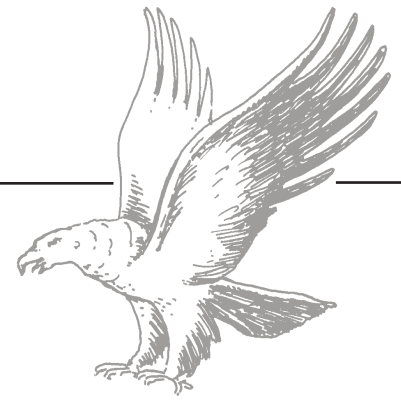


# Wings

*“Those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength;  
they shall mount up with wings like eagles.”  
Isaiah 40:31*



July 10, 2016

## What Shall We Do?

In a day when it seems that the forces of evil are overwhelming the good, it is easy to fear what the future holds. But we need to recognize a greater power that is at work in the world.

*“Therefore he sent horses and chariots and a great army there, and they came by night and surrounded the city. And when the servant of the man of God arose early and went out, there was an army, surrounding the city with horses and chariots. And his servant said to him, ‘Alas, my master! What shall we do?’ So he answered, ‘Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.’” (2 Kgs. 6:14-16).*



The “great army” that Ben-Hadad of Syria sent against Dothan was commissioned to capture Elisha the prophet, whose miraculous insights had caused his war with Israel to go badly. Dothan was little more than a village, so sending this army was overkill. But Ben-Hadad was leaving nothing to chance.

Elisha’s servant arose in the morning to a terrifying sight. The city was surrounded by a powerful enemy ready to seize their prey. Resistance was hopeless, escape was impossible. His cry reflected this prospect of doom: “Alas, my master! What shall we do?”

This young man’s despair parallels our own. Today we are surrounded by enemies whose efforts to silence our faith are stronger—and more successful—than ever. The forces of evil have seized control of the levers of government, and are wielding that power against Christians with ruthless effectiveness. Good people are being intimidated into silence by threats of punishment. Those who openly resist are branded as racist, sexist, homophobic, or worse. It is only a matter of time before churches will be driven underground by the power of an all-powerful state that brooks no dissent on any policy it deems a “civil right,” especially regarding the LGBT agenda (gay marriage, transgender equality, etc.). The moral foundation that has under-girded our civilization is being systematically dismantled, and anyone who gets in the way of that project will be treated as an enemy. Even more distressing, millions of our fellow citizens are cheering the destruction.

So the cry of Elisha’s servant is our own: “Alas, what shall we do?” The answer is found in Elisha’s response:

“Lord, I pray, open his eyes that he may see” (v. 17). Then the servant saw that “the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha” (v. 18). The Syrian army that came against Elisha faced a far greater foe than it realized, and God took care of the threat in His own way (v. 19-23). Elisha’s servant had nothing to fear, once he realized the unseen allies that were arrayed against the enemy.

Like that young man, we need to open our eyes to the wider field of battle that is taking place in our generation. Like every other such contest throughout history, Satan is pulling out all the stops to overwhelm God’s people. But God has resources that Satan cannot defeat. Satan may roar, and even win a skirmish or two along the way. Many will suffer from his schemes. But the ultimate outcome is already determined. Someday, in His own way, God will turn the tables on the forces of lawlessness that surround us. Our job is to keep on living our convictions, maintain courage in the face of threats, and trust God to deliver the victory in His time.

– David King