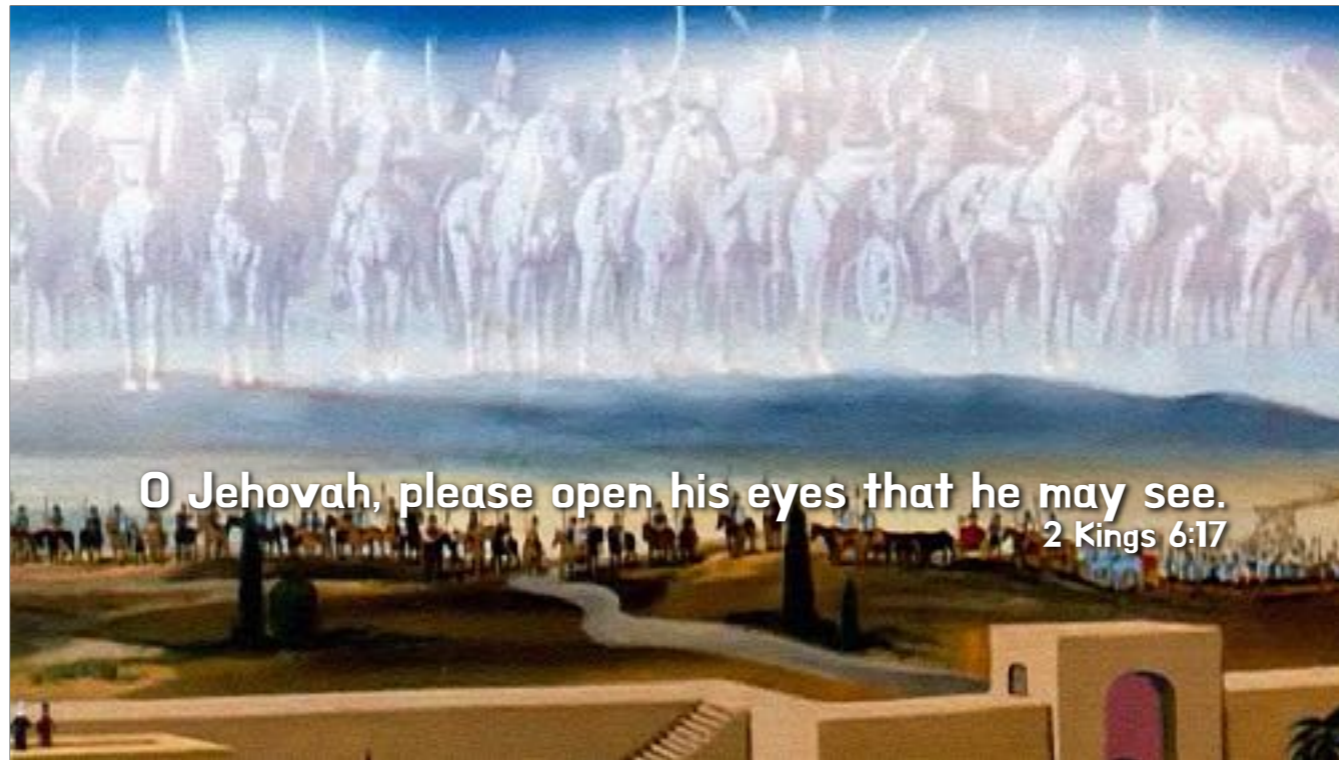


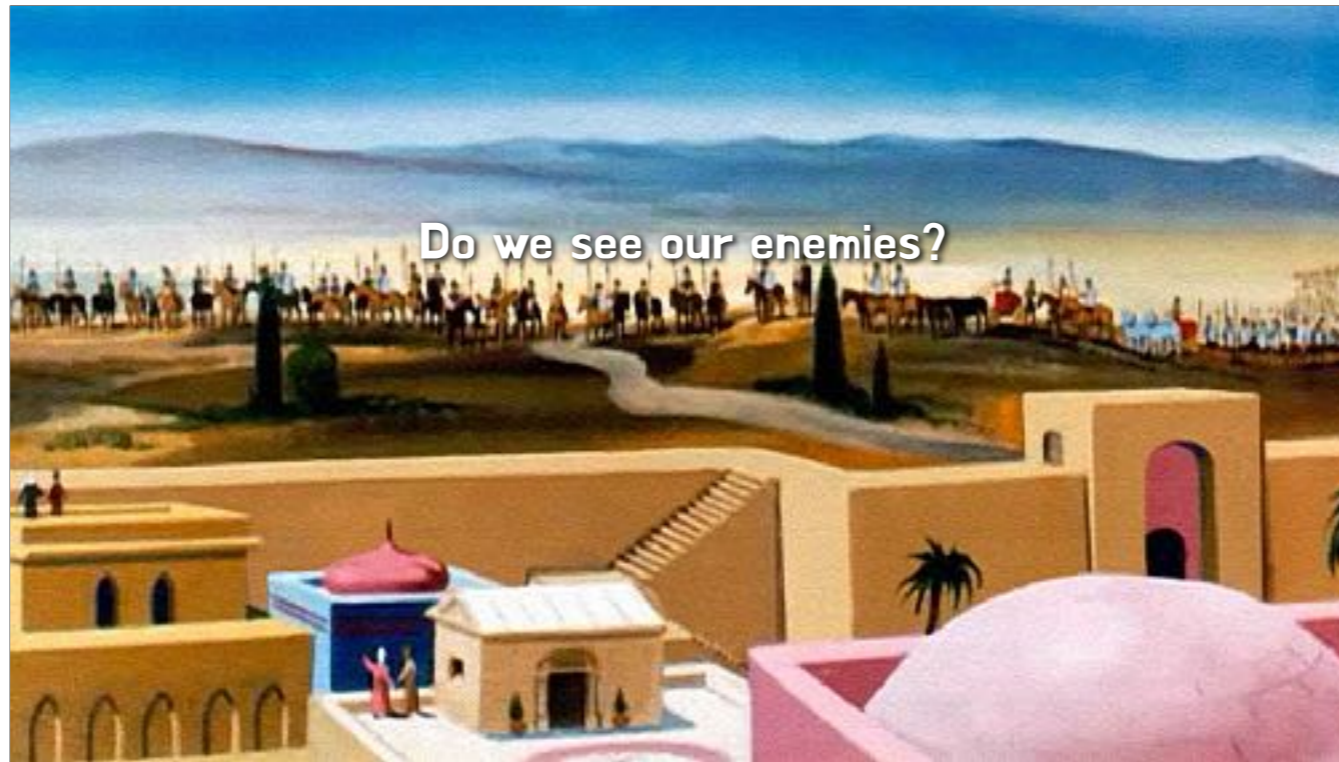


- Proverbs 20:13: Love not sleep, lest you come to poverty; open your eyes, and you will have plenty of bread.



• 2 Kings 6:15-17

- 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?"
- 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.



- Do we see our enemies clearly?



- Do we see our enemies clearly?
- Satan
 - 1 Peter 5:8 (ESV) 8 Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.
 - Don't make light of this:serious
 - Job
 - David
 - Jesus
 - Judas
 - Ananias and Sapphira
 - Real enough that Peter warns us.
 - And a solution!



- Spiritual
 - Ephesians 6:11-12 (ESV) 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.



- Human
 - 2 Timothy 3:8 (ESV) 8 Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these men also oppose the truth, men corrupted in mind and disqualified regarding the faith.



- 2 Timothy 4:14-15 (ESV) 14 Alexander the coppersmith did me great harm; the Lord will repay him according to his deeds. 15 Beware of him yourself, for he strongly opposed our message.



