

God Surrounds Elisha With an Army – 2 Kings 6:8-23

March 22, 2020

Dear Parents,

As we move through this unique time of social distancing, we don't have to neglect our spirits. You have a wonderful opportunity to be your child's spiritual instructor. The lesson that follows was designed to be done easily at home without anything other than some paper and something to write with. Everything else is provided on these pages. I pray your time with your children in the Word is truly special. This particular lesson is designed with our current situation in mind. While chaos seems to be erupting around us, we have the opportunity to show our children how to face the situation with faith and the strength of God. The following Bible story addresses just such a time in the life of the Children of Israel. Don't let this precious opportunity pass through your fingers.

Carolyn

Start with prayer:

Dear Lord, thank You that we all get to be here together. Would you please come and join us here through Your Holy Spirit and teach us how to understand You better and love You more. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Use the Link Provided on the Web page

Video – All Around the World

Supplies

- "All Around the World" teaching video

Discuss and Watch "All Around the World"

Say: We're learning that God is everywhere. Today's Bible story is about Elisha and his servant who got to see God's army all around them. And God isn't just around us, he's at work everywhere—all over the world!

Ask: What are some countries you know about besides ours? How do you know about them?

Say: Let's see what God is doing in five different countries.

Watch "All Around the World."

Ask: Which story from our video was the most amazing to you? Why?
What does it tell you about God to see him at work all around the world?

Say: God is everywhere, so we look for him around us. And we can look for him in other countries like Peru, Zambia, Thailand, and Norway!

Object Lesson – That’s Me!

Supplies

- ¼ Piece of paper for each person
- An ink pad, a sharpie, a marker, even a pencil – anything with which to make a thumb print

Study Fingerprints

Say: Detectives often search for fingerprints to identify people who were at crime scenes. Fingerprints are everywhere! Every person has a unique fingerprint that’s unlike anyone else’s.

Have kids examine their thumbprints for several seconds and try to memorize what they look like. Encourage kids to compare their own thumbprints to a friend’s and notice differences.

Make Fingerprints

Say: You think you know what your fingerprint looks like, but can you recognize it compare it with others? Let’s do an experiment to find out.

Have each person write their name on the back of the paper. Then, color everyone’s thumb with the ink, sharpie, or marker. Have them make a print on their paper. Tell them not to show it to anyone else.

Find Fingerprints

Have everyone mix up their prints and then lay them a table. Have kids try to identify their own prints and turn over the papers to reveal if they’re correct.

Talk About It

Say: Fingerprints provide evidence to confirm a person’s identity. Like you looked for your fingerprints, you can look for God. His fingerprints are all around us because God is everywhere. They’re on every flower we see, every animal we observe, and every person we come into contact with.

Ask: What can you do to better notice evidence of God around you?

Say: God is everywhere. Like detectives look for fingerprints, we can look for evidence of God in our everyday lives.

Bible Discovery – God Surrounds Elisha With an Army (2 Kings 6:8-23)

Supplies

- Bible
- Story Boards
- 3 pieces of paper torn in half or index cards
- Using a separate half sheet or index card for each word, write the following in large letters: tree, apple, giraffe, yellow, newspaper, grape.

Play Charades

Say: Let's start our Bible story time with a game of Charades.

Choose a child to be the Actor. Show the Actor one of the index cards. Then step behind the Actor and hold up the card so everyone else can read it without the Actor seeing what you're doing. Before the Actor even starts to act, kids will "guess" correctly. Continue this way with all the cards, trying not to let the Actor know what you're doing.

Have kids tell the Actor how they were able to guess so quickly.

Say: Our Charades game reminds me of what happened in today's Bible story. Let's check it out.

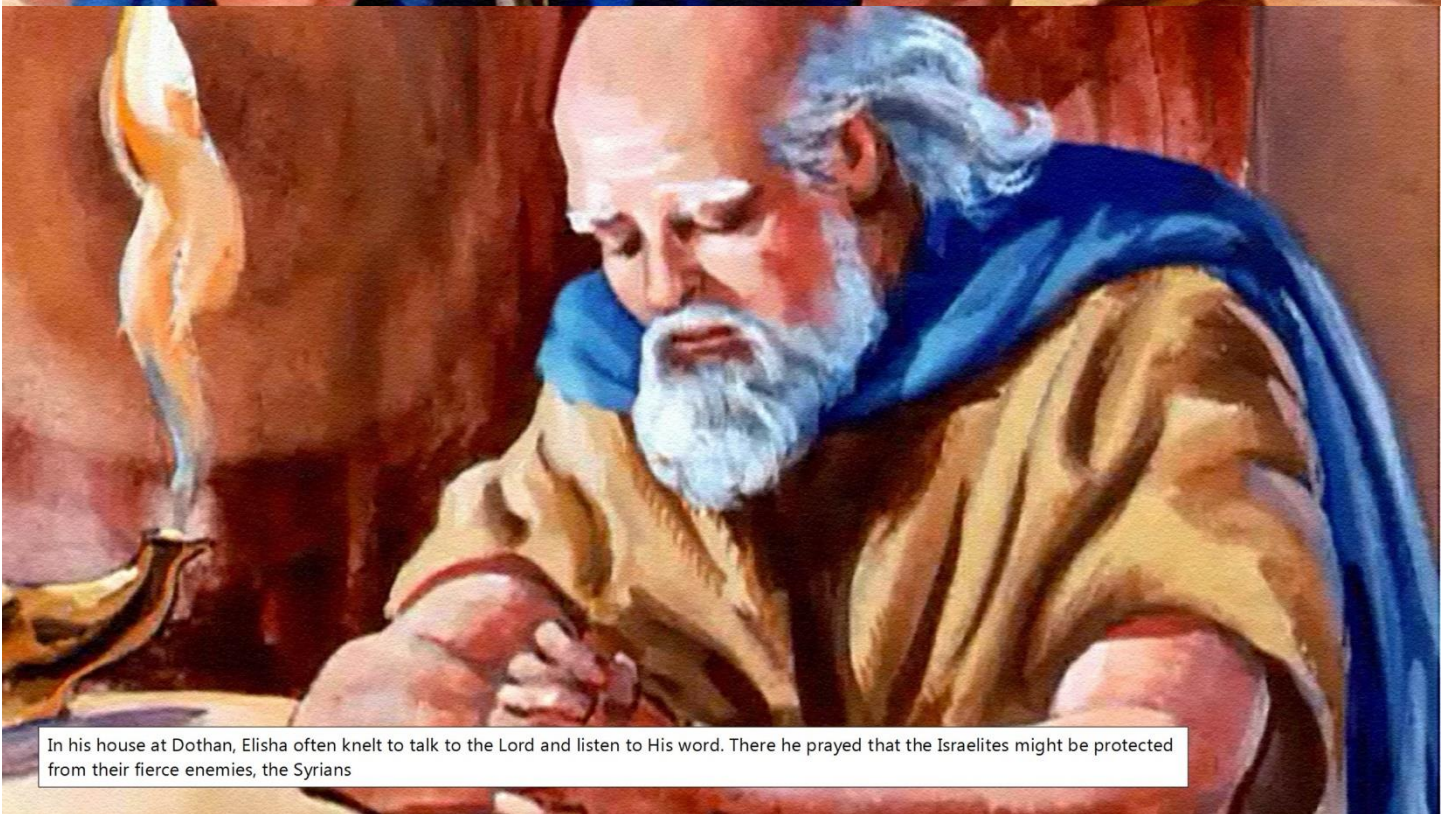
Using the story boards found in the PDF below, read the story of Elisha and God's army. The text for the story is on the boards.

Story boards go here

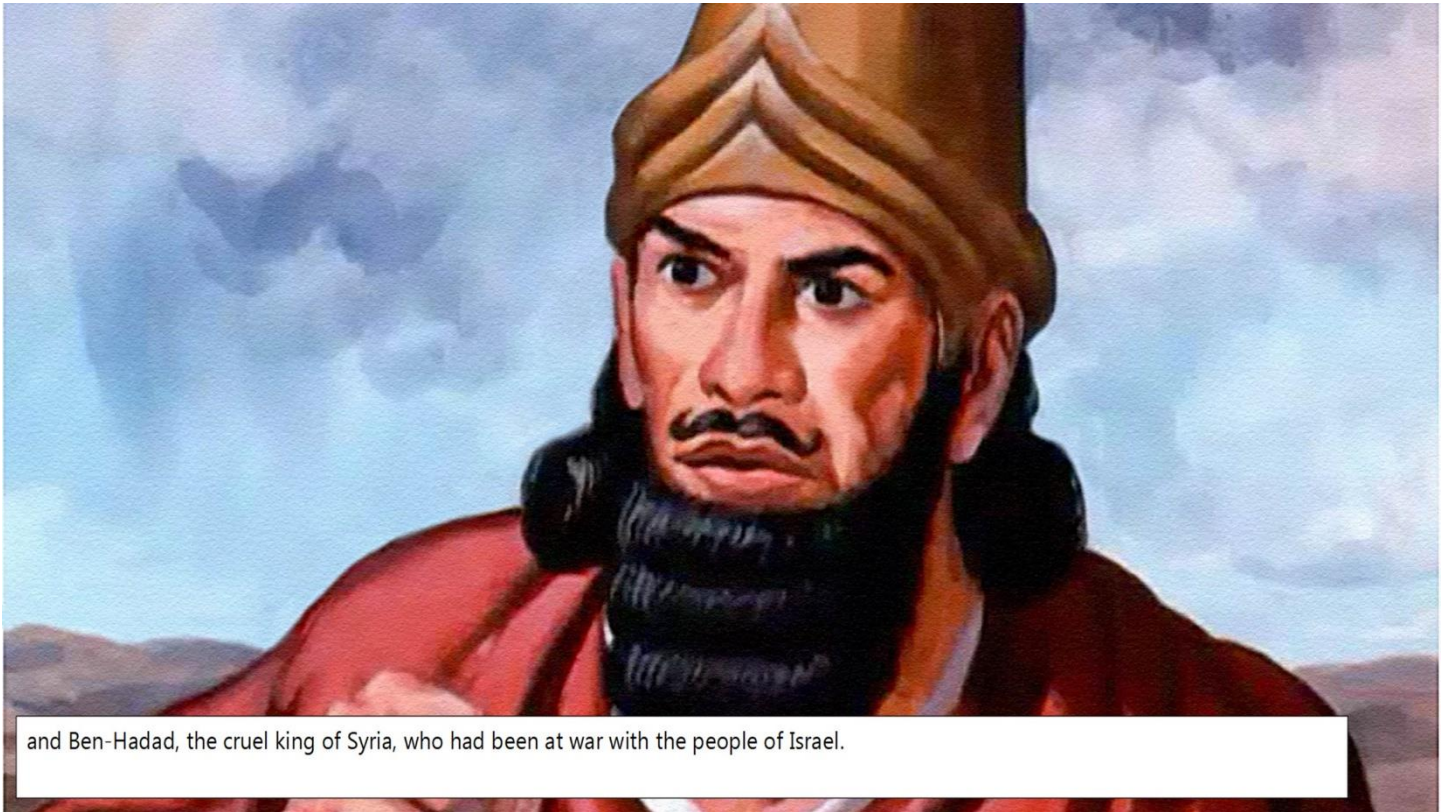




Once there was a great prophet named Elisha, who lived long ago in the land of Israel. He taught the people to worship God and to obey God's laws.



In his house at Dothan, Elisha often knelt to talk to the Lord and listen to His word. There he prayed that the Israelites might be protected from their fierce enemies, the Syrians



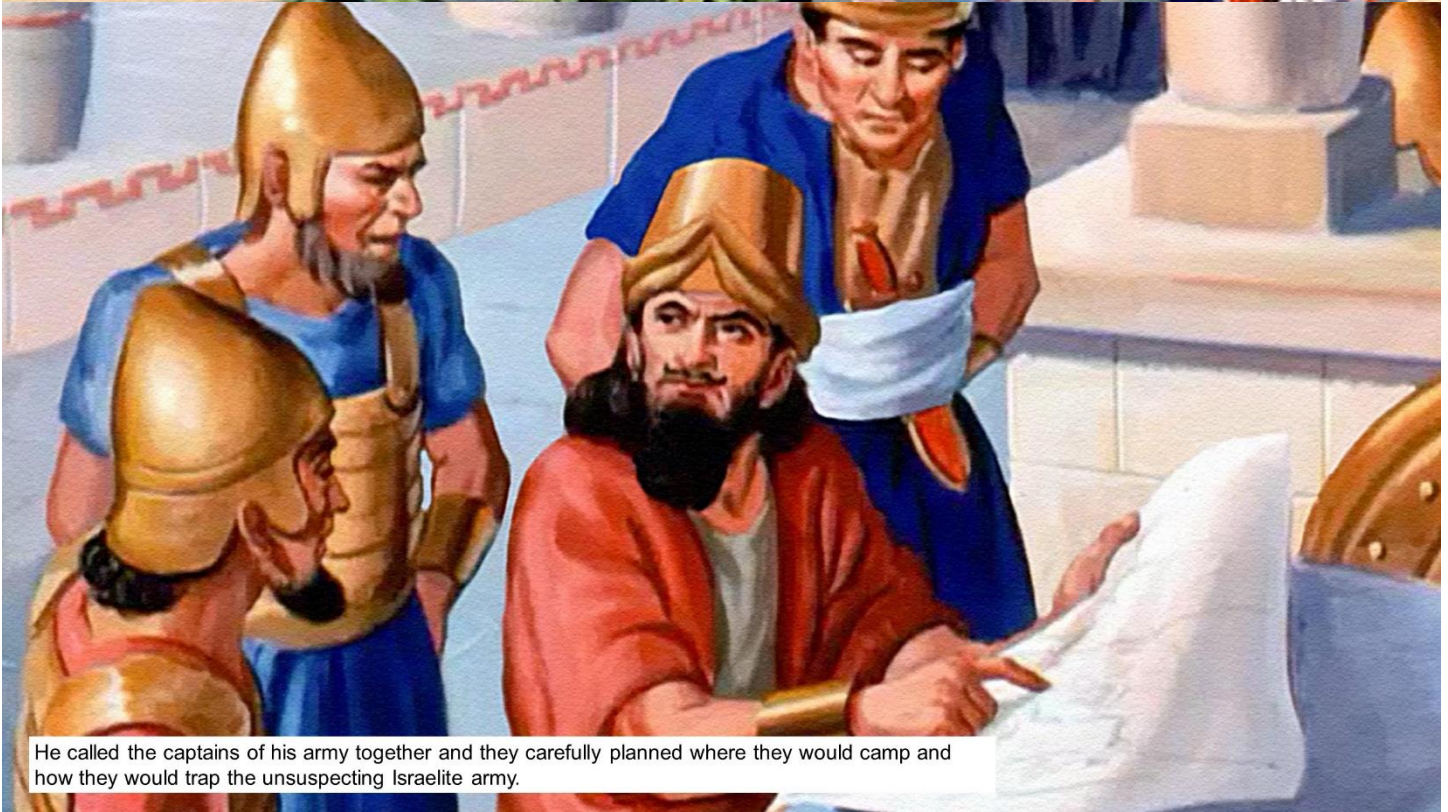
and Ben-Hadad, the cruel king of Syria, who had been at war with the people of Israel.



