***2 Kings 6:15-17 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?” 16So he answered, “Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.” 17And Elisha prayed, and said, “Lord, I pray, open his eyes that he may see.” Then the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.***

Our Hope is in Jesus Christ. Our Hope is in God. His Mighty arm is not shortened. His hand is at work. We need not dread. We need not be dismayed. We need not be depressed. As we step forward and continue to help our neighbor, let’s do all in Hope, glorifying God, and letting Him lead the way.

This morning, we’re in one of my favorite stories of the Bible. Elisha the Prophet has been helping the Children of Israel by telling them where the Syrian army will attack. The king of Syria is told Elisha is having visions, so he sends an army to take Elisha captive. In the night, they have surrounded the city and the very house where Elisha and his servant are sleeping. We join the servant as he steps out the door in the morning and sees the army. Verse 15- *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?”* Here we find the servant seeing the obstruction rather than the opportunity. He sees the army. Obstruction – what shall we do? Many today see obstruction rather than opportunity. We willingly complain, failing to confess the goodness and the power of our God. We cry out, “Alas, what shall we do” rather than praying, “God, Thank You - what will You have me do?”

Verse 16 – *So he answered, “Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.”* Elisha sees opportunity, not obstruction. God’s people see opportunity, not obstruction. We confess the greatness of God. Do not fear – Elisha says. What a great opportunity to see the power of Almighty God! Likewise, we have a great opportunity, and we are seeing the power and goodness of Almighty God, as people from all over the state and nation, charities and churches, rush in to help. Never fear, God tells us. Those that are with us are more than those that are with them. In every situation, we must not fear this world, but have Faith that God is being glorified. Jesus, knowing that Lazarus lay sick, remained two more days. John 11:4 - *When Jesus heard that* (Lazarus was sick)*, He said, “This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it.”* Let’s not look down and say why the storm, but look up and say, “How might God be glorified in the storm? How might God be glorified in my prayers, in my actions, and in my giving?

Verse 17 - *And Elisha prayed, and said, “Lord, I pray, open his eyes that he may see.”* (what does that suggest to us? Elisha has already seen. It suggests that while the servant is seeing the horses in the valley, Elisha already sees the helpers on the hillsides.) *Then the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.*Elisha prayed that the servant’s spiritual eyes be opened. May our spiritual eyes be opened. Stop seeing the obstruction and eagerly embrace the opportunities! How might God be glorified? When his eyes were opened, what did he see? The mountain was full of God’s army, God’s messengers, God’s helpers. When we see an obstruction, a storm, a challenge, do we look unto the hills, knowing that God with us, Immanuel, is more than that which is before us? Psalm 121:1-2 *I will lift up my eyes to the hills - From whence comes my help? My help comes from the Lord, Who made heaven and earth.*

This week, let’s be confident that everything will come to glorify the Lord. We don’t know what miracles God is working here. In God, helpless becomes helpful, hopeless becomes hopeful. Let’s be part of His work. Hebrews 13:1-2 *Let brotherly love continue.* *Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels.* Angels – the Greek can mean angels or God’s messengers. Let’s lift up our eyes, behold on the mountains, and see how God has filled the horizon with helpers – now and in the weeks to come. Our God is an awesome God – let’s praise so that the world sees that we believe this with all our heart.