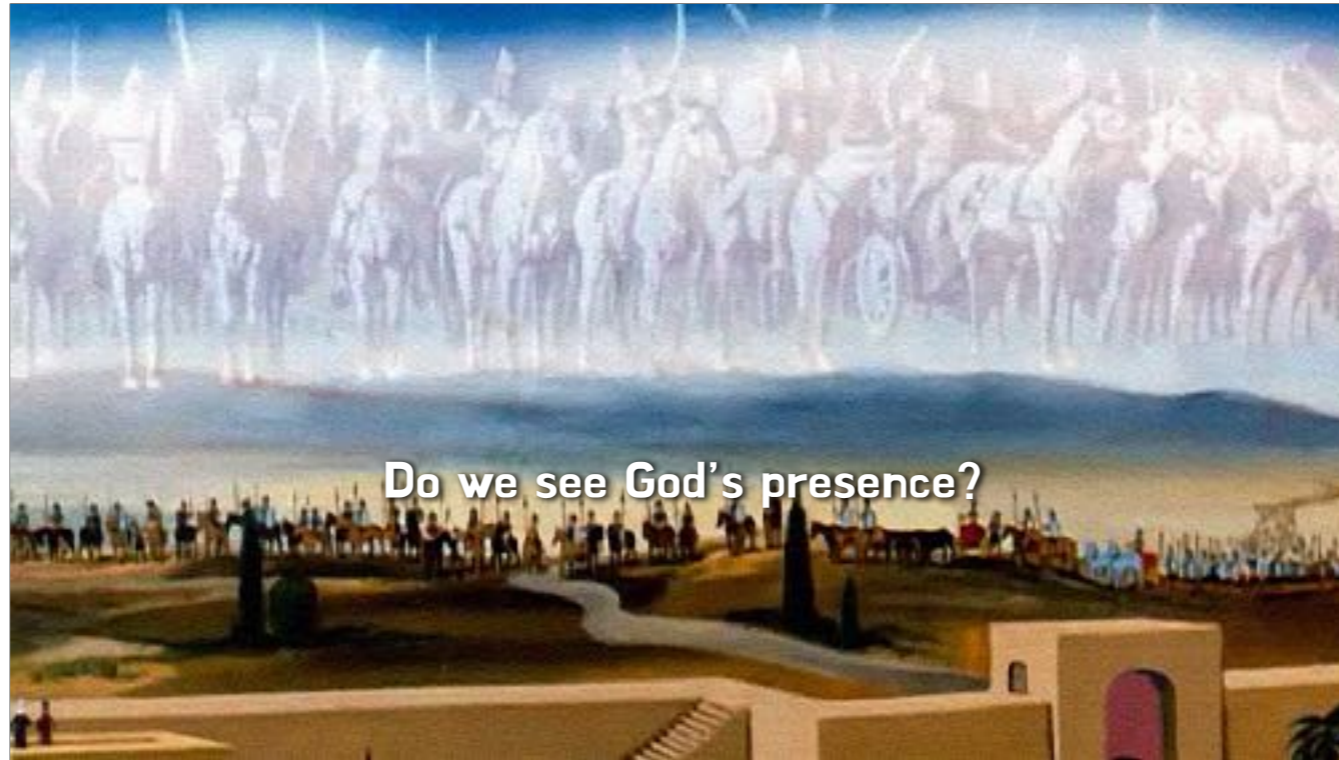
- 2 Corinthians 11:13-15 (ESV) 13 For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. 14 And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. 15 So it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their deeds.