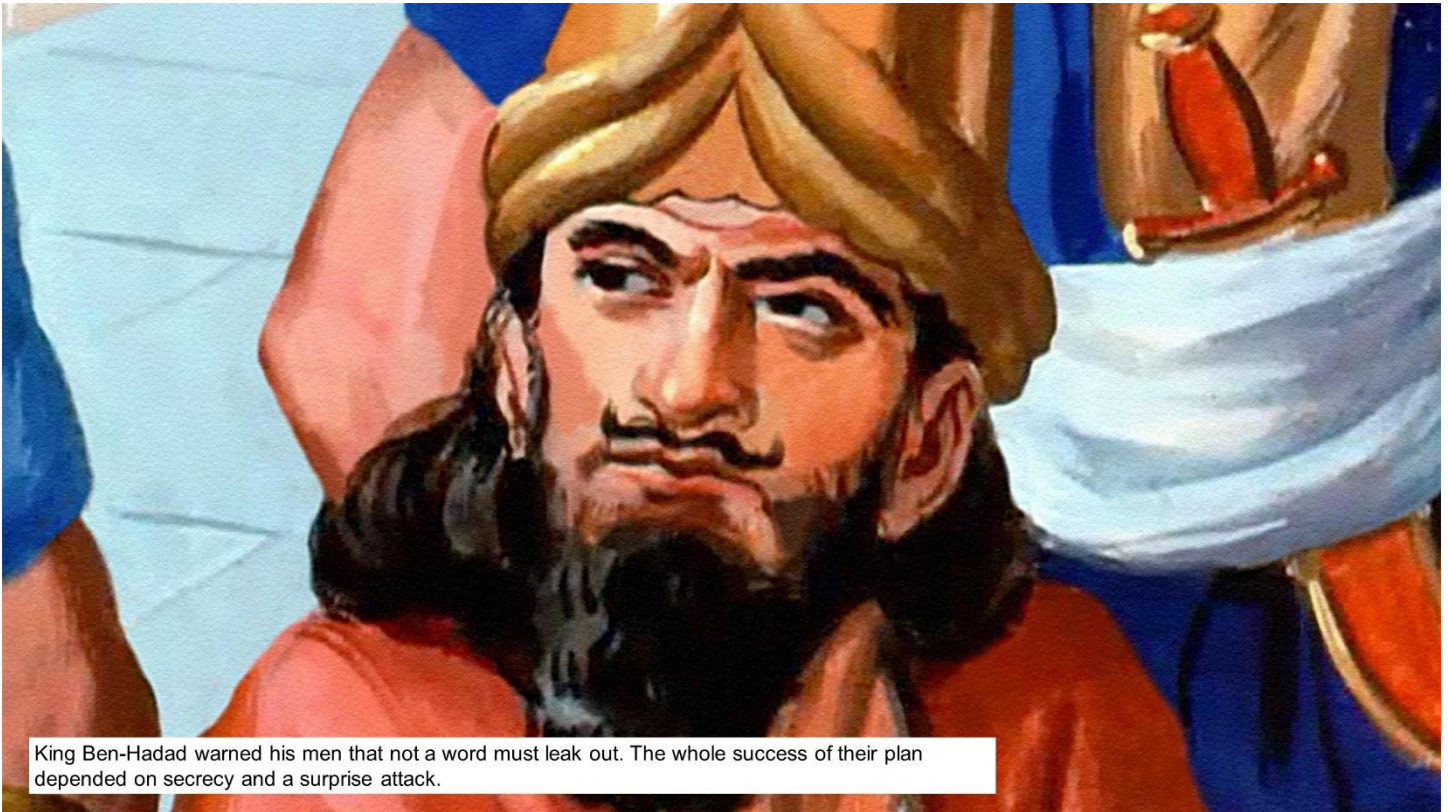
Now he planned a surprise attack which he hoped would crush them once and for all.



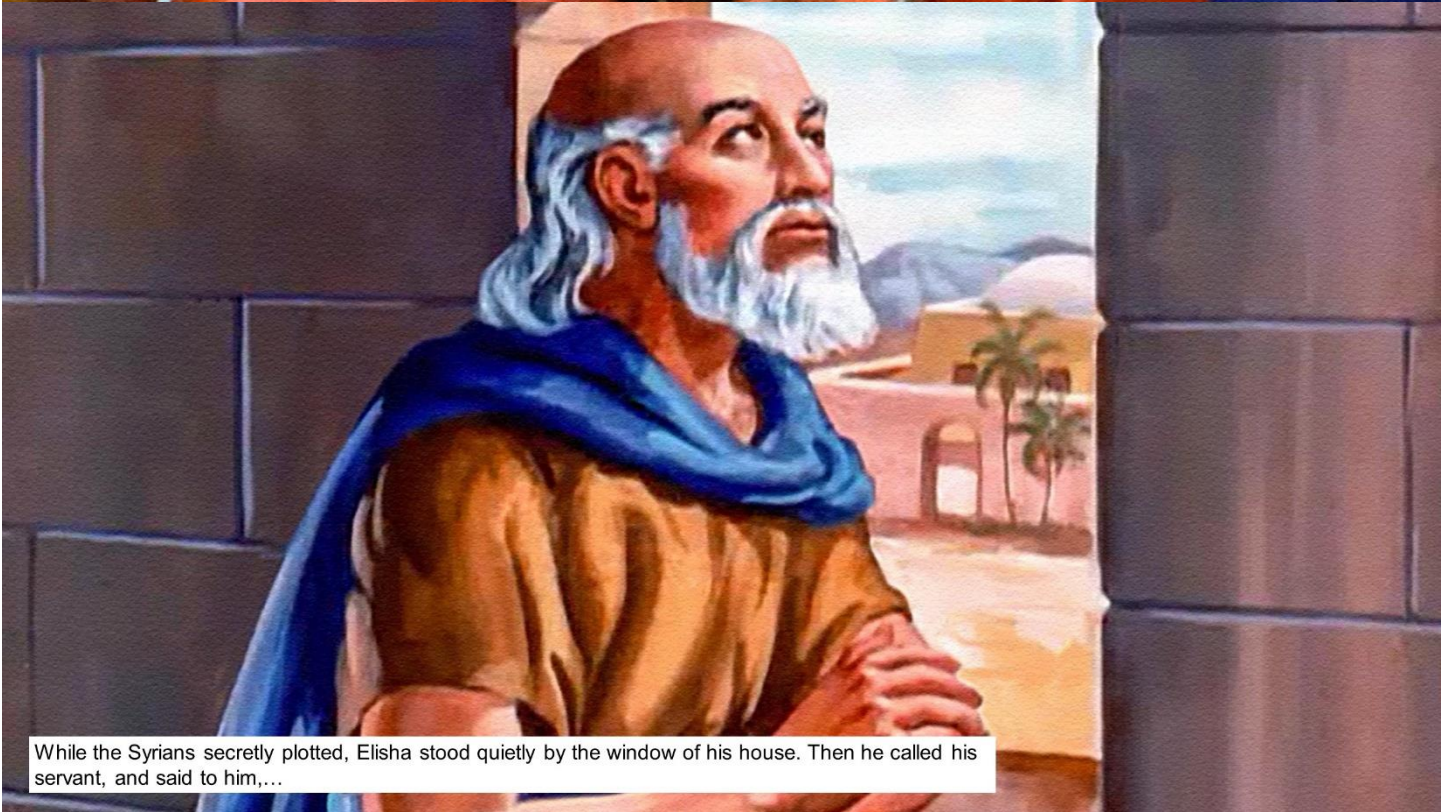
With his mighty, well equipped army ready to fight, he was sure that they could wipe out Israel's army.



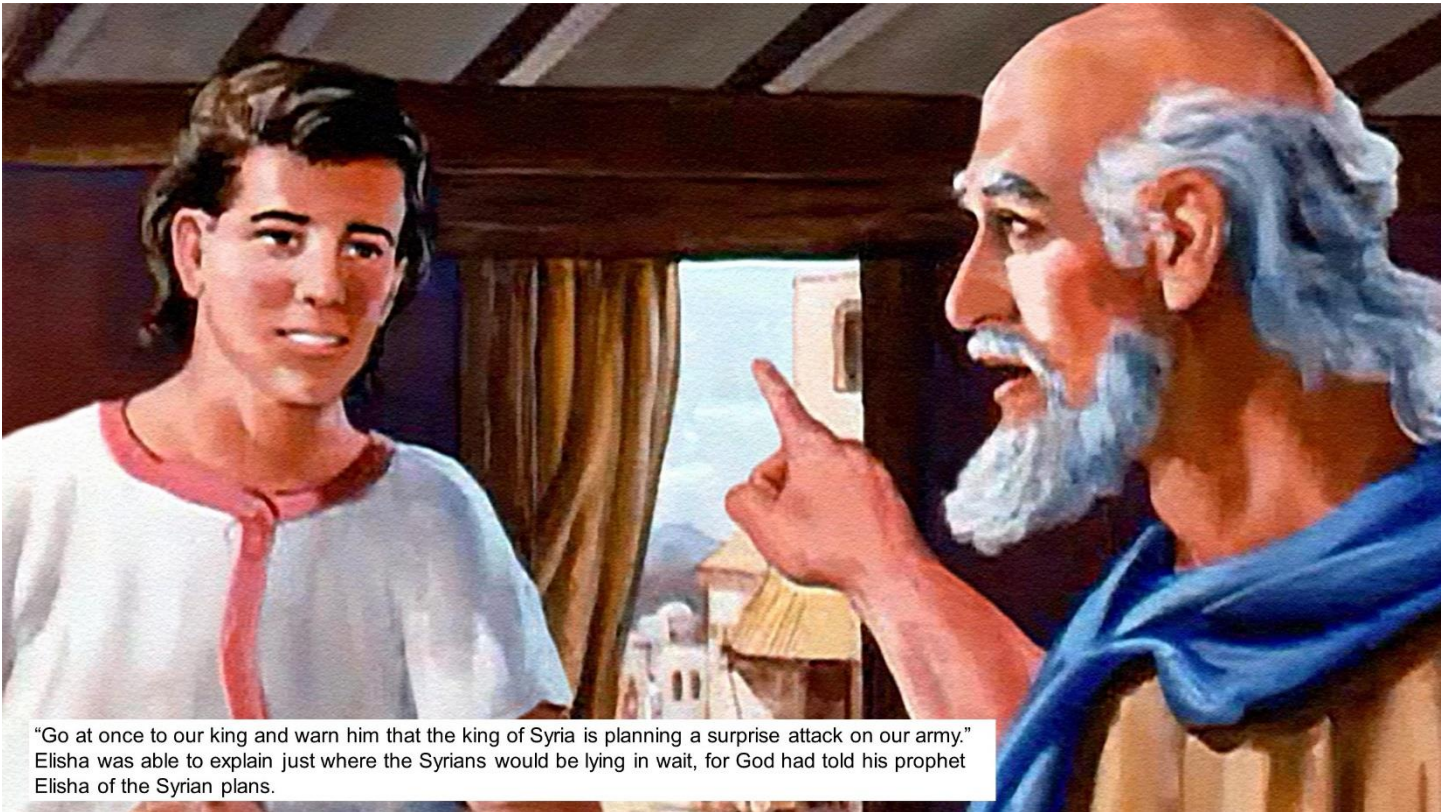
He called the captains of his army together and they carefully planned where they would camp and how they would trap the unsuspecting Israelite army.



