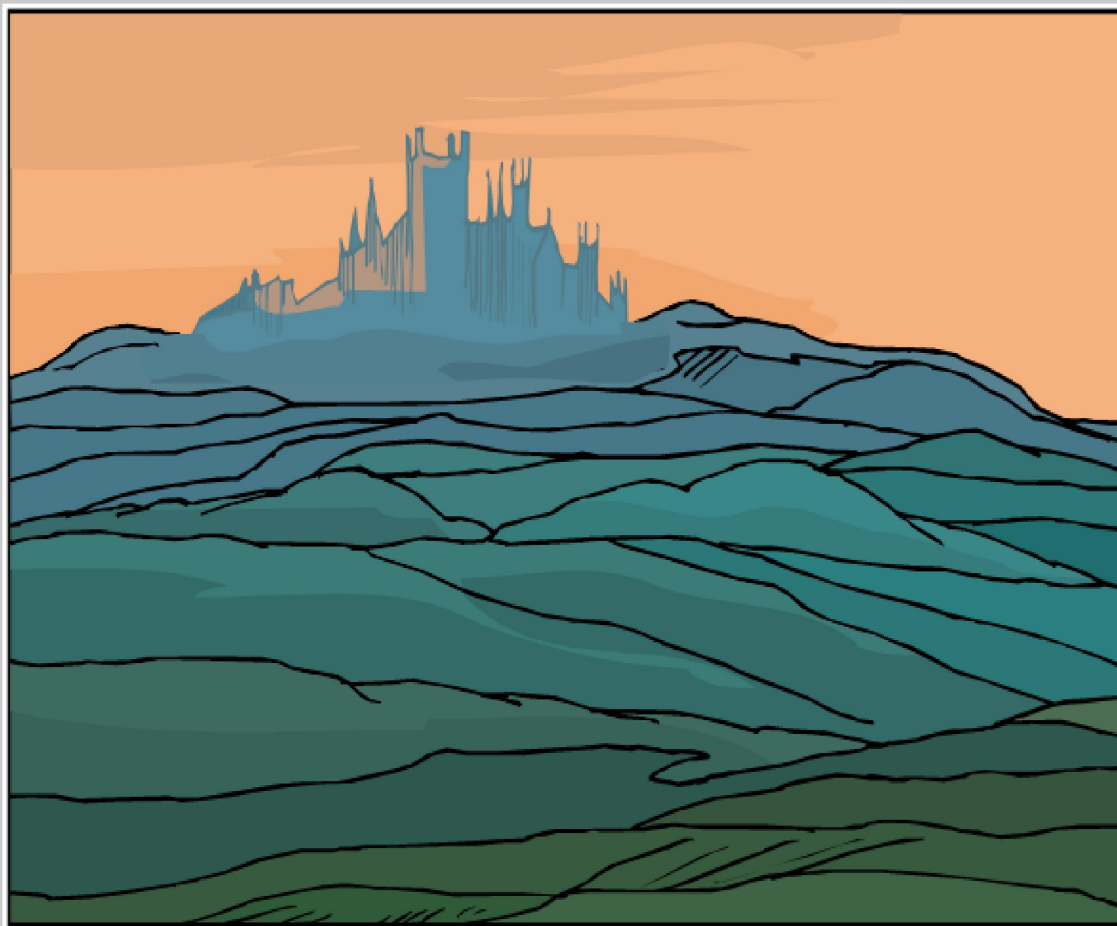
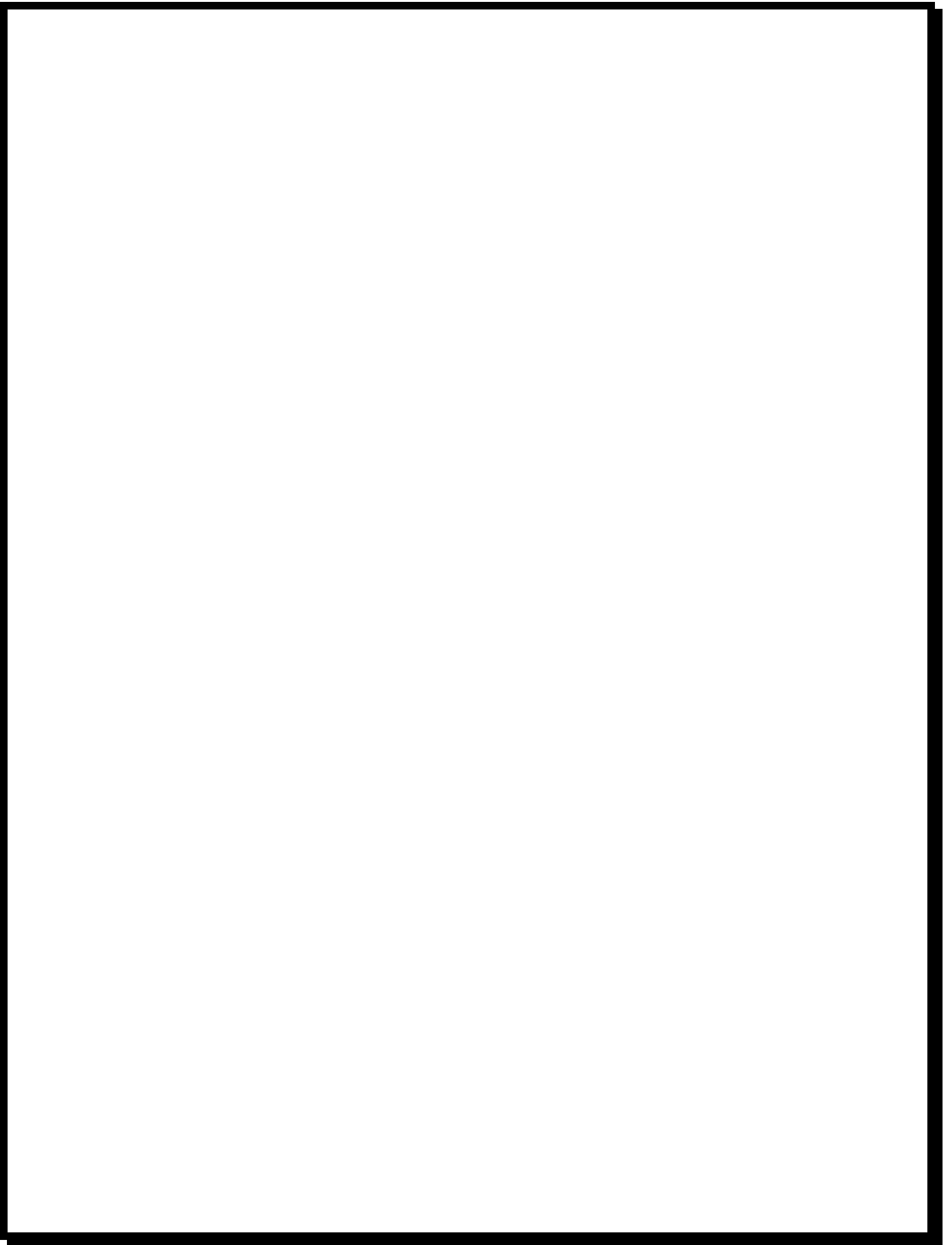