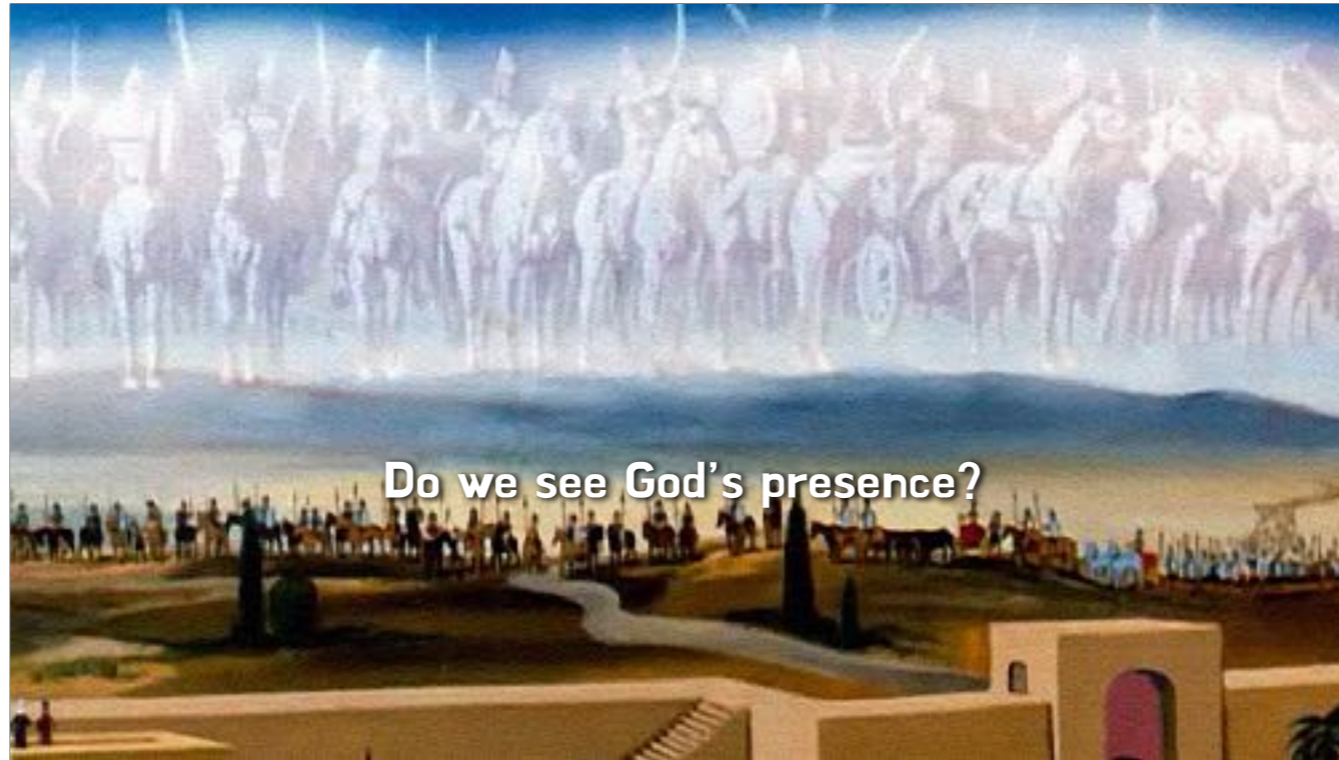
- 2 Peter 2:1-3 (ESV) 1 But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction. 2 And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of truth will be blasphemed. 3 And in their greed they will exploit you with false words. Their condemnation from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.



- Have we created false enemies?
- Attacks against brethren we don't completely agree with?
- Galatians 5:15 But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another.



- Too often, like Elisha's servant, we focus only on what we see and are afraid.
 - 2 Kings 6:15-16 (ESV) "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."