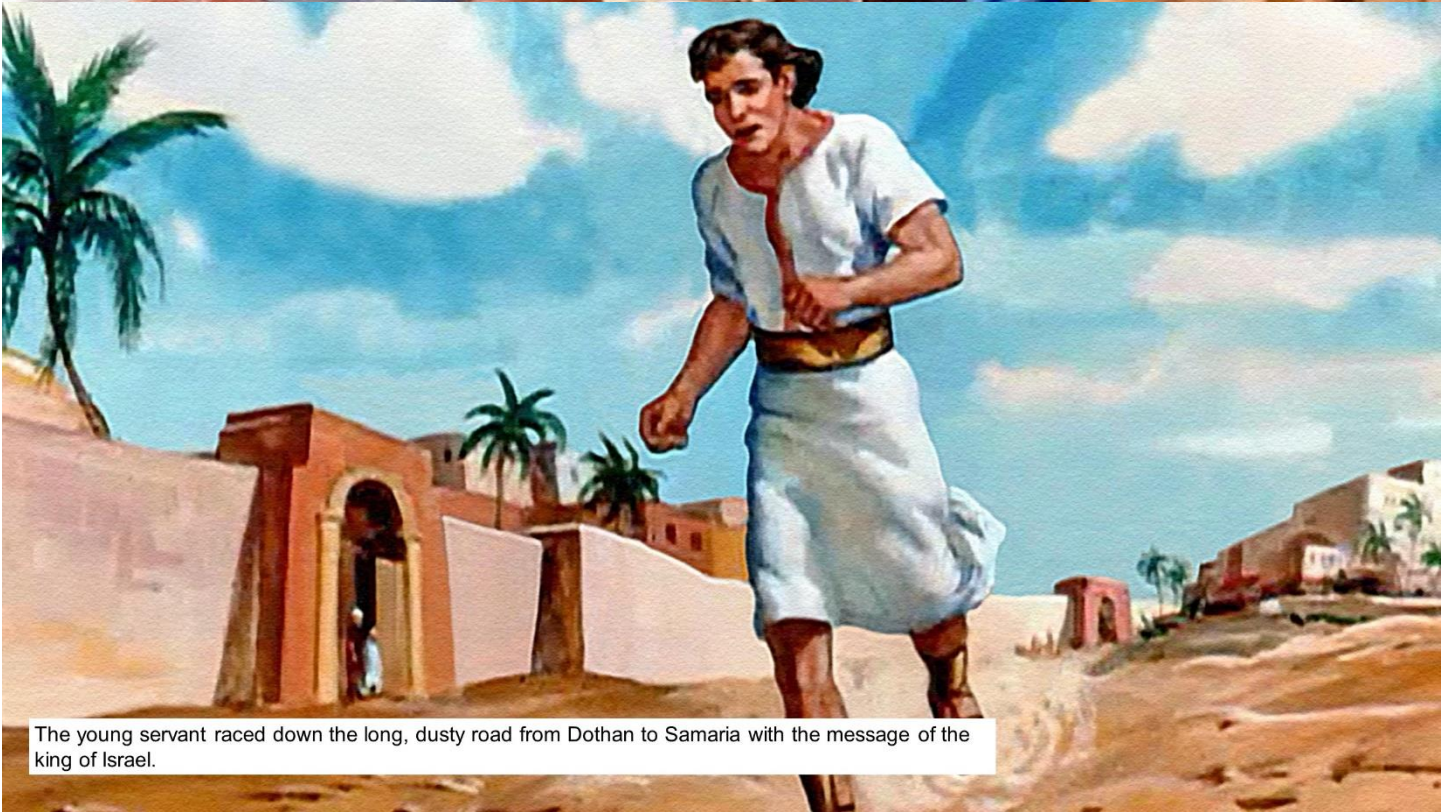
King Ben-Hadad warned his men that not a word must leak out. The whole success of their plan depended on secrecy and a surprise attack.



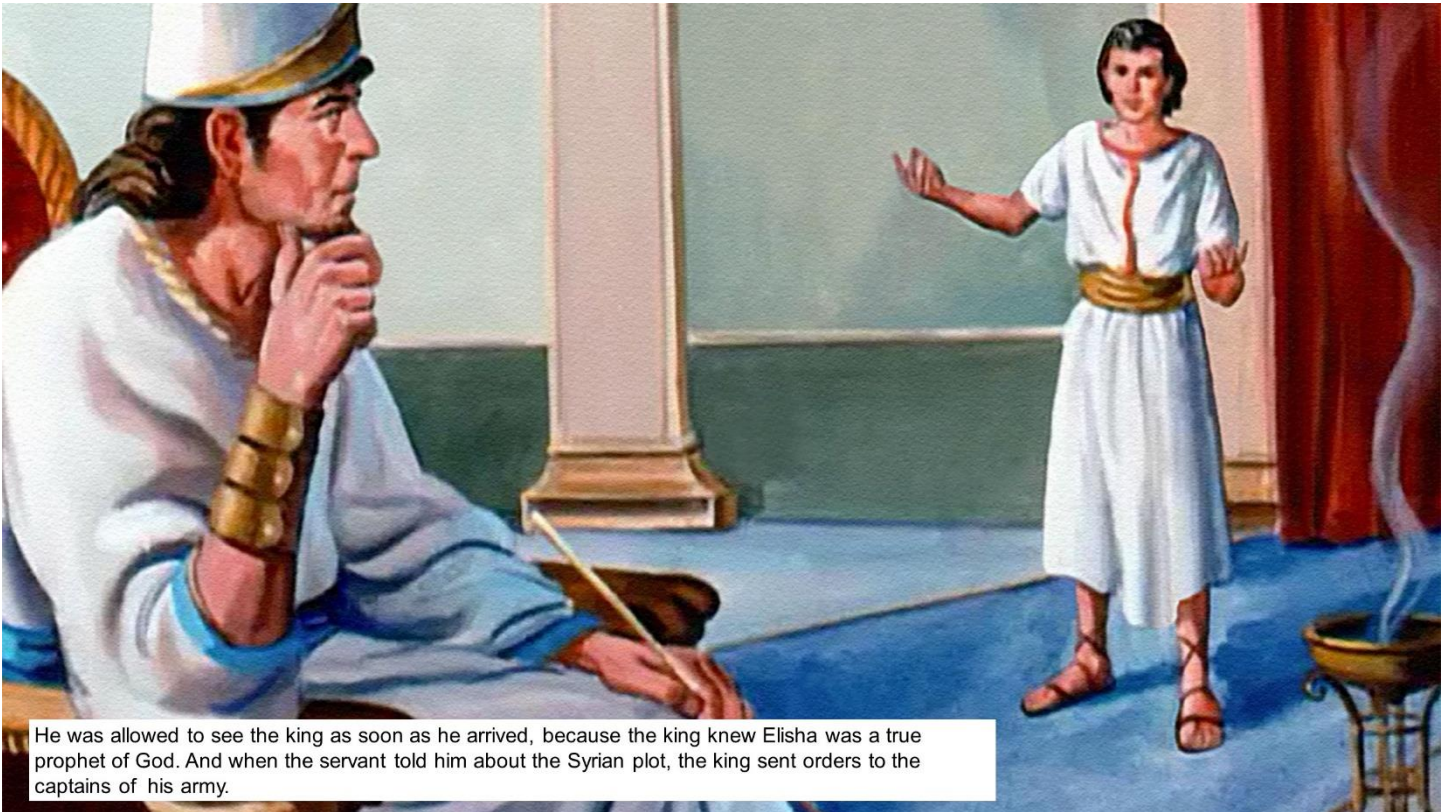
While the Syrians secretly plotted, Elisha stood quietly by the window of his house. Then he called his servant, and said to him,...



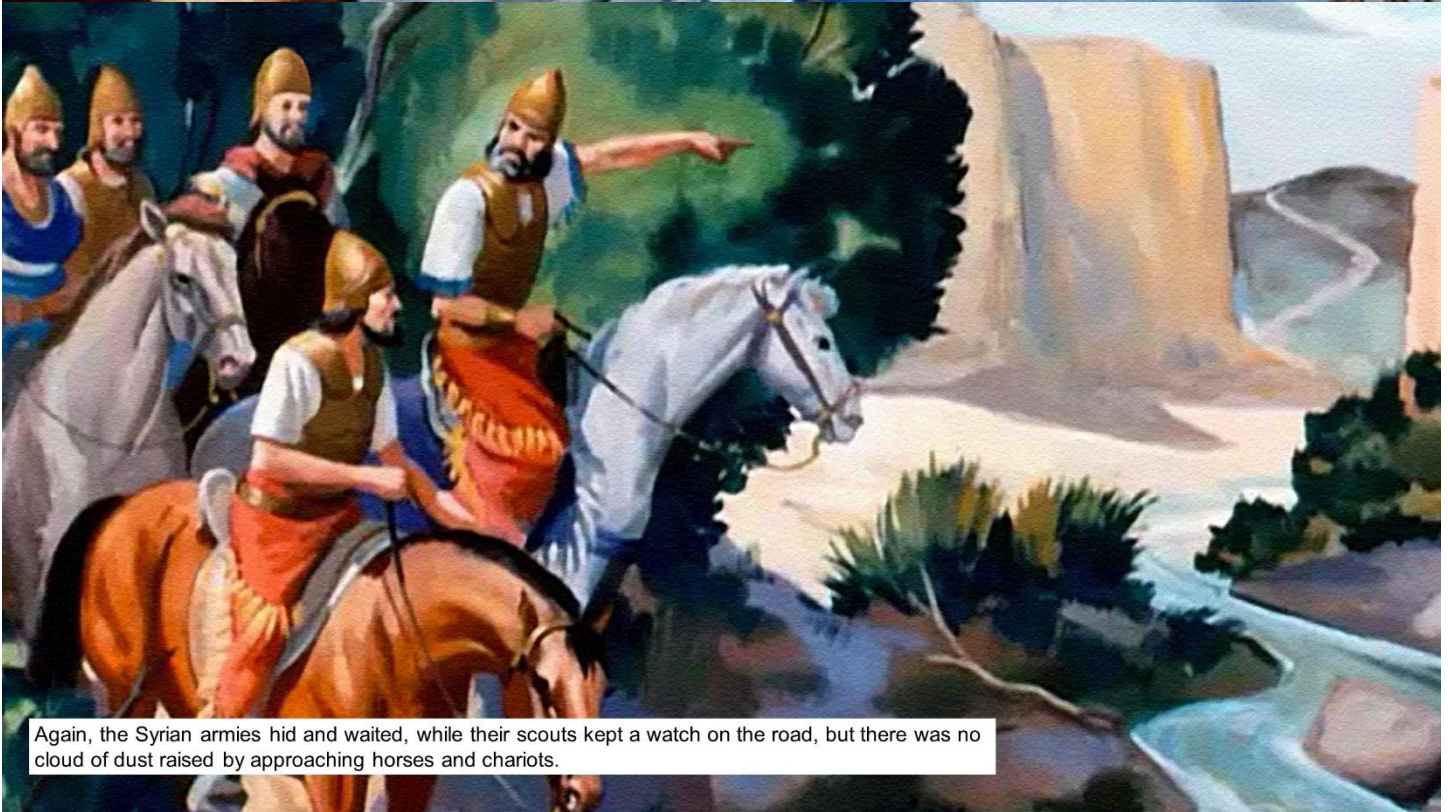
"Go at once to our king and warn him that the king of Syria is planning a surprise attack on our army." Elisha was able to explain just where the Syrians would be lying in wait, for God had told his prophet Elisha of the Syrian plans.



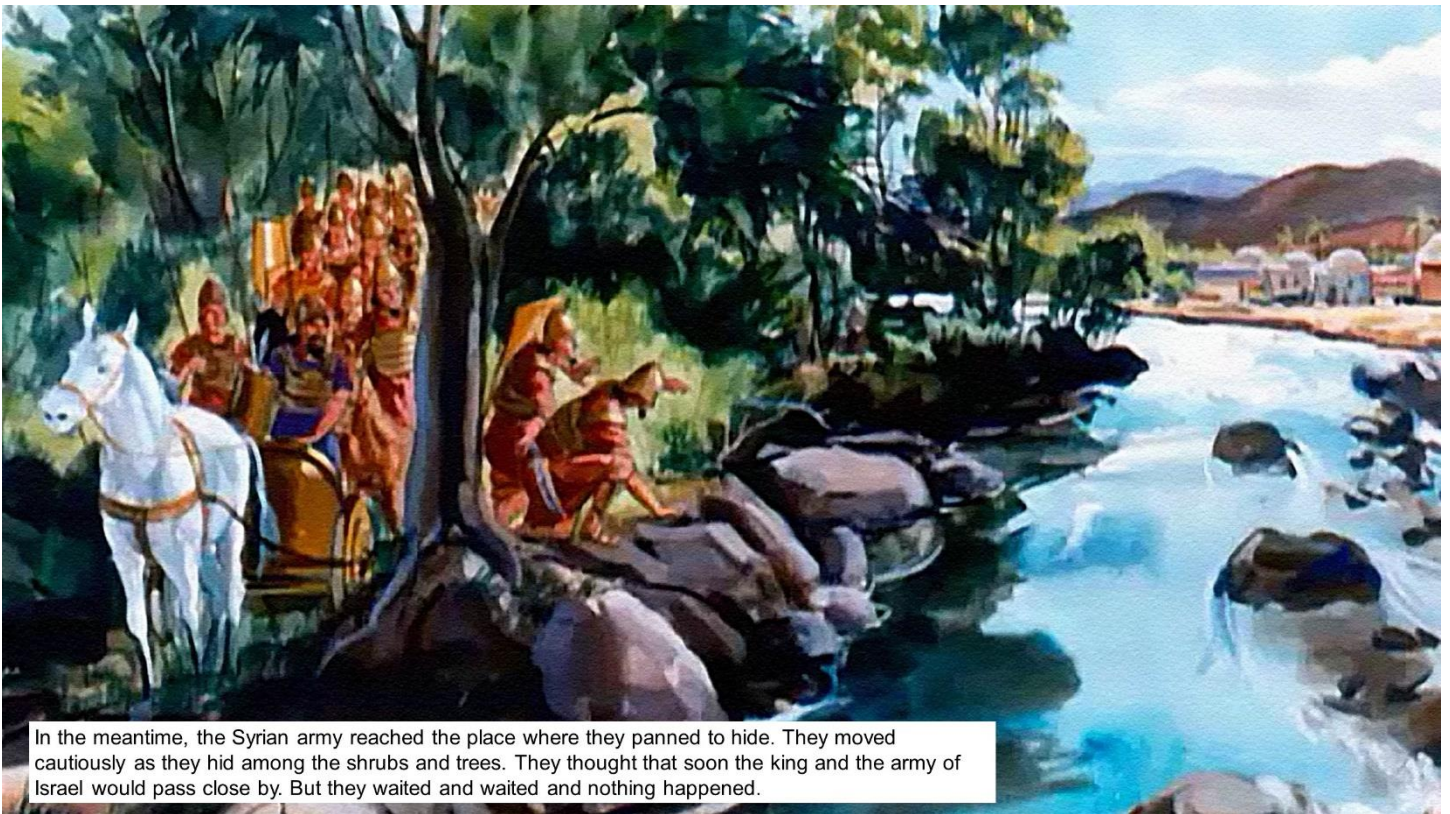
The young servant raced down the long, dusty road from Dothan to Samaria with the message of the king of Israel.



