

THE CHARIOTS OF FIRE

II Kings 6:1-23.

LESSON 73 -- Primary Course

MEMORY VERSE: **“Arise, and be not afraid” (Matthew 17:7).**

BIBLE TEXT

II Kings 6:1-23

1 And the sons of the prophets said unto Elisha, Behold now, the place where we dwell with thee is too strait for us.

2 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.

3 And one said, Be content, I pray thee, and go with thy servants. And he answered, I will go.

4 So he went with them. And when they came to Jordan, they cut down wood.

5 But as one was felling a beam, the axe head fell into the water: and he cried, and said, Alas, master! for it was borrowed.

6 And the man of God said, Where fell it? And he shewed him the place. And he cut down a stick, and cast it in thither; and the iron did swim.

7 Therefore said he, Take it up to thee. And he put out his hand, and took it.

8 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.

9 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.

10 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.

11 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 shew me which of us is for the king of Israel?

12 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.

13 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.

14 Therefore sent he thither horses, and chariots, and a great host: and they came by night, and compassed the city about.

15 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?

16 And he answered, Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them.

17 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.

18 And when they came down to him, Elisha prayed unto the LORD, and said, Smite this people, I pray thee, with blindness. And he smote them with blindness according to the word of Elisha.

19 And Elisha said unto them, This is not the way, neither is this the city: follow me, and I will bring you to the man whom ye seek. But he led them to Samaria.

20 And it came to pass, when they were come into Samaria, that Elisha said, LORD, open the eyes of these men, that they may see. And the LORD opened their eyes, and they saw; and, behold, they were in the midst of Samaria.

21 And the king of Israel said unto Elisha, when he saw them, My father, shall I smite them? shall I smite them?

22 And he answered, Thou shalt not smite them: wouldest thou smite those whom thou hast taken captive with thy sword and with thy bow? set bread and water before them, that they may eat and drink, and go to their master.

23 And he prepared great provision for them: and when they had eaten and drunk, he sent them

away, and they went to their master. So the bands of Syria came no more into the land of Israel.

NOTES

The Lost Axe head

We have read of the many great things Elisha did. In this lesson we read of more of the good work he did with God's help. Some boys were with Elisha, perhaps in a school, and one day they came to him and said that their place was too small. They said that if every boy would bring a piece of lumber, they could build a bigger place. Elisha told them to go ahead and do it. But while one of them was cutting wood, his axhead fell into the water. He was no doubt very sorry to lose the axhead, so he told Elisha about it and also told him that it was borrowed. Then Elisha took a stick and threw it into the water, and the heavy axhead swam. The man lifted it out of the water.

When we borrow something from another person, we should take good care of it, so that we may return it in good condition to the one from whom it was borrowed. If we break or lose a borrowed article it should be replaced. We must never be careless with other people's things. It is very likely that Elisha had taught the boys that lesson.

Elisha's Contact with God

The king of another country was planning to fight against the Children of Israel, but the king of Israel always found out where the enemy was hiding. The Syrian king thought some of his men must be telling the Israelites about his plans. But one of the Syrians seemed to know that the Prophet Elisha was the one who told them. Perhaps he did not know that it was God who told Elisha because Elisha lived and walked close to God.

God's Protection

The king then sent men to bring Elisha to him. A great army was around the city. Elisha's servant rose early one morning and saw the city surrounded with horses and chariots, and he was afraid. But Elisha told him not to be afraid. Then he prayed to God to open the eyes of the servant. The Lord heard his prayer and let the servant see that the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire, sent from Heaven to protect Elisha and his servant. We do not know how many times God protects us. We find a wonderful promise in Psalm 34:7: "The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them." In Psalm 91:11 we read: "For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways." So we know that if we love the Lord with all our heart, He will protect us.

Back to Their Country

Elisha asked the Lord to cause the enemy to become blind. The Lord again heard the prayer of his faithful servant. They were easily led away. Elisha said to them, "Follow me." He led them to Samaria. Then he prayed that their eyes might be opened, and they saw. No doubt they thought they would all be killed, but Elisha did not have a "get even" spirit. He had the people fed and sent back to their homes.

Showing Kindness

God teaches us to be kind to those who are not kind to us. He never wants us to have a feeling of wanting to "get even" with those who are unkind to us. God says He will punish such people. God