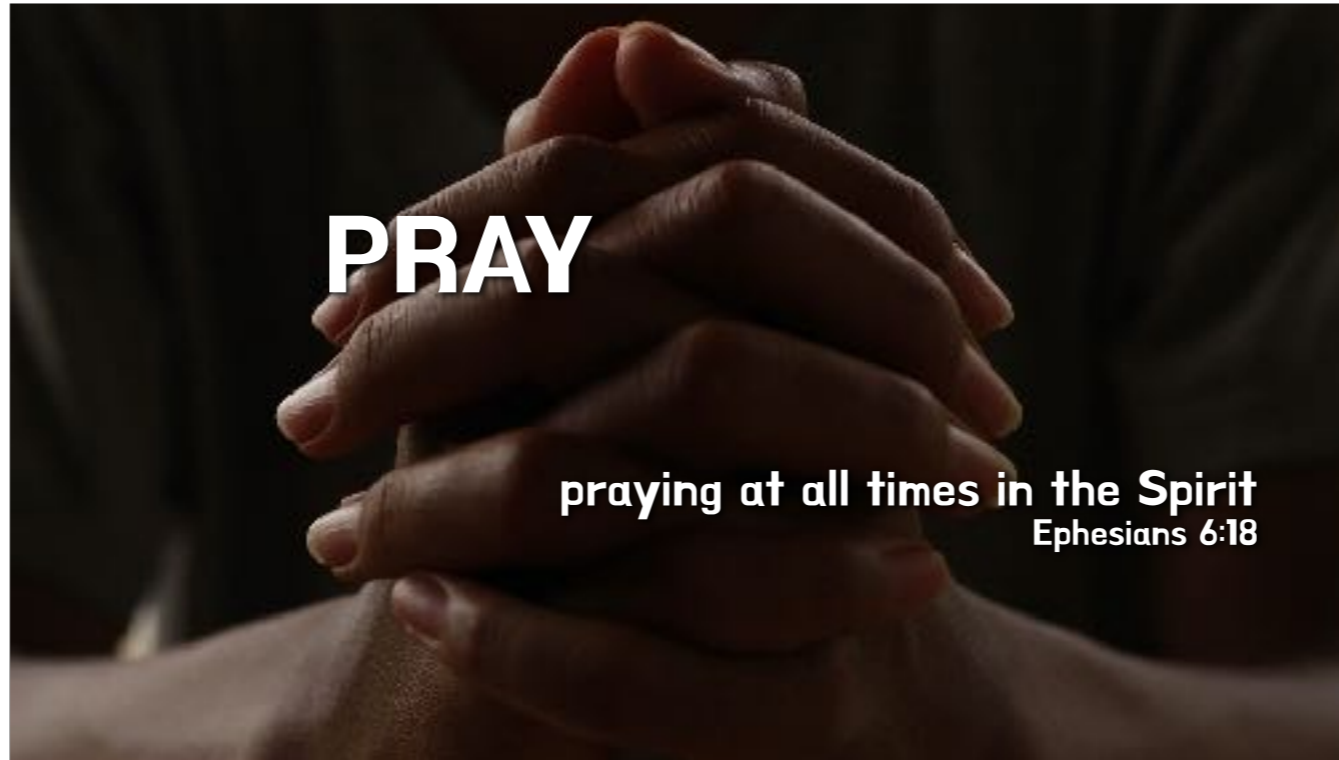


- The Presence of God in our Battles

- Joshua 1:5 (ESV) 5 No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you or forsake you.
- Joshua 1:9 (ESV) 9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”



- Pray
 - 2 Kings 6:17 (ESV) 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.



- Ephesians 6:18 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,



- Romans 10:1-4 (ESV) 1 Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved. 2 For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. 3 For, being ignorant of the righteousness of God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. 4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.
 - Paul not only prays for his enemies
 - He prays for the ultimate victory: that they be saved.
 - He doesn't pray for their defeat, or vengeance.
 - But their salvation: that they would know Christ.



- Prepare for Spiritual Warfare

•



- Prepare for Spiritual Warfare
 - Ephesians 6:13 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.



- 2 Corinthians 10:3-6 (ESV) 3 For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. 4 For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. 5 We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ, 6 being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete.



- Divine Power
 - It's God not me
 - Me (Flesh) vs. faith in God
- Do I trust that God knows what he's doing in this spiritual battle?



- Not Battling Ideas (not people):
 - arguments, opinion



- Knowledge of God
 - not our traditions
 - Ephesians 6:17 and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,
 - Psalms 119:18 Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law.



- Obedience
 - One of our greatest weapons is the decision to be faithful to God.
 - Choosing to be obedient when others would tempt us to turn from him.



- Be Kind
 - 2 Kings 6:21-23 (ESV) 21 As soon as the king of Israel saw them, he said to Elisha, “My father, shall I strike them down? Shall I strike them down?” 22 He answered, “You shall not strike them down. Would you strike down those whom you have taken captive with your sword and with your bow? Set bread and water before them, that they may eat and drink and go to their master.” 23 So he prepared for them a great feast, and when they had eaten and drunk, he sent them away, and they went to their master. And the Syrians did not come again on raids into the land of Israel.