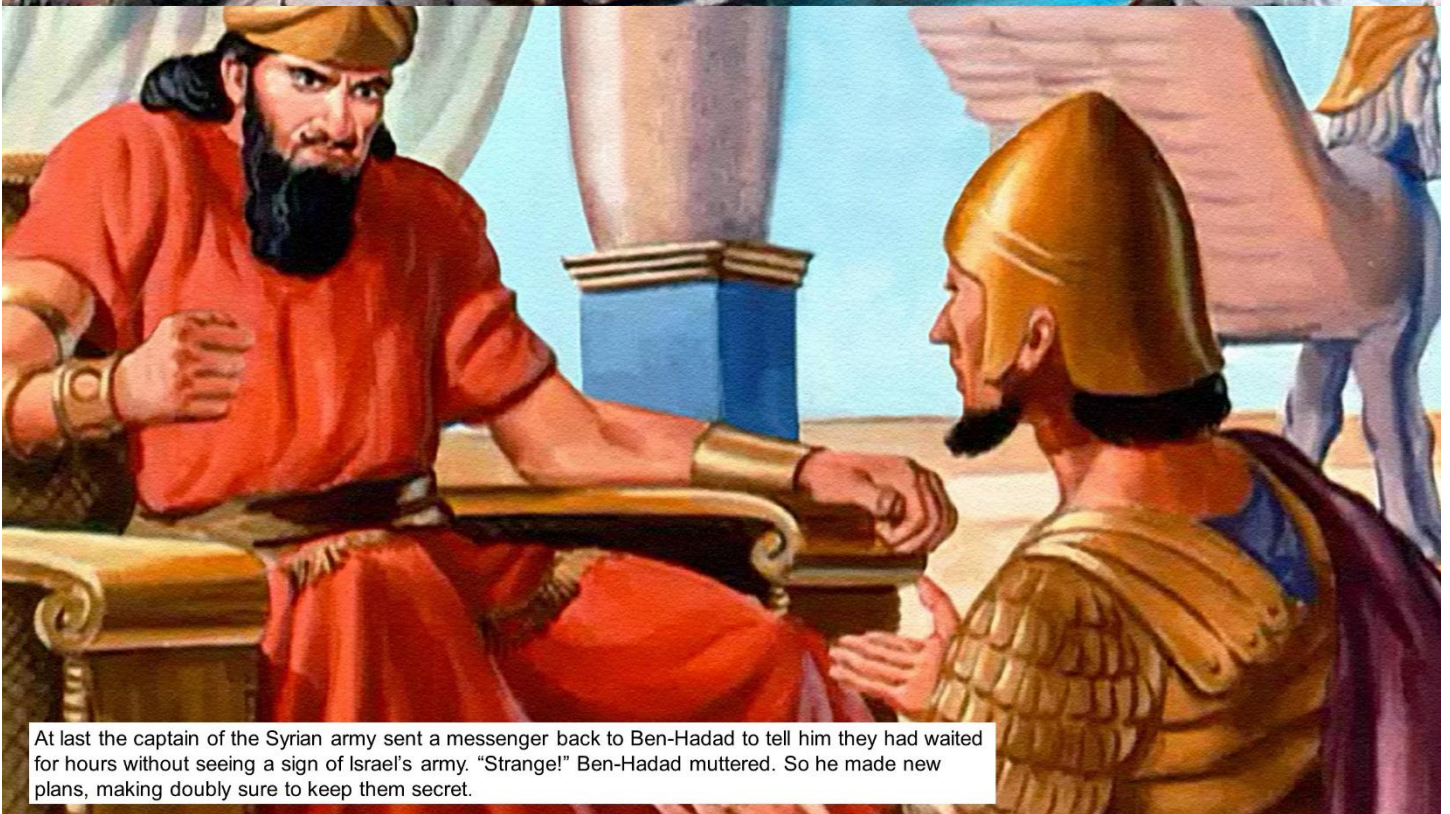
He was allowed to see the king as soon as he arrived, because the king knew Elisha was a true prophet of God. And when the servant told him about the Syrian plot, the king sent orders to the captains of his army.



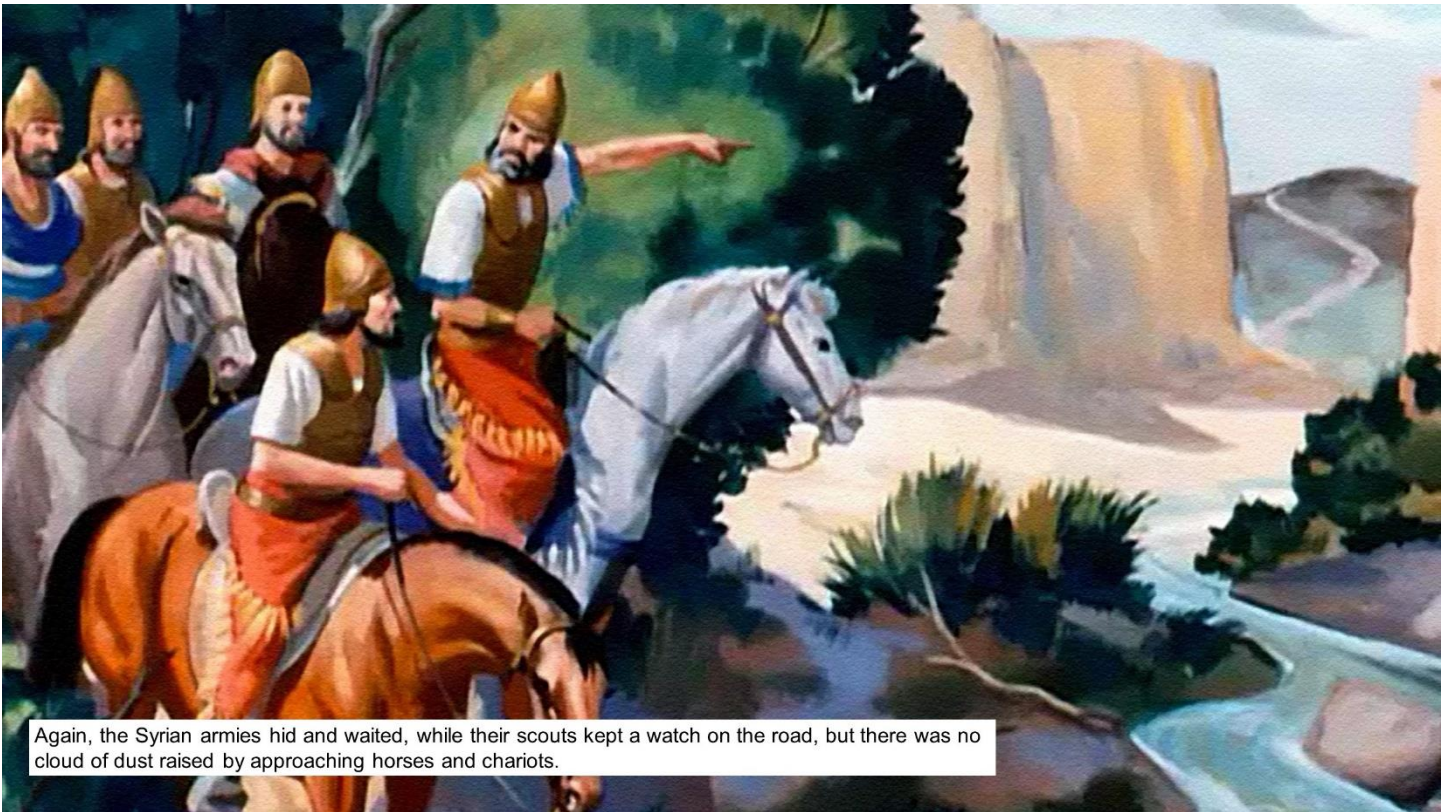
Again, the Syrian armies hid and waited, while their scouts kept a watch on the road, but there was no cloud of dust raised by approaching horses and chariots.



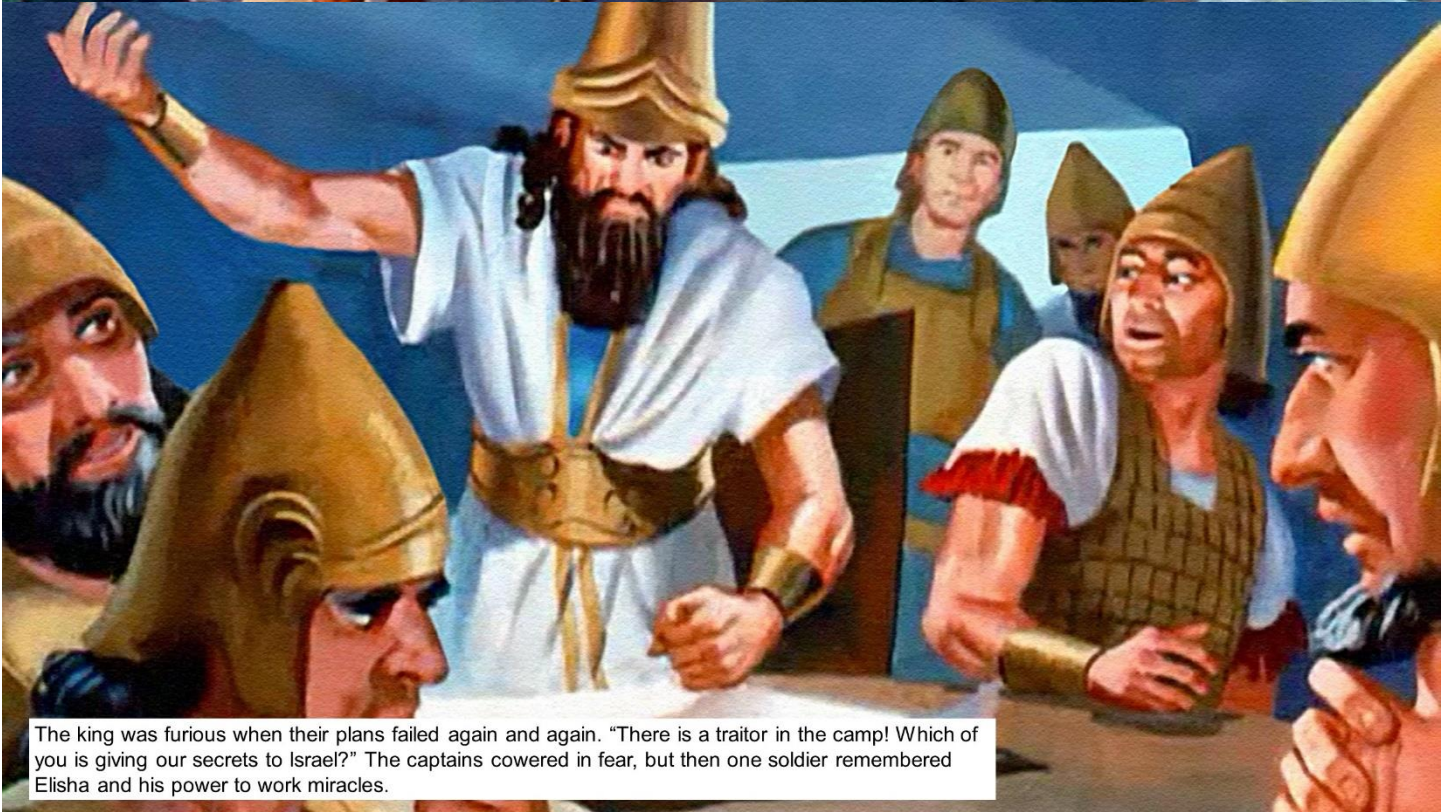
In the meantime, the Syrian army reached the place where they planned to hide. They moved cautiously as they hid among the shrubs and trees. They thought that soon the king and the army of Israel would pass close by. But they waited and waited and nothing happened.