**The Story of Elisha and the King of Syria
(II Kings 6:1-17)**



By George A. Evans



**The Story of Elisha and the King of Syria
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And the sons of the prophets said unto Elisha, Behold now, the place where we dwell with thee is too strait for us. Let us go, we pray thee, unto Jordan, and take thence every man a beam, and let us make us a place there, where we may dwell. And he answered, Go ye. And one said, Be content, I pray thee, and go with thy servants. And he answered, I will go. So he went with them. And when they came to Jordan, they cut down wood. But as one was felling a beam, the ax head fell into the water: and he cried, and said, Alas, master! for it was borrowed. And the man of God said, Where fell it? And he showed him the place. And he cut down a stick, and cast it in thither; and the iron did swim. Therefore said he, Take it up to thee. And he put out his hand, and took it. Then the king of Syria warred against Israel, and took counsel with his servants, saying, In such and such a place shall be my camp. And the man of God sent unto the king of Israel, saying, Beware that thou pass not such a place; for thither the Syrians are come down. And the king of Israel sent to the place which the man of God told him and warned him of, and saved himself there, not once nor twice. Therefore the heart of the king of Syria was sore troubled for this thing; and he called his servants, and said unto them, Will ye not show me which of us is for the king of Israel? And one of his servants said, None, my lord, O king: but Elisha, the prophet that is in Israel, telleth the king of Israel the words that thou speakest in thy bedchamber. And he said, Go and spy where he is, that I may send and fetch him. And it was told him, saying, Behold, he is in Dothan. Therefore sent he thither horses, and chariots, and a great host: and they came by night, and compassed the city about. And when the servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, behold, an host compassed the city both with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! how shall we do? And he answered, Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them. And Elisha prayed, and said, Lord, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the Lord opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha (II King 6:1-17 KJV).