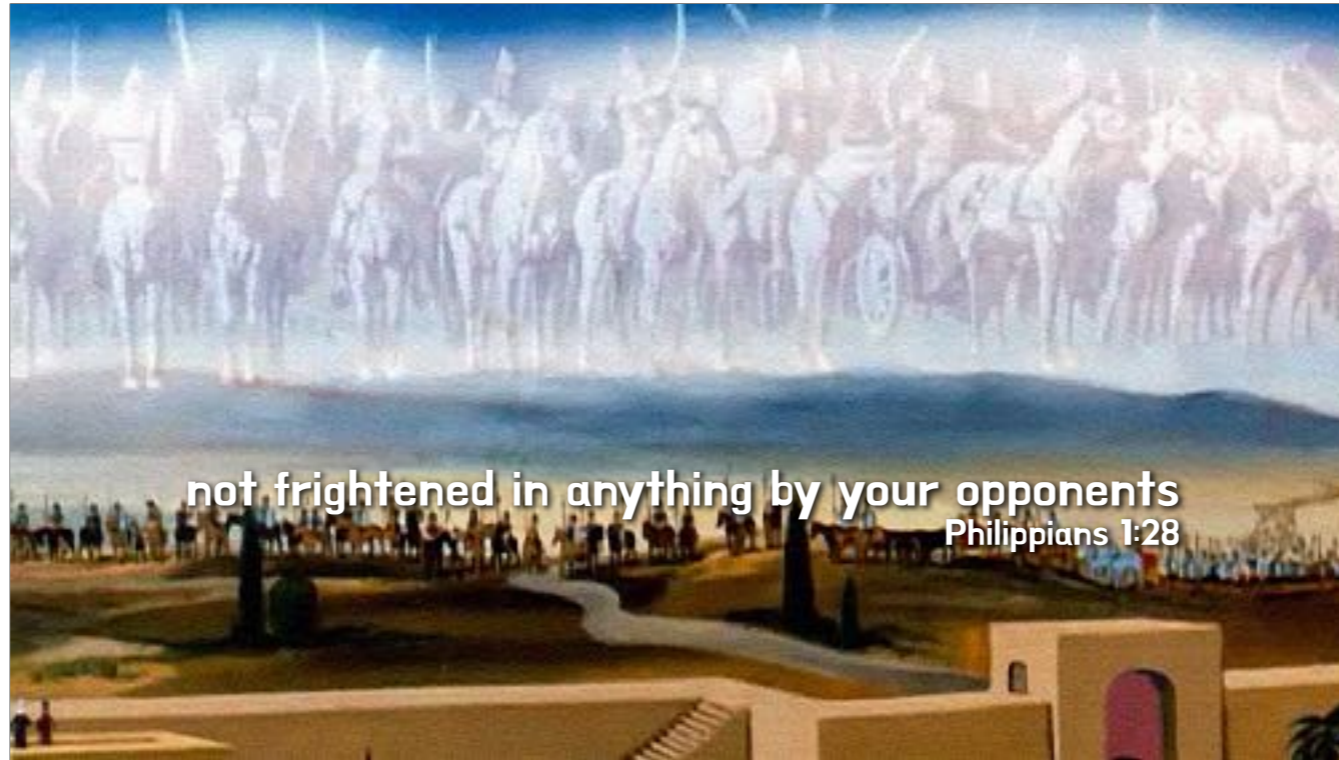
- Romans 12:20 To the contrary, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.”



- 2 Timothy 4:14-15 (ESV) 14 Alexander the coppersmith did me great harm; **the Lord will repay him according to his deeds.** 15 Beware of him yourself, for he strongly opposed our message.



- 2 Timothy 2:25 (ESV) 25 correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth,



- Philippians 1:28 (ESV) 28 and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God.
- They are real, powerful, strong
- God is in control:divine power
- Pray, Prepare, Be Kind

We implore you
on behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.