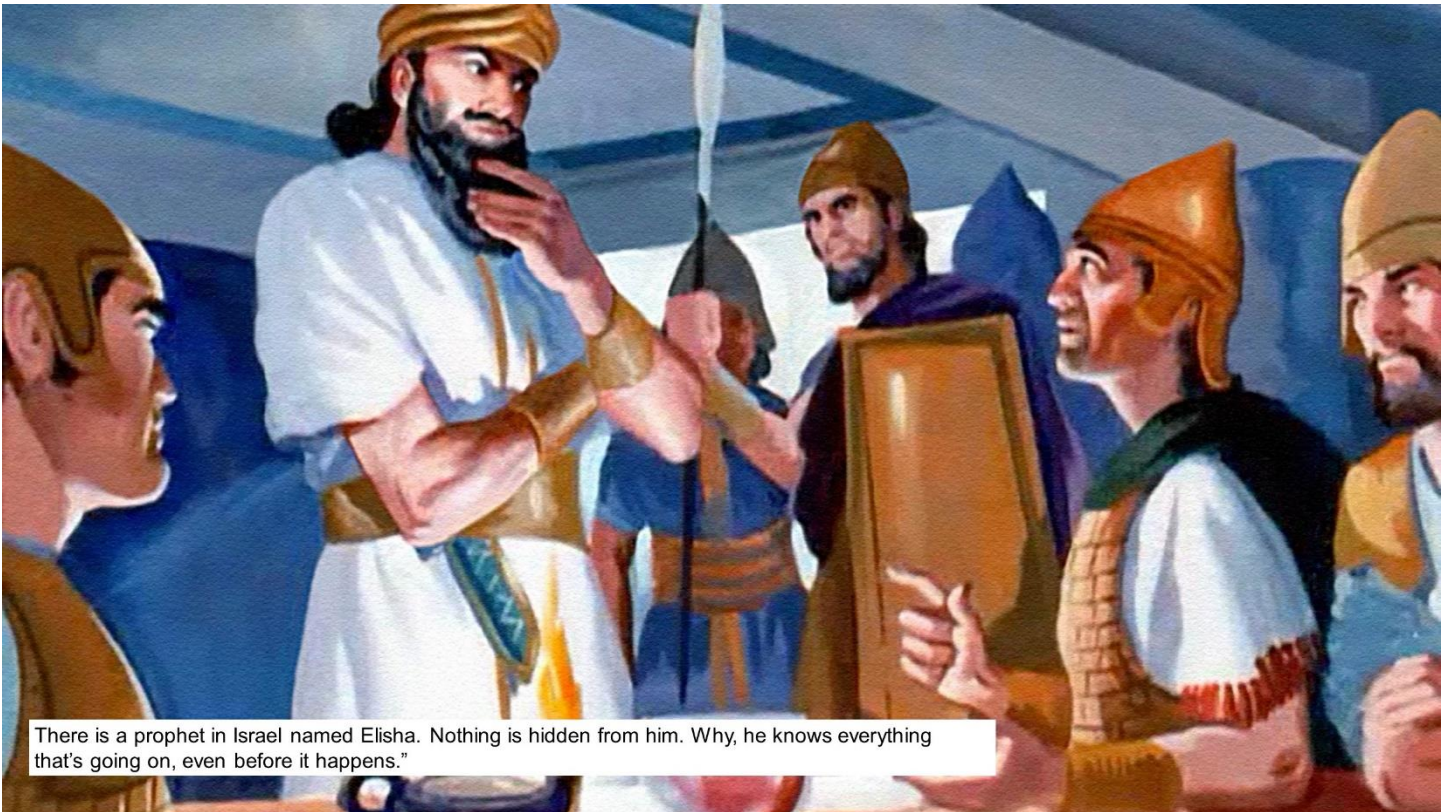
At last the captain of the Syrian army sent a messenger back to Ben-Hadad to tell him they had waited for hours without seeing a sign of Israel's army. "Strange!" Ben-Hadad muttered. So he made new plans, making doubly sure to keep them secret.



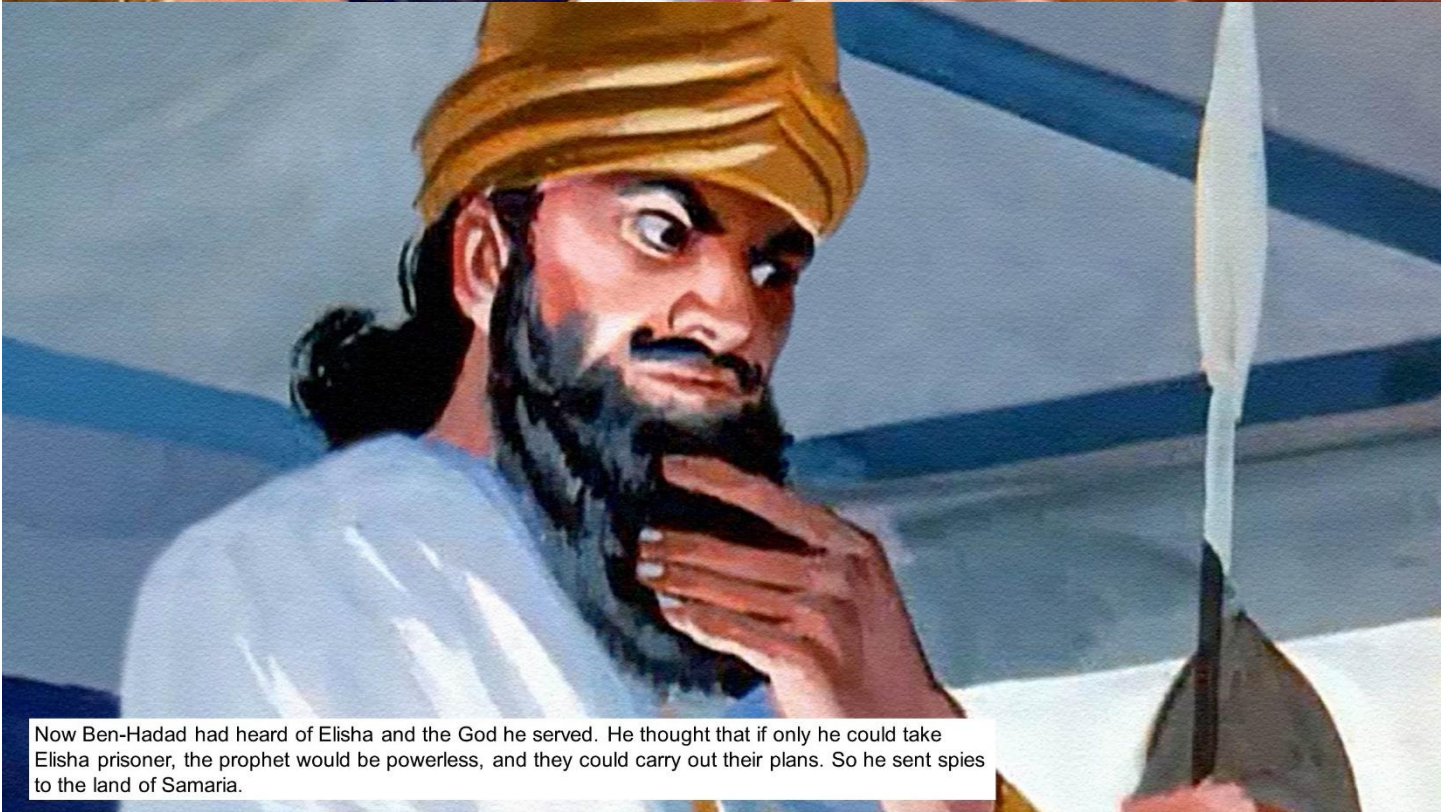
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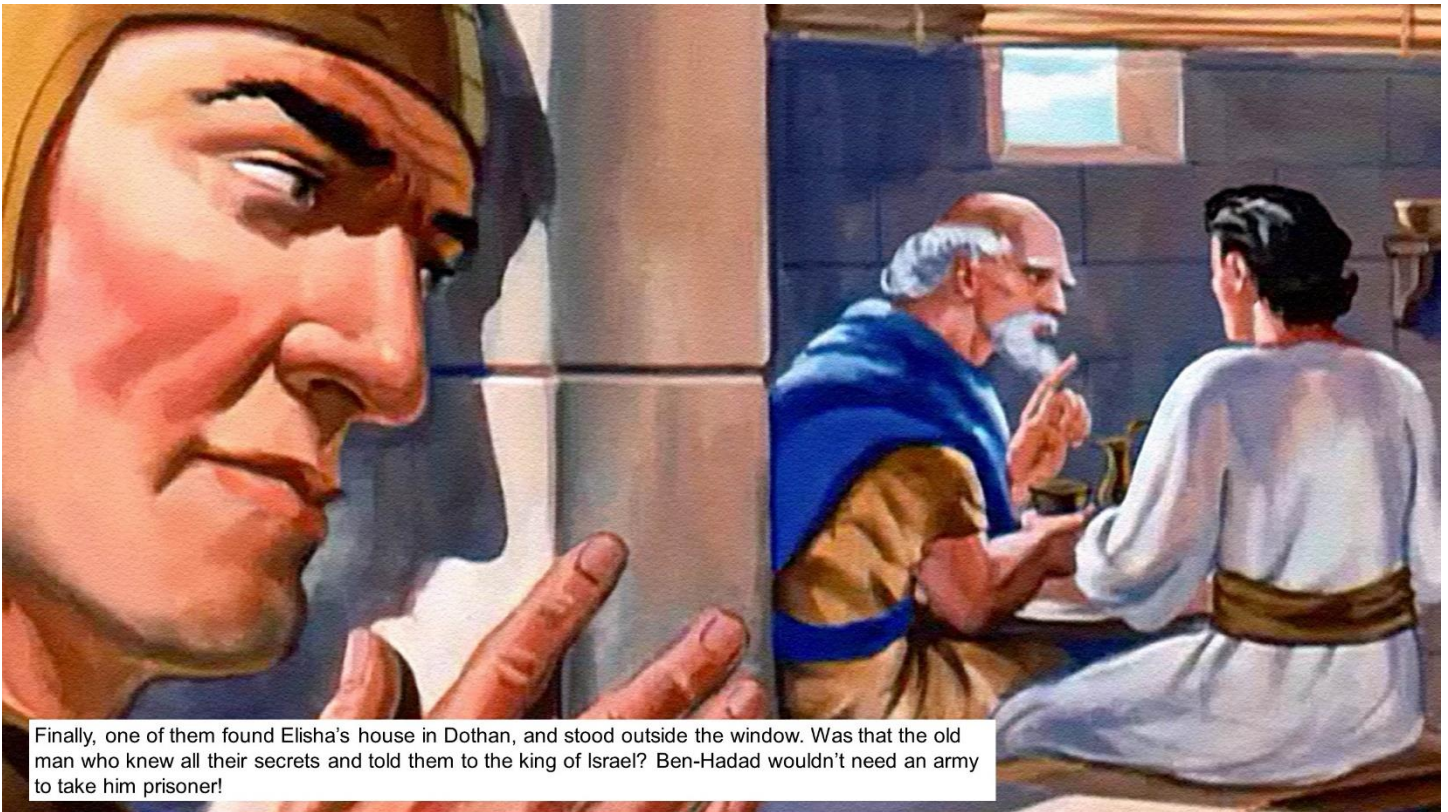
The king was furious when their plans failed again and again. "There is a traitor in the camp! Which of you is giving our secrets to Israel?" The captains covered in fear, but then one soldier remembered Elisha and his power to work miracles.



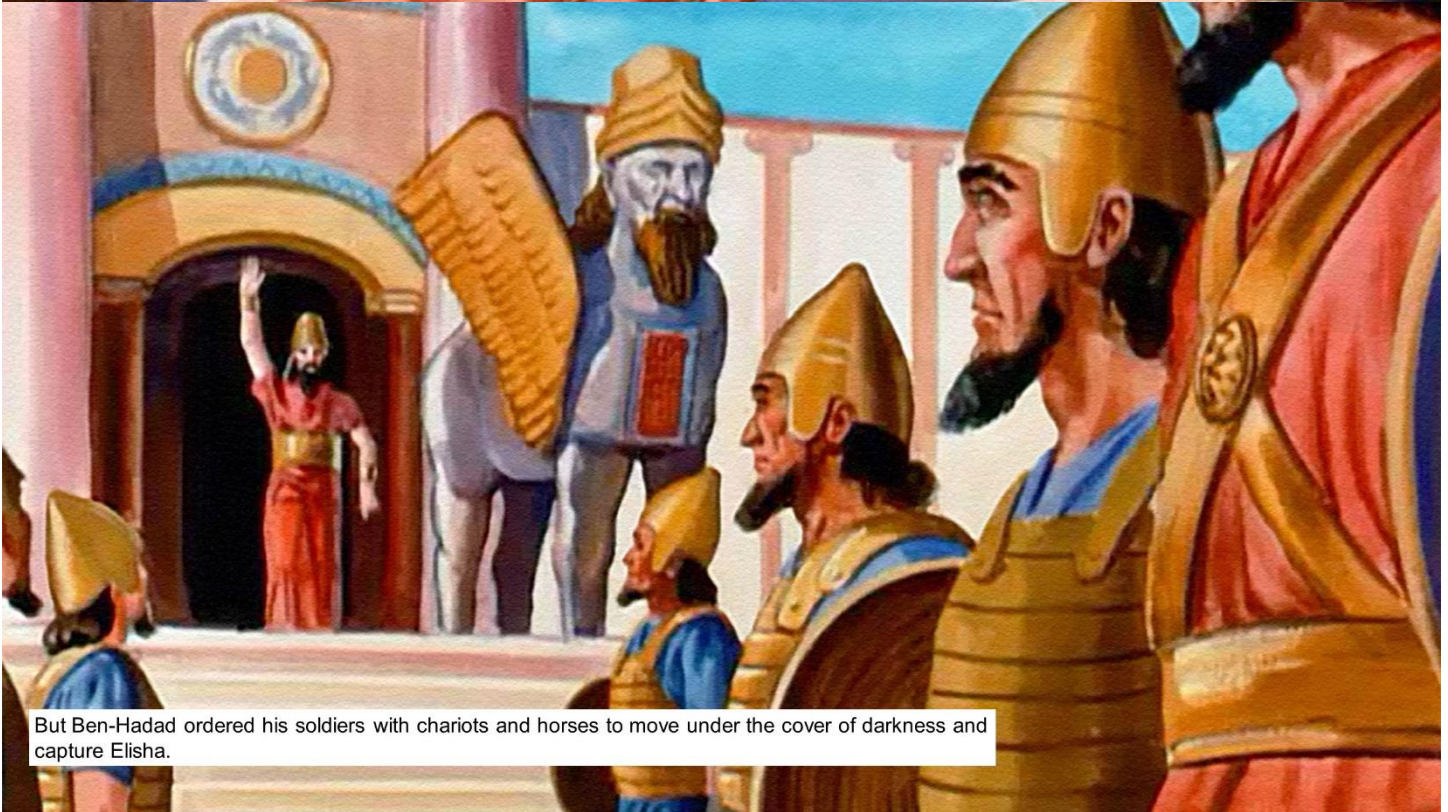
There is a prophet in Israel named Elisha. Nothing is hidden from him. Why, he knows everything that's going on, even before it happens."



