

Worship Wednesday, “Surrounded”

10.2.19

I’m a Star Wars fan and I have been since I was a boy in the mid-70’s when George Lucas introduced Star Wars to the world. I grew up loving Luke Skywalker...



He was the champion for good, and represented all that was right and true! The cool thing about Star Wars is that it continues on... The next movie is coming out this Christmas, so I’ll get to enjoy that movie with Josh and Andrew...three generations! Why do I bring up Luke? It’s because of this:



For the Star Wars fans...we know who those two are. That’s Luke on the left and Kylo Ren on the right. You see, Kylo Ren represents the dark side. Luke represents the light. (And...Oh, there are so many Biblical analogies in these Star Wars movies.) But, Ren is trying to kill Luke and he thinks he has...



He stabs his light-saber through Luke. But, does he? No! Luke’s not even there! It was only an apparition of Luke.



Luke was buying time for Princess Leia and the others to escape. You see, for Kylo Ren, reality is not what it appeared... Good would win over evil, yet again! One of my favorite scenes in the Last Jedi was when Luke (in his apparition state) brushes off his shoulder...



showing Kylo Ren that he and all of his weapons used against him was nothing!

Tonight, we are surrounded. We are worshipping in the round. Tonight, we want you to understand that things are not always as they seem in the spiritual realm. Imagine waking up to find yourself completely surrounded by enemies. How would you react? With fear and despair? God's prophet Elisha found himself in this exact situation in **2 Kings chapter 6. Turn there with me.**

Elisha the prophet has just given very valuable advice to Israel's army about how to defeat the Syrian army, their enemy. The King of Syria, a man named, Ben-hadad, decided he was going to come after Elisha and try to take him as a prisoner. Elisha has been a thorn in his side for long enough and it's time to surround him and destroy him and the nation of Israel.

2 Kings 6:8-18

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.

Indeed, things aren’t ALWAYS as they appear to our naked eyes, are they? And we know this to be true based on Scripture, don’t we?

Ephesians 6:12

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.

We know there are demons in the spirit world. They represent the 1/3 of the angels who believed the lie of Satan (formerly Lucifer, a Guardian Cherub) that life on earth would be better with him than in heaven with God. (Oh, he is INDEED the Great Deceiver, isn’t he?) But, there are 2/3rds of the angels who stayed, right? They are God’s heavenly host. What do these angels do?

Hebrews 1:14

¹⁴ Are they not all ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?

Remember from our study in Hebrews how it will be in heaven one day?

Hebrews 12:22

²² But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering,

The book of the Revelation, chapter 5 says:

Revelation 5:11

¹¹ Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands,

“Myriads and myriads” in the Greek means: *an innumerable or unlimited number*. It’s the largest number you can imagine. Let that sink in. We have innumerable angels to care for us and minister to us. That’s what happened with Daniel.

Remember when the Lord was revealing to Daniel what the “70 weeks” of future end time events meant. Daniel didn’t understand and the angel Gabriel was trying to get to Daniel but couldn’t. And so, church family, we’re going to get a glimpse into the spiritual realm.

Daniel 10:12-14

¹² Then he said to me, “Fear not, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand and humbled yourself before your God, your words have been heard, and I have come because of your words. ¹³ The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days, but Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I was left there with the kings of Persia, ¹⁴ and came to

make you understand what is to happen to your people in the latter days. For the vision is for days yet to come.”

Gabriel was able to give Daniel the revelation, but Gabriel didn't leave Daniel helpless. Daniel was absolutely and totally wiped out from his three weeks of praying and fasting.

Daniel 10:18-21

¹⁸ Again one having the appearance of a man touched me and strengthened me. ¹⁹ And he said, “O man greatly loved, fear not, peace be with you; be strong and of good courage.” And as he spoke to me, I was strengthened and said, “Let my lord speak, for you have strengthened me.” ²⁰ Then he said, “Do you know why I have come to you? But now I will return to fight against the prince of Persia; and when I go out, behold, the prince of Greece will come. ²¹ But I will tell you what is inscribed in the book of truth: there is none who contends by my side against these except Michael, your prince.”