2 Corinthians 5:20

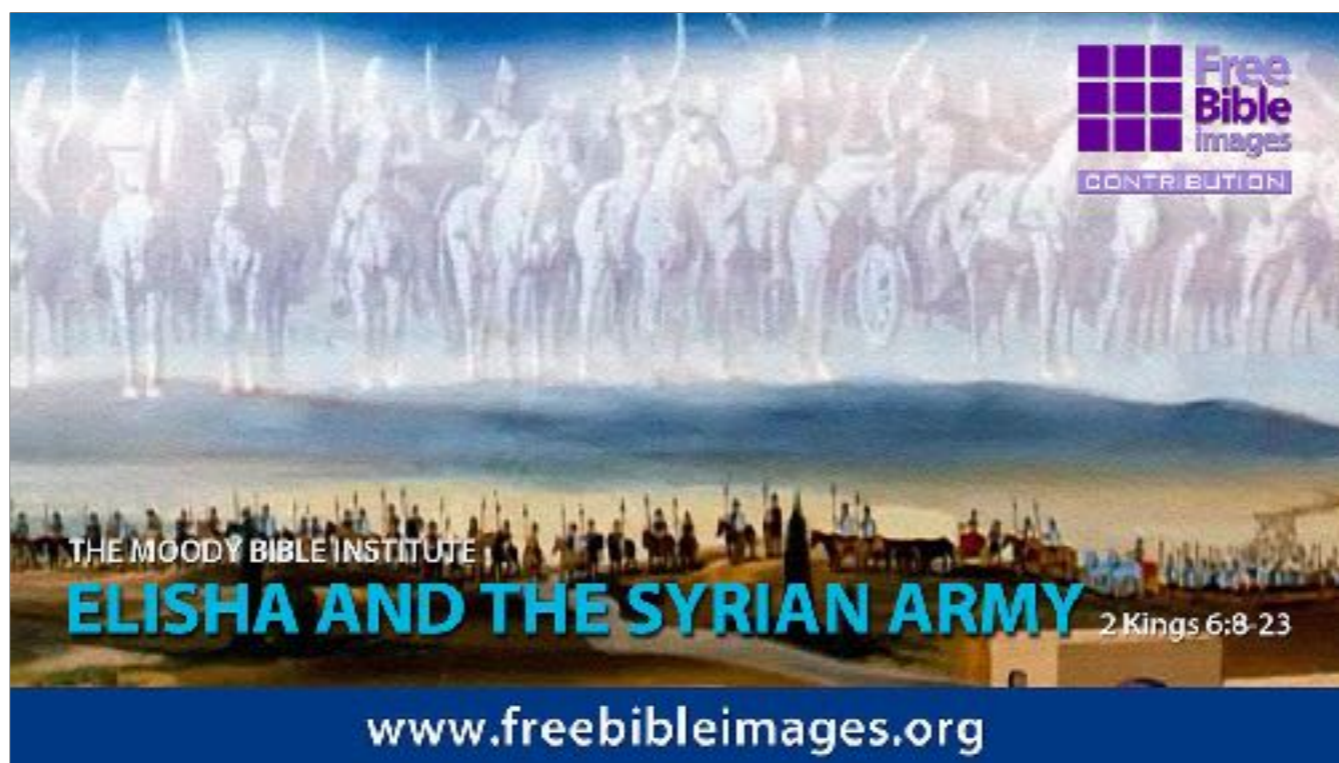
Photo Credits:

All photos from istockphoto.com, crestock.com, bigstock.com, dreamtime.com, thinkstock.com, and shutterstock.com are copyright protected. They are used by permission. Please do not reuse without permission.)

<https://pixabay.com/illustrations/banner-header-eye-window-woman-1235602/>

<https://pixabay.com/photos/chess-queen-army-chess-game-praying-7109823/>

<https://pixabay.com/photos/hands-praying-worship-belief-5441201/>



Open Your Eyes

2 Kings 6:17

Synopsis: Elisha being attacked by the Syrians reminds us that sometimes it's easier to see our enemies than it is to see God's presence. It reminds us that we must be ready to deal with the enemies through prayer, preparation, and kindness.

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

“Let all that you do be done with love.”