Elisha was a prophet that helped the king of Israel against the king of Aram, who was making war against Israel. Elisha, a man of God, sent word to the king of Israel warning him about an ambush planned by the king of Aram. Troubled by his failed plan, the king of Aram inquired and discovered that Elisha was the one helping the king of Israel. So, the king of Aram sent his servants to find Elisha so that he could send and get him. When the news came that Elisha was in Dothan, the king of Aram sent for Elisha. Well, not exactly. Instead, the king of Aram sent horses, chariots, and a great army by night to surround the town where Elisha was. The next morning, when the servant of Elisha woke and went out, he saw the great army surrounding the town. The servant then asked Elisha what they were going to do.

And he answered, Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them (II Kings 6: 16).

At that point, we can only imagine that Elisha's servant thought his master had lost his mind. For the servant, there was no **they** that was with them; all he could see was the **they** that was with them surrounding the town. It does make one wonder what exactly Elisha saw that the servant did not see.

And what Elisha saw that the servant did not see is what we want to focus on. Remember, we are taught that spirit beings have no materiality or physical substance. Now when the servant woke and went out, he saw the great army that the king of Aram had sent surrounding the town. The servant went to Elisha and asked what they were going to do. Elisha answered saying, ***Have no fear; those who are with us are more than those who are with them.***"

Listen to what Elisha did next.

And Elisha prayed, and said, Lord, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the Lord opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha (II Kings 6: 17).

Elisha prayed, asking the Lord to allow his servant to see all that he could see. And the Lord opened the eyes of the servant and the servant was able to see exactly those things that Elisha could see. Keep in mind that the servant was unable to see what Elisha saw until the Lord ***opened his eyes***. We know that the opening of his eyes was not speaking of organs of vision that he had in their head. Those eyes were already opened because he could see the Aramean army surrounding them. No, this is speaking of his ***eyes of awareness***, those eyes that allowed him to perceive what was truly going on around him. He actually became aware of another world that exists in conjunction with this world that he could already see.

When the servant's eyes were opened and he was allowed to see, he saw another world. He was allowed to enter the spirit world, a world that was existing in conjunction with this three-dimensional world. He was allowed to see a world that was able to occupy the same space as this world. The servant was actually allowed to see into the spirit world. And in that world, he saw the mountain full of horses and chariots of fire surrounding Elisha. But wait one minute, this brings up several questions. Are we not taught that spirit beings have no materiality or physical substance? Was it not Jesus, who said, ***a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have (Luke 24:39)***? And have we not been led to believe that spirit beings are invisible? Are we to believe that the mountain full of horses and chariots of fire surrounding Elisha had no materiality or physical substance? We think not, but let us look at this from another perspective. The army of horses and chariots of fire surrounding Elisha were put in place for the sole purpose of protection. This means that should the need arise, they would have been able to engage the Aramean army. And while we are unable to identify it, we now know that spirit beings, do in fact have material and physical substance.

So what does this say about God, whom Jesus said was ***a spirit (John 4:24)***? This means that God also has material and physical substance. This also means that God is able to protect us in ways that we could not image because we lack the eyes to see into the spirit realm. Once our ***eyes of awareness*** are opened, then we are allowed to perceive what is truly going on around us. We actually became aware of another world that exists in conjunction with this world that Elisha could already see. So, ***we have to have faith*** that God has ***more of them that are with us than those that are with them*** that we can actually or physically see with our eyes.

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Enjoy your blessings for they are many,

Your Brother in Christ,
George A. Evans

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