Now Ben-Hadad had heard of Elisha and the God he served. He thought that if only he could take Elisha prisoner, the prophet would be powerless, and they could carry out their plans. So he sent spies to the land of Samaria.



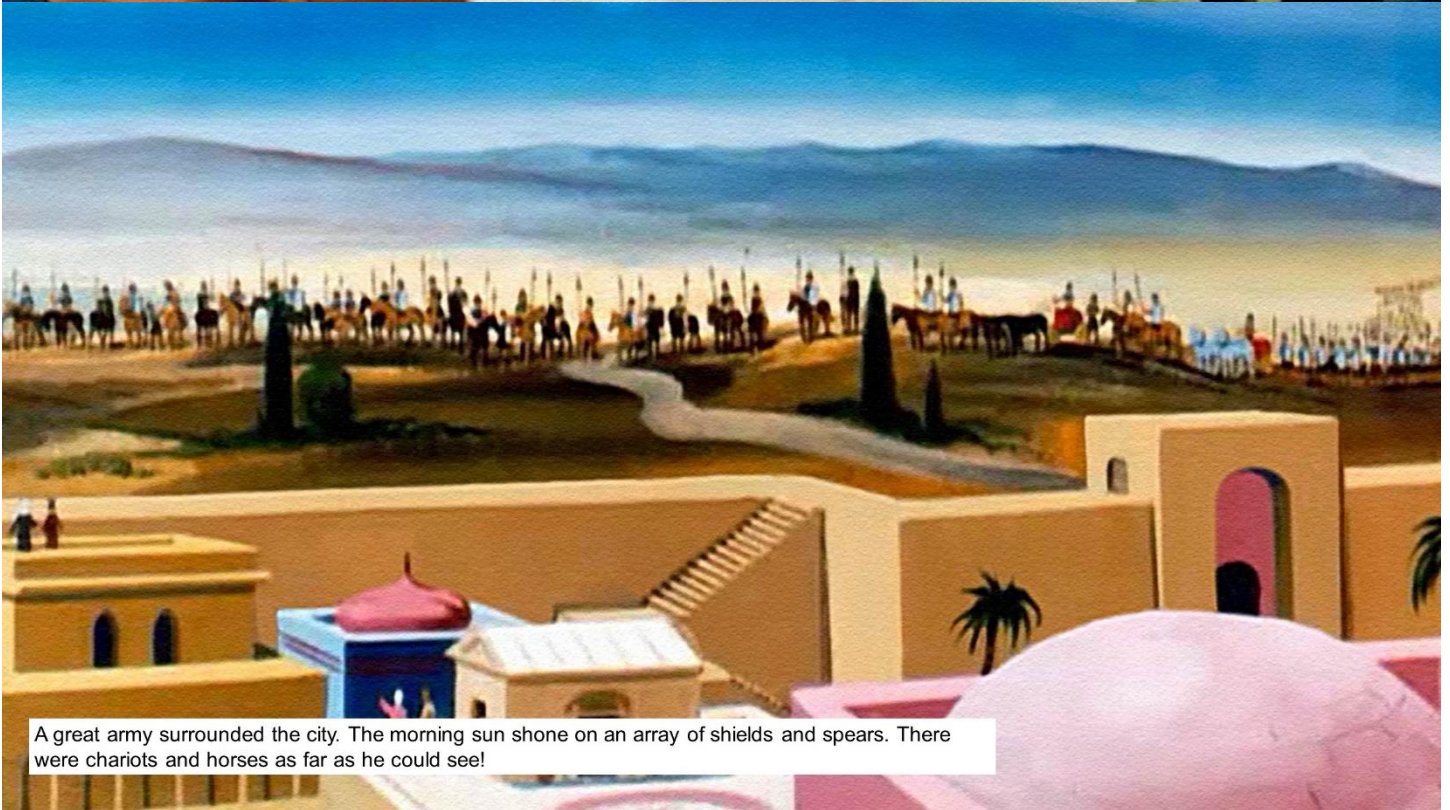
Finally, one of them found Elisha's house in Dothan, and stood outside the window. Was that the old man who knew all their secrets and told them to the king of Israel? Ben-Hadad wouldn't need an army to take him prisoner!



But Ben-Hadad ordered his soldiers with chariots and horses to move under the cover of darkness and capture Elisha.



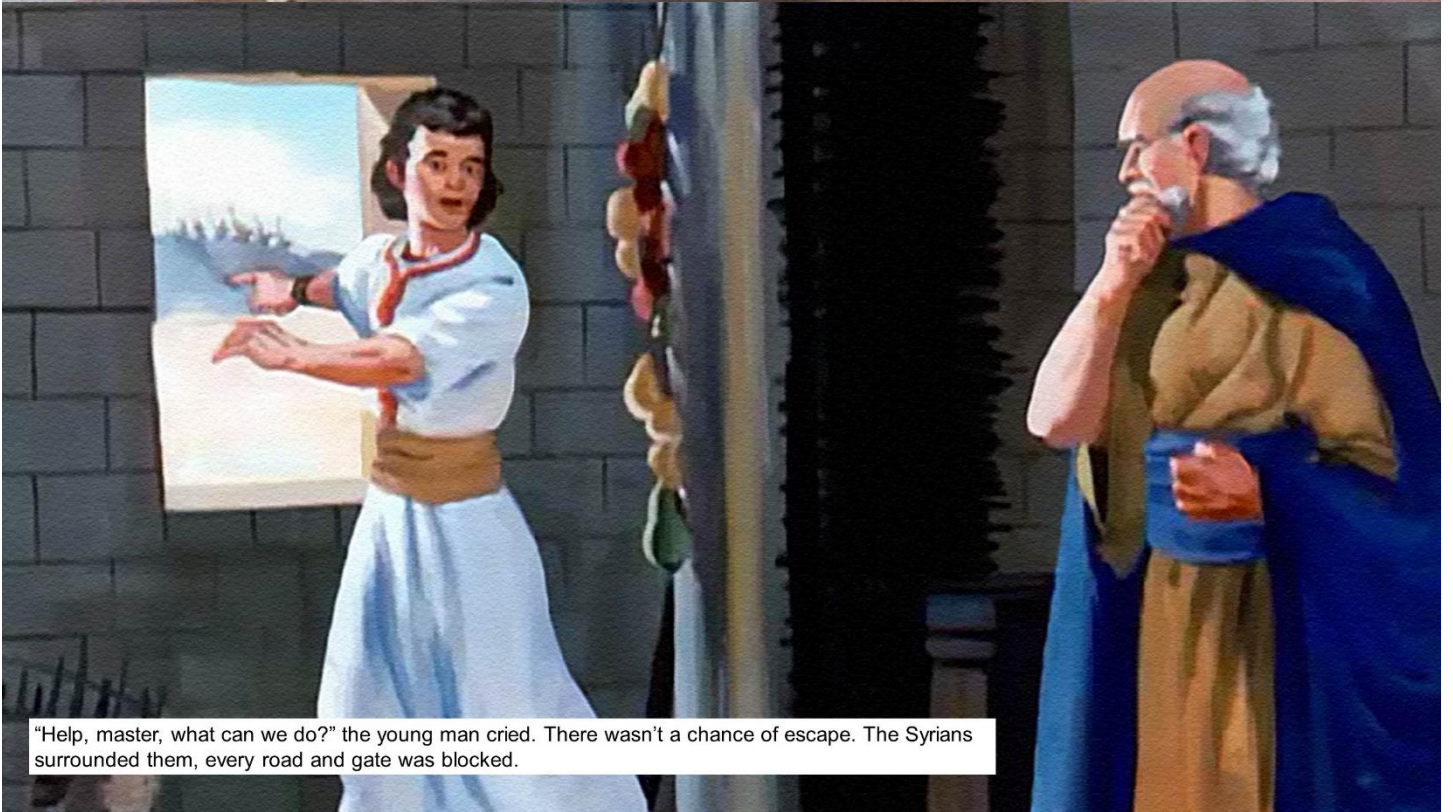
Very early the next morning, Elisha's young servant went to the window to open the shutters and he stared in wonder at the sight that greeted his eyes.



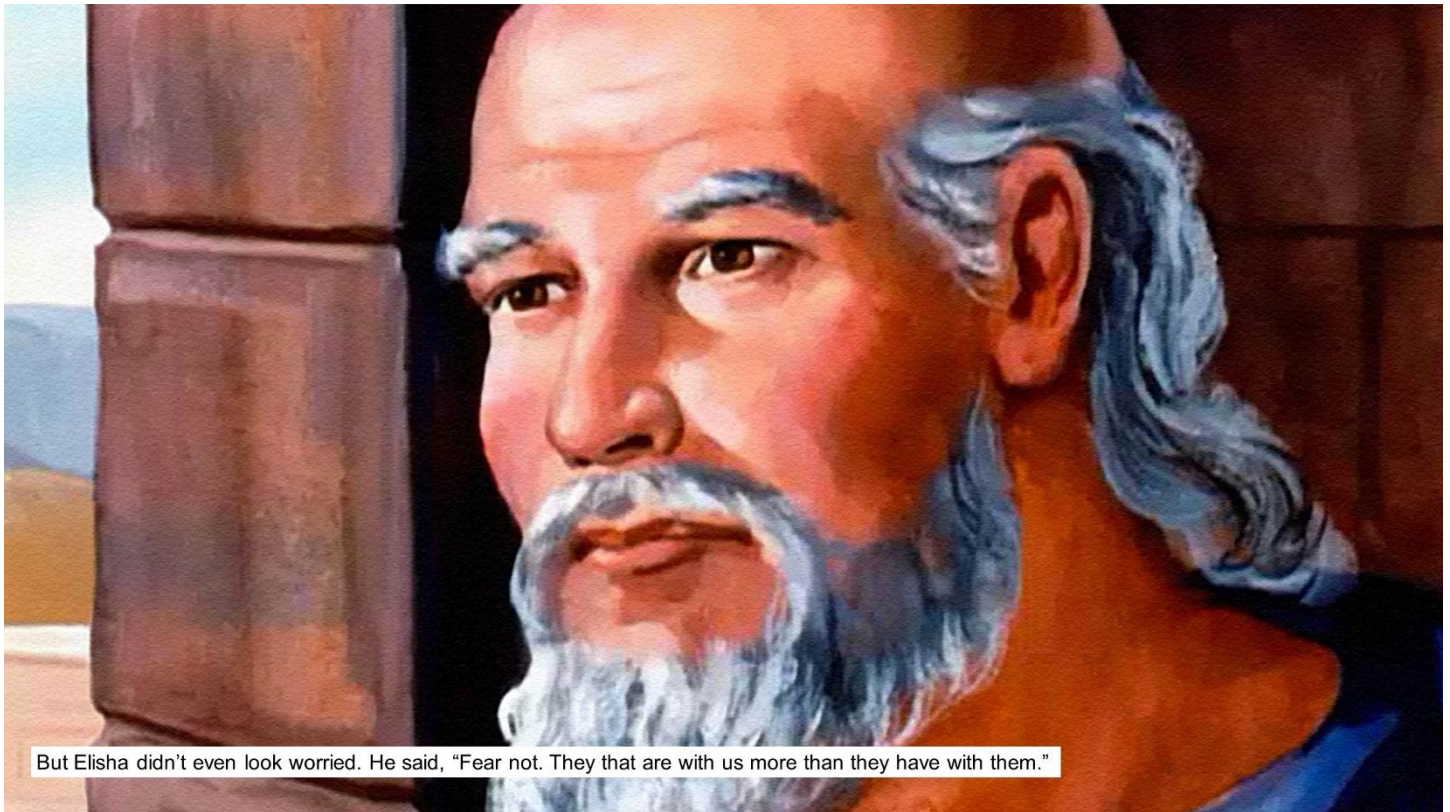
A great army surrounded the city. The morning sun shone on an array of shields and spears. There were chariots and horses as far as he could see!



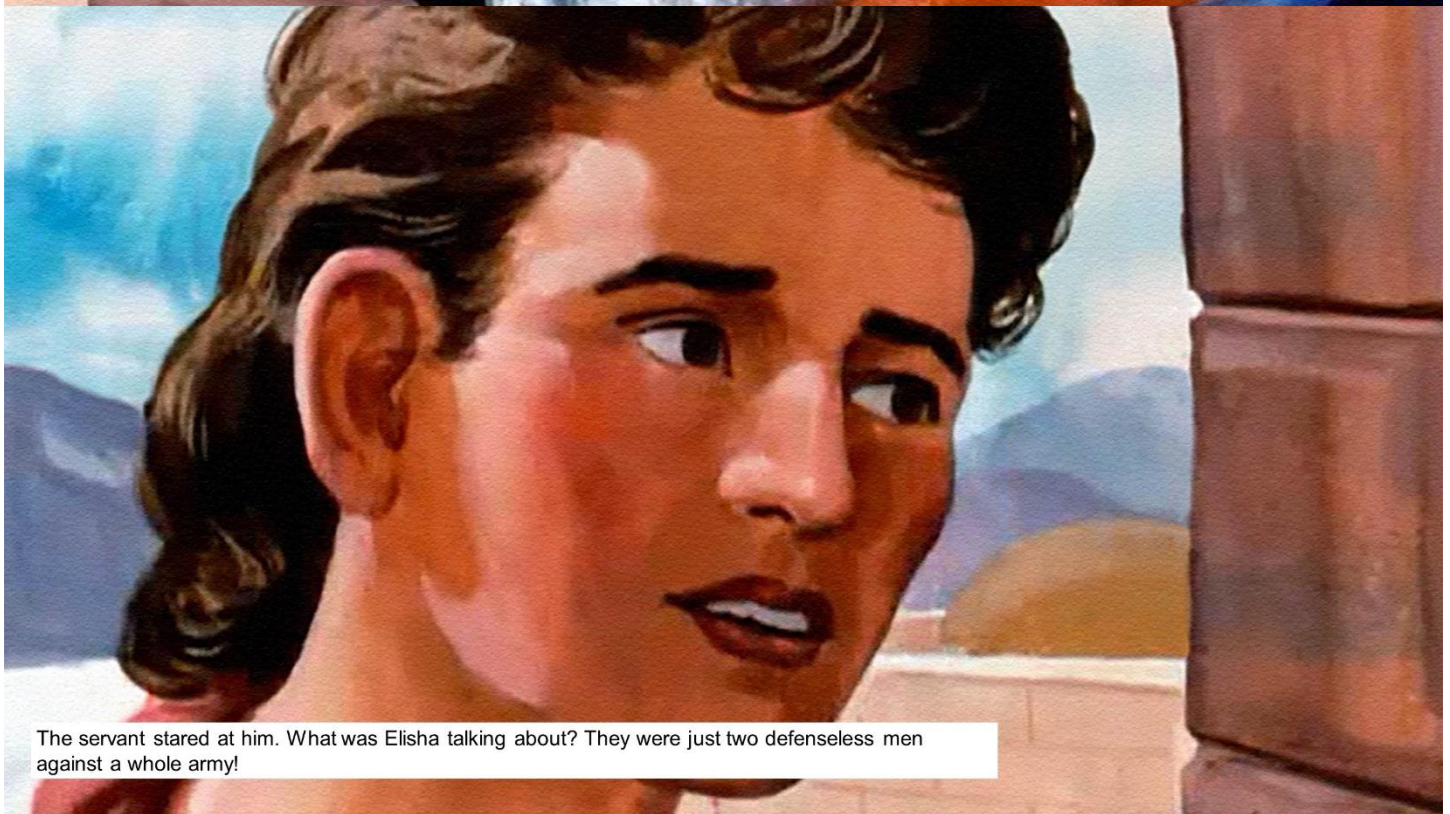
It was the enemy, the Syrian army! Could it be that this time Elisha hadn't knows they were coming?