Listen, we are not alone...not even in this room right now. We're surrounded! WITH ANGELS! We are safe and we are protected. Listen, when we feel that spiritual darkness is closing in, remember, you're SURROUNDED by angels, you can't see!

And guess what? We're surrounded by one another!

Hebrews 10:23-24

²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works.

You see, church family, we have two responses when we're confronted with fear. We can give-in to it or resist it. Remember, we are not told to fight or rebuke Satan...we are only told to resist.

James 4:7-8

⁷ Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸ Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

Don't be double-minded. Don't focus on the fear. Doing so will overwhelm and bring terrorizing fear, just like Elisha's servant! Go back to 2 Kings 6.

2 Kings 6:15

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?”

The servant was scared to death... All he could see was the enemy! It paralyzed him! That servant looked down that hill of the city of Dothan and all he saw was a sea of enemies with spears and shields and swords and they were ready to destroy!

Maybe that's you tonight! All you can see or experience in your mind and spirit right now is fear. Paralyzing fear, like quick-sand...devouring every ounce of faith in your soul. Listen...don't look at the enemy! Resist in prayer... That's what Elisha did... Elisha saw the situation in a completely different way. He prayed...

2 Kings 6:17

¹⁷Then 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.

How might that have looked?



Oh that's glorious! I know it's hokey...but, this is what I thought of...from the perspective of Elisha... See Luke as Elisha...



Yes, the servant was ready to run for his life and then BANG...there they are...angels everywhere! And these angels had chariots...the greatest weapon for battle in that day...chariots represented the tomahawk missile of their day. If you had chariots, you had speed and you could whip anybody! God was shouting to the servant: I'm greater! I'm stronger!

Isaiah 54:17

No weapon that is fashioned against you shall succeed, and you shall refute every tongue that rises against you in judgment. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord and their vindication^[e] from me, declares the Lord.”

It reminds me of the shepherds in the fields of Bethlehem the night Jesus was born:

Luke 2:13

¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God.

Never forget who is the commanding General of our army! He is the LION AND THE LAMB! Oh, who can stop the Lord Almighty? He's roaring with power and fighting our battles! Who can stop Him? NO ONE! Oh, never forget who will come back to this earth at the end of the Battle of

Armageddon riding on a white horse, and on his robe and on his thigh, He has the name written: King of Kings and Lord of Lords! Remember Jesus when you feel surrounded...

Colossians 1:15-17

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶ For by ¹⁵him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. ¹⁷ And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

Listen church...

Psalm 34:7

The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them.

Psalm 91:11

For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways.

Isaiah 41:10

Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Oh soak this in tonight...Listen...

2 Corinthians 10:3-5

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.

One more verse of truth to encourage you:

Romans 8:31

³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

No one! You see, in a matter of moments, Elisha's simple faith reduced a seemingly unstoppable foe to nothing! Satan wants us to feel alone. He wants you to feel that you're up against insurmountable odds. He wants you to feel that you can only rely on your own strength. He wants to bring you to a place of despair, depression, and defeat...BUT, you know what? He's the defeated one! In reality, Satan is a pawn of God. Satan is like a dog on a leash. Satan is like the ocean tides...he can only go so far! And God jerks the leash!

Church, the powers of Satan and his demonic hoards are nothing compared to the power that we have at our disposal through prayer and the Holy Spirit within us! I want you to see the lyrics of Goodness of God with me and feel His power!

Goodness of God

And all my life You have been faithful
And all my life You have been so, so good
With every breath that I am able
Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God

Oh, church family, when we're willing to live in a **spirit of faith**, we can recognize our enemies for what they are LIMITED in Power and on leash...because God is on our side and running after us!

What are you seeing tonight? Fear or the army of God? Elisha's servant trusted in only what he could see and understand and it almost decimated him. All he saw was an obstacle that was

insurmountable and too great for him. He was only seeing his circumstances through human understanding. He was blinded to the spiritual fight. But, then his perspective changed, because his spiritual eyes were opened and He saw God's power...the Goodness of God! See it again:



Listen, tonight, it may look like you are surrounded by the enemy, but you aren't, you are surrounded by God.

Who's in the midst of a trial? Would you be willing to stand up so you can be surrounded? We want to pray for you in the physical realm you can see. Because this is how we fight our battles.
