

Spiritua I Vision

△ 2 Kings 6:8-17

Intro - Worldview

The story that we are about to read can feel bewildering

There is talk about horses and chariots of fire

That Elisha's servant cannot see

Until Elisha ask God to open his servants eyes

It sounds fantastical

And it is easy to classify these type of stories as kind of literature

Like we know Science Fiction and Fantasy

We may learn lessons from it, but it surely meant to be allegorical

But what if this is not just a story, but that this reflects the reality

It does mean that we cannot see everything

Or have we closed our eyes for it?

Dunamis Project

Helps us to understand our Worldview

as follows

There is everything that really happens

Which is filtered by what we believe

Then by what we observe or experience

And then by what we analyse

This is all influenced by our culture, our interests and giftings

A carpenter will look very different at a tree than a forester

A Chinese person associates the moon with something totally different than a person from the West

A Rabbit vs a Man in the Moon

And this is a combination of our culture and also of our interests

How often do you not suddenly see a certain brand of car driving

When you start looking at that model?

There are not more of those cars

It is just that we look differently

And pay attention to different things

And then there is Spiritual Vision

A Vision that God gives as a gift

In order to see God's reality vs our reality

We often call God's reality super natural

But knowing God it should be called natural

And what we see is sub natural

If we are allowed to see the world with God's eyes, we look at it differently

Suddenly Chariots of Fire are possible

Angels are normal

Miracles is they way that God acts in this world

And we are able to see and do abundantly far more - with God - than all we can ask or imagine

Eph 3:20

Intro - Story

Introduction to Elisha

This is part of the stories that give us a glimpse of who and what Elisha is and did as a prophet

And what his faith was

At the beginning of 2 Kings we see that Elijah is taken up to heaven

And Elijah gives his mantel on to Elishia as his successor

Elisha demonstrates the same power as Elijah had, or even more

He extended a widow's oil

He raised another mother's dead son

He purifies a pot of stew

There is death in the pot!

He feeds a hundred man

He heals Naaman

And he floats the valuable axehead of a one of the pronhets which had fallen

...one of the prophets had taken
in the Jordan

Alas Master! It was borrowed!

All these stories challenge a world
view and our faith

But then we see Jesus do these kind of
miracles as well

And he promised that we (through the
Power of the Spirit) will be doing even more
than these

¹² Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me
will do the works I have been doing, and they
will do even greater things than these, because I
am going to the Father. ¹³ And I will do whatever
you ask in my name, so that the Father may be
glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ You may ask me for
anything in my name, and I will do it.

△ John 14:12-14

The Story

The story is quite simple in
structure

The issue

The King of Aram is attacking Israel

Naaman was of Aram

But now conflict has started again

Aram is the area North of Israel extending
east to Mesopotamia

Both the King of Aram and the King of
Israel is unnamed, so it is difficult to date
this story

Elisha knows what the King of Aram
decides

decides

As a prophet God informs Elisha of Aram's plans

Who in turn informs the King of Israel

Who then takes counter measures

Aram thinks he has a spy in the camp

But one of his officers knows that it is Elisha

Elisha is a prophet and not a spy

So he is not keeping secret that he is informing of Aram's plans to the King of Israel

So Aram wants to capture Elisha

Here we see some of the humour in this story

As Aram comes with a whole army

And at night, as if Elisha has a whole army that he is commanding

Alas, Master! What shall we do!

Elisha servant is clearly worried

And probably in a panic

Ready to surrender

But Elisha informs him

Do not be afraid, for there are more with us than with them'

Elisha could see

Elisha could see the armies of God surrounding him

But his servant could not

Perhaps even the King of Aram had an inkling of the God's army

As he had sent his own army

Elisha prays for his servant

“Open his eyes, Lord, so that he may see.”

^ v17

And he saw and saw the hills full of horses
and chariots of fire all around Elisha

God has already protected Elisha

The end of the story

The rest we have not read

But Elisha prays to God to strike the
Arameans with blindness

Physical or Spiritual or Mind?

As the whole army follows Elisha to go
Samaria

And this must have been a bit of a journey

And leads them straight into the city

In the heart of the Israeli army

And Elisha prays for their sight to be
restored

And they could see that they were trapped

Again we see the humour in this story

The King of Israel wants to kill them

But Elisha tells him to feed them and
then let them go

As it was God who captured them not
the King of Israel

As they were humiliated we then see
that they did not come raiding in Israel
anymore.

Application

This story demonstrates the limitations of our vision

First of all Elisha's servant could not see God's reality, he only saw with human eyes

But then God gave him the gift to see what He sees

Secondly, the Aram army's vision was tampered with

God limited what they could see, hear, understand and analyse

And they could only follow Elisha to Samaria

Thirdly, God restores Aram army's vision

And although they could not see what Elisha and his servant saw

They could see with normal human eyes

This can also happen to us

I do not have this gift of vision

But I know people who do, and I trust that what they see is of God

4 tests

But that then gives me the confidence that God's will will be done

What about our own lives

Do we see what is going on in our lives?

Do we get the full picture

Or are we blinded by our own worries,

concerns, bodies

It is sometimes difficult to lift our vision beyond our own life and see what God is doing with our lives

And especially if we are hurting physically or if we are in a dark place ourselves

But these stories indicate that there is often another reality

And that through our faith in God and trusting him, he will protect us, and help us

But often he does not help us in they way we expect

With all the whole of God's army the Aramean army could have been defeated easily

But although that was possible, that is not what God did

Instead, through Elisha's prayer, they were blinded for a time

And the conflict was resolved in a completely different way!

Not something the servant had in mind

But perhaps also not Elisha until the last moment, when God told him what to pray: make them blind and take them to Samaria

God's often leading us at the last moment

We would like to hear and know God's solution earlier

I am getting to an age that I am thinking of retirement

retirement

But where would we retire to? I don't know

But then I do not need to know, yet

I just have to trust God that when the time comes, he will let me know

So I can worry about that

And I sometimes do

But then I have to remind myself that I can trust God in this.

So the end of this story is that we have to, but also that we can trust God

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

^ Romans 8:38-39

Jesus will not allow us to be separated from the love of God

And with his love and the love of God, all things are also bearable

Because he will save us, perhaps not how we want in this life, but definitely at the end of lives

So we have to come and stay with Jesus