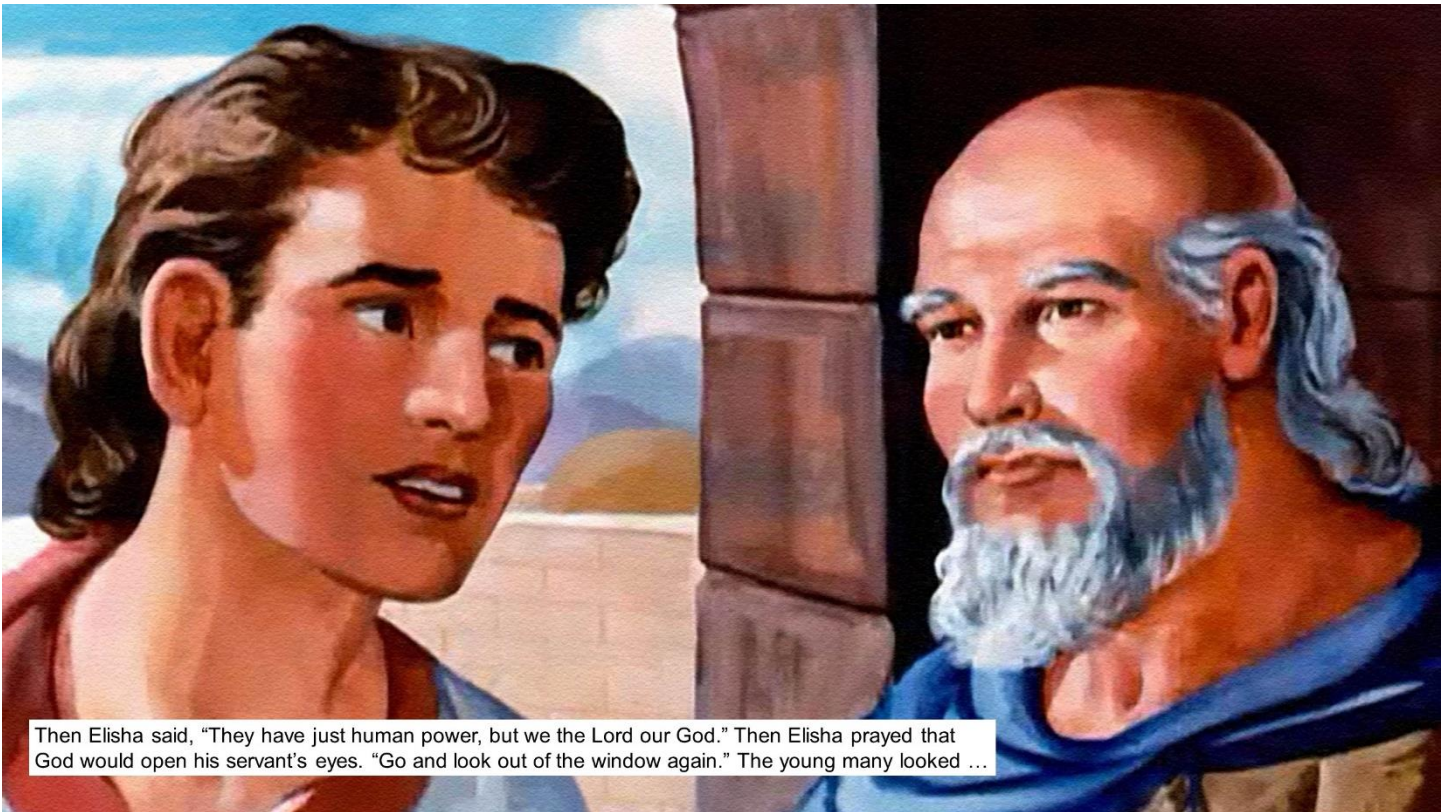
"Help, master, what can we do?" the young man cried. There wasn't a chance of escape. The Syrians surrounded them, every road and gate was blocked.



But Elisha didn't even look worried. He said, "Fear not. They that are with us more than they have with them."



The servant stared at him. What was Elisha talking about? They were just two defenseless men against a whole army!



Then Elisha said, "They have just human power, but we the Lord our God." Then Elisha prayed that God would open his servant's eyes. "Go and look out of the window again." The young man looked ...



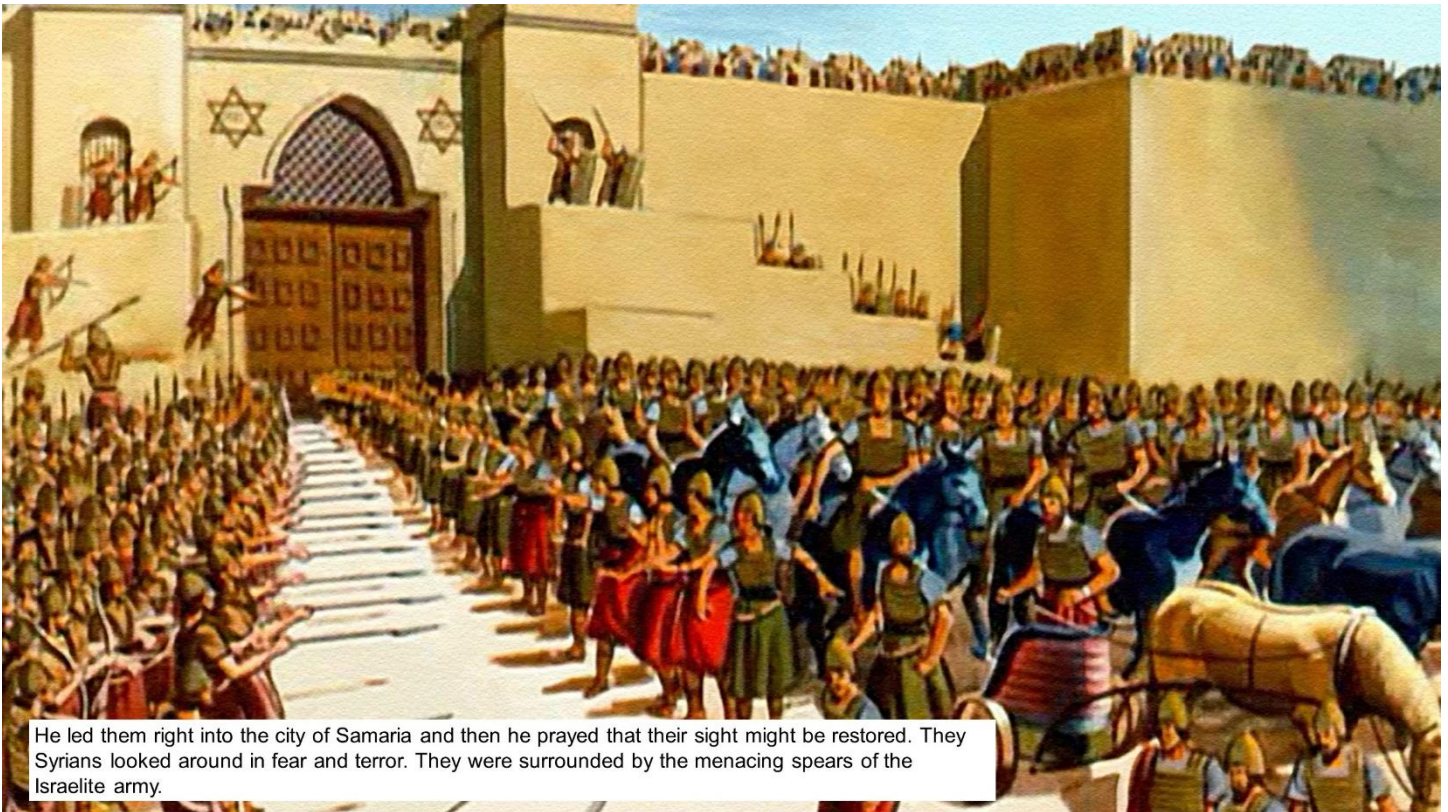
The enemy was still there, but now he saw horses and chariots of fire standing ready to defend Elisha.



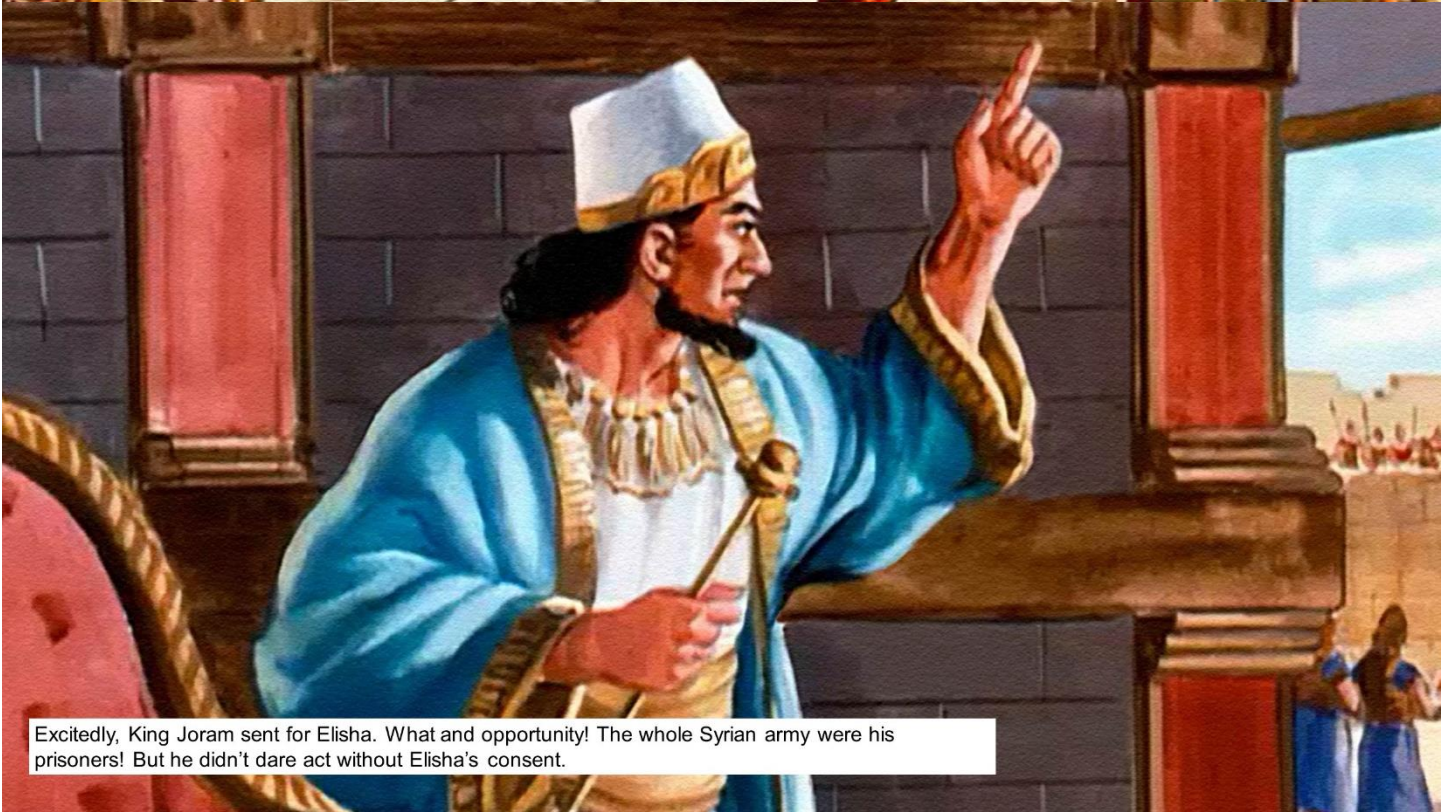
Then, fearlessly, Elisha walked into the midst of the whole Syrian army. "Smite them with blindness!" he prayed. Suddenly a terrifying darkness fell upon the soldiers. They didn't where they were and could not see.



Men shouted in fear and bewilderment, their ranks breaking in panic. "You are going the wrong way! Follow me!" Elisha told them quietly.



