

# Online Katie Event – Bible Study

## Saturday, April 18, 2020

### Housekeeping

Just a few things to remember that will help us communicate as effectively as possible. The reason we are doing this live, is so that we can interact with one another and share our wisdom, questions, and insights. With that in mind:

1. Please mute your microphone if you're not speaking. Background sounds will be our worst enemy.
2. If you have a comment or question, you can approach that one of 2 ways. You can "raise your hand" either physically (and hope I see you in the crowd) or you can "raise your hand" via the emoji at the bottom of your screen. During a meeting, click on the icon labeled "Participants" at the bottom center of your PC or Mac screen. At the bottom of the window on the right side of the screen, click the button labeled "Raise Hand." Click "Raise Hand" if you want to say something in the meeting. Zoom



Your digital hand is now raised.

Lower it by clicking the same button, now labeled "Lower Hand."

3. OR – you can type your comment or question in the Chat box to your right. Linda and Miriam will be monitoring the chat so that I don't miss anything.
4. We will be spending a few minutes inside of some "breakout" rooms. Those have been assigned randomly. Please use that time to full advantage as you share insights with one another. Also, allow everyone to share.

### The exciting first 6 chapters of 2 Kings:



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**Breakout Room Questions:** (During first breakout time, discuss questions 1-3)

**1. What is the most remarkable thing about this story for you?**

- Elisha getting information from God about the enemy's movements and plans
- The angel army
- The entire Syrian army being blinded
- The mercy and generosity of God and Elisha
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**2. Does God behave this way today, in 2020? Are we surrounded by angels? How do you know?**

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**3. Have you ever experienced something that could only be explained by the presence of angels?**

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**Breakout Rooms Closed for some Large Group Discussion**

**Breakout Room Question:** (During the second breakout time, discuss question 4)

**4. In your small groups, look at the following verses and think through God's pervasive presence in our lives. How do these verses relate to the story of Elisha and the Army of God?**

**1 John 4:4**

You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them [evil], because the One who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.

**John 16:33**

I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.

**Romans 8:31-32**

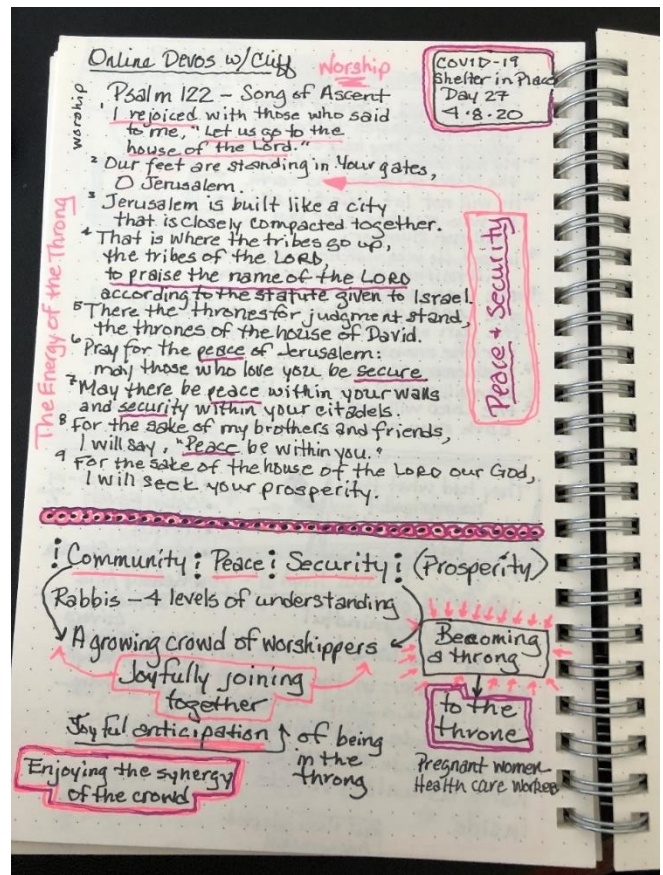
... If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up for us all – how will He not also, along with Him graciously give us all things?

**2 Kings 6:16**

He said, "Do not be afraid, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them."

## One Last Thought – Psalm 122

- 1 I was glad when they said to me,  
“Let us go to the house of the LORD!”
- 2 Our feet have been standing  
within your gates, O Jerusalem!
- 3 Jerusalem—built as a city  
that is bound firmly together,
- 4 to which the tribes go up,  
the tribes of the LORD,  
as was decreed for Israel,  
to give thanks to the name of the LORD.
- 5 There thrones for judgment were set,  
the thrones of the house of David.
- 6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem!  
“May they be secure who love you!
- 7 Peace be within your walls  
and security within your towers!”
- 8 For my brothers and companions’ sake  
I will say, “Peace be within you!”
- 9 For the sake of the house of the LORD our God,  
I will seek your good.



## Final Example

In the middle of my living room is a large coffee table. It’s made out of slate and iron. Needless to say, it’s very heavy and doesn’t move easily. As my grandchildren were growing up, they would run around that table in a big circle. Scared me to death, because if they fell, that table was going to cause injury. So, I would sit by the corner and just put my hand over those edges, so that if they fell, they wouldn’t be injured. They never even noticed I was doing that. They were just having fun.

Throughout Elisha’s lifetime there were numerous skirmishes with the Syrians. The nation never really had a time of complete peace. Even in the midst of their idolatry, God still cared about His people and because of that, gave Elisha special revelation regarding the movements and actions of their enemies. Elisha would share that information with the king, and thus help keep Israel safe from ambushes and attacks. Because of this the king of Syria believed that he had a spy in his court who would tell Israel his plans. After the Syrian king is informed about the power of Elisha to know his plans, he plots to take Elisha by force and thus end the information leakage.

While Elisha is staying in Dothan, the Syrian army surrounds the town and waits for dawn. Elisha’s servant rises to find the city surrounded and naturally he is struck with fear. What the servant cannot see is that God’s warrior angels have also surrounded the city and they are, of course, of superior strength to the Syrian army. After Elisha prays, the servant’s sight expands to include the spiritual and he too sees God’s vast army. God then strikes the enemy army with blindness and they are forced to follow Elisha as he leads them into Samaria, the capital of Israel. Now they are captured without an arrow being shot or a sword drawn.

What a gift it would be to be able to see into the spiritual realm; to see angels guarding and protecting us! God has chosen blindness for us most of the time in this regard and we can only assume that blindness to be for our benefit. But, just because we cannot see them, we must still trust that they are there! Supernatural things happen to us all the time, but we don’t recognize it. Our lives are spared, or disasters averted all the time because God’s angels surround us and act in accordance with His will for us. Just as I reach out my hand to cover the corner of a table to protect the toddler that wanders too close, God reaches out with this unseen army to take care of us even when we don’t realize it. His grace extends to us all day long whether we know it or not!