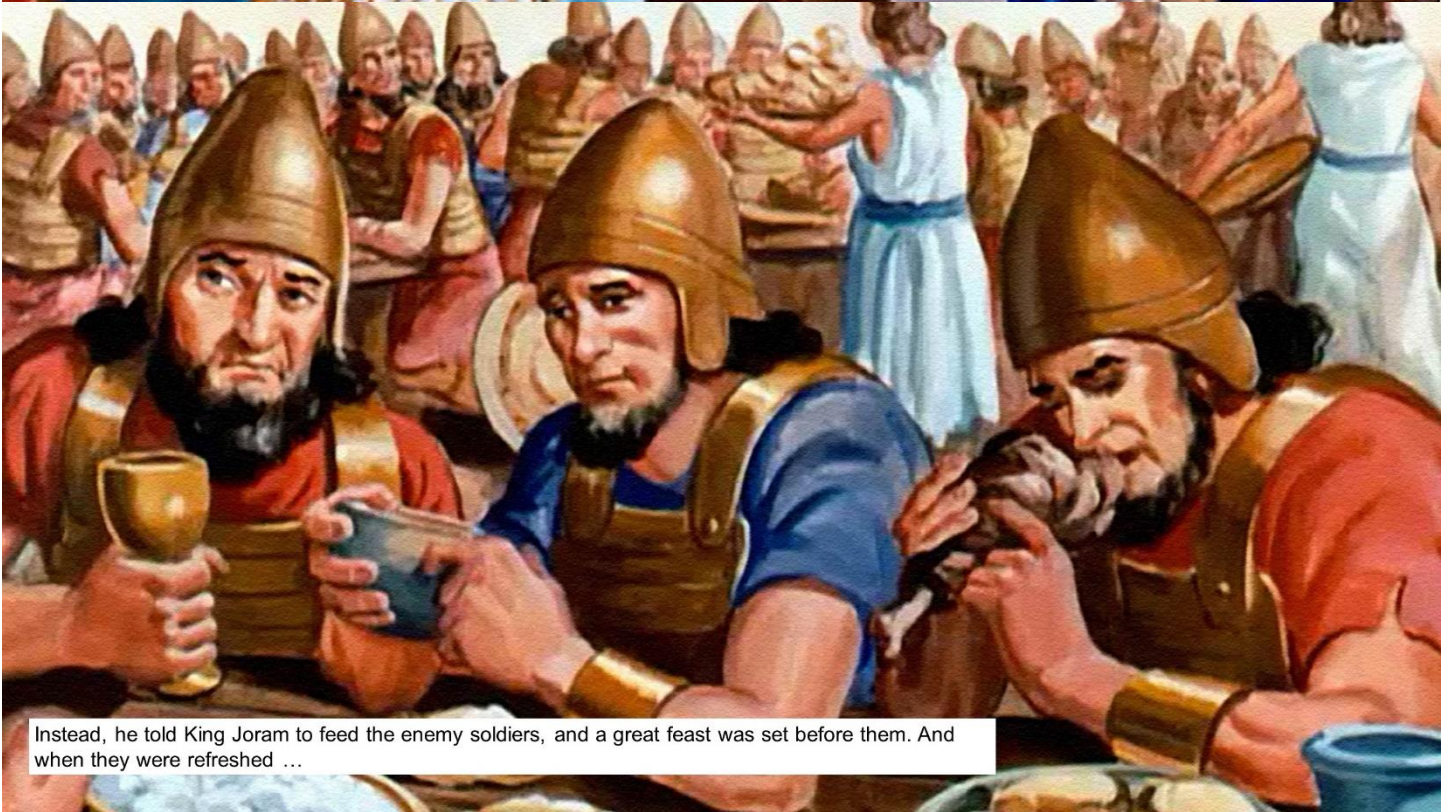
He led them right into the city of Samaria and then he prayed that their sight might be restored. They Syrians looked around in fear and terror. They were surrounded by the menacing spears of the Israelite army.



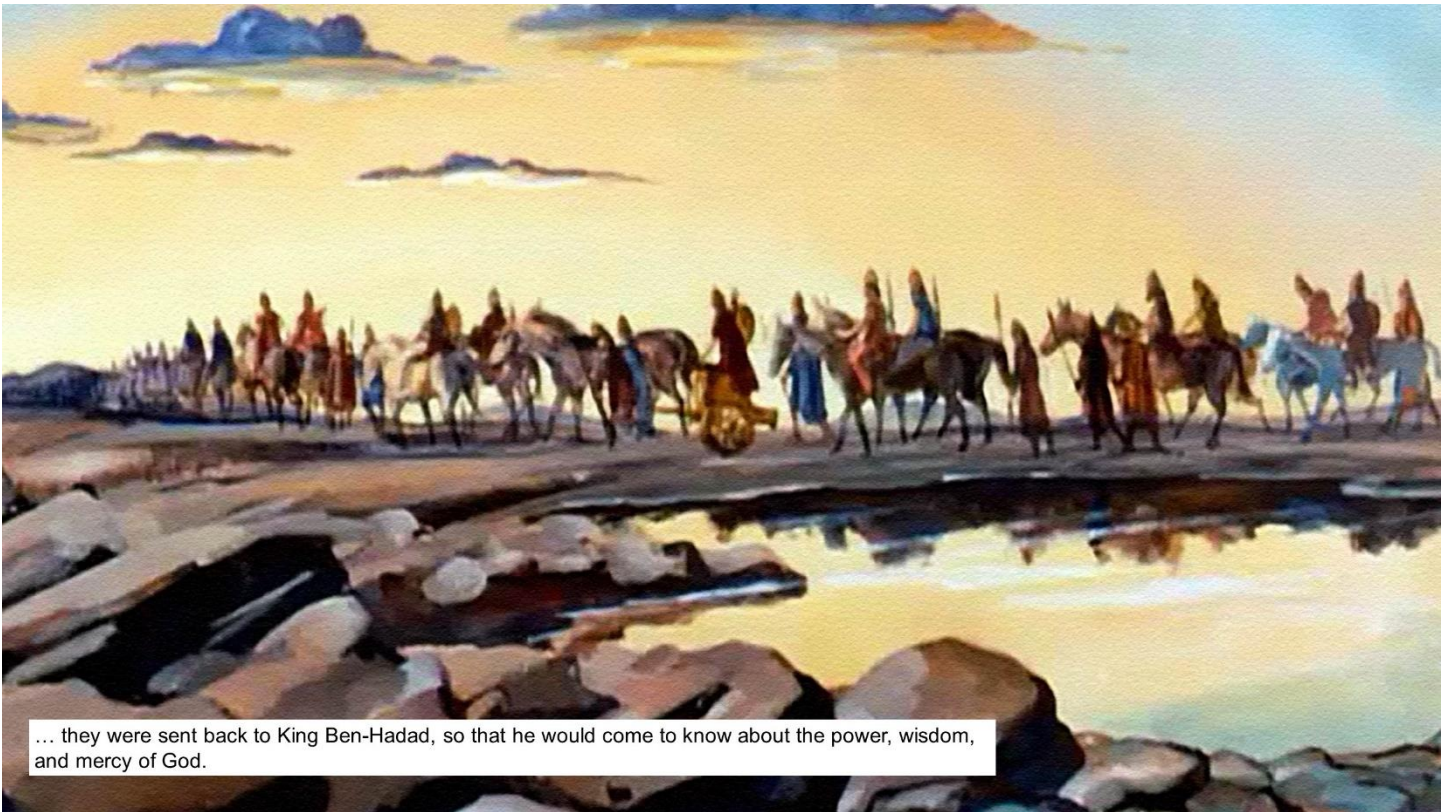
Excitedly, King Joram sent for Elisha. What an opportunity! The whole Syrian army were his prisoners! But he didn't dare act without Elisha's consent.



"Shall we kill them?" he asked. But Elisha would not permit the Syrian prisoners to be killed.



Instead, he told King Joram to feed the enemy soldiers, and a great feast was set before them. And when they were refreshed ...



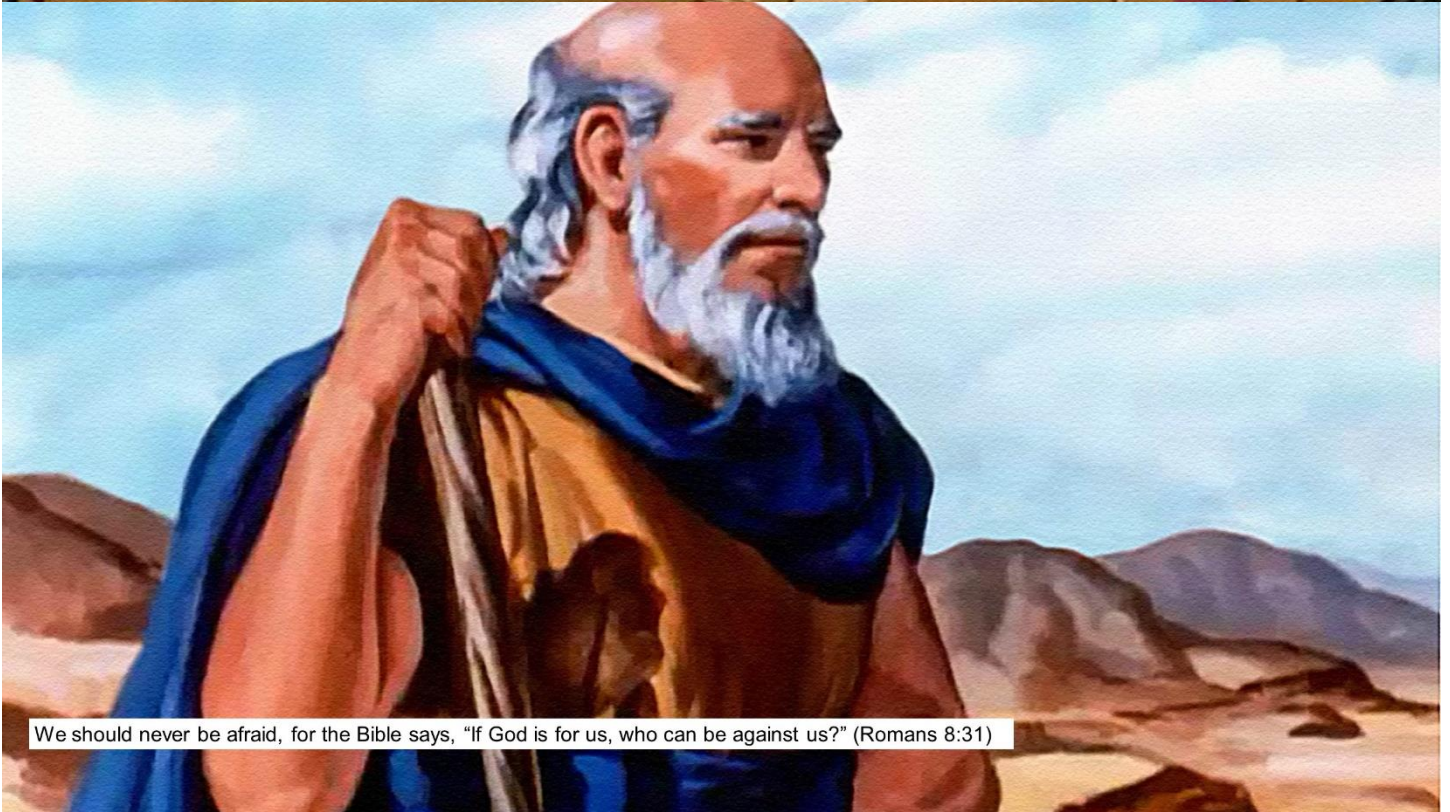
... they were sent back to King Ben-Hadad, so that he would come to know about the power, wisdom, and mercy of God.



And Elisha's young servant also learned a lesson that day. He discovered that the angel of the Lord protects those who love God, and delivers them.



As we see the faith that Elisha had in the Lord, and his unfailing confidence in God's power, we should remember that God never changes. He is just as able to protect us today.



We should never be afraid, for the Bible says, "If God is for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:31)

Review the story. Read the passages below and help the kids understand what God did for Elisha that day.

Read 2 Kings 6:8-10.

Say: The king of Aram couldn't keep his battle plans a secret because God was showing them to Elisha! God is everywhere, so he could hear all the battle plans and tell Elisha what they were. That made it hard for the Arameans to win any battles. So the king of Aram was mad at Elisha! He asked people to go find and capture Elisha.

Read 2 Kings 6:12-14.

Say: When we feel surrounded by our problems, we can remember that God is everywhere, so we look for him around us. His army of angels is always there, ready to support us, comfort us, and defend us. And God always wins!

Pray: God, open our eyes and let us see that you are everywhere.

Ask: Tell about a way you've seen God at work when you've had a problem or worry. Share your own example first.

Say: Because God is everywhere, we don't have to feel alone or overwhelmed by our problems. Have kids pick up their index cards and throw them away.

Lead the Blind

Say: God is everywhere, and he placed his army all around Elisha. But that's not all God did.

Read 2 Kings 6:18-20.

Have kids form pairs. If you have one child, you will have to be the other half of the "pair". The older partner in each pair will be the Aramean. The Arameans will point to a place in the room they want to go and then close their eyes. The younger partners will then lead their Aramean partners somewhere far away from where they pointed.

Have kids switch roles and lead the Arameans again.

Say: This is kind of a funny battle story, isn't it? God is everywhere, and he was there, helping Elisha lead the blind enemies to the wrong place! When they realized they were in the wrong place, Elisha and the king of Israel fed them a meal and sent them home. No one was killed in this battle. They even got a free meal! But you know what? The Arameans left Israel alone after that.

Ask: Why do you think the Arameans didn't fight Israel after this experience?

There's a coloring sheet attached to this file. If you can print it out, it will help your kids remember the story.

Close your time together as a family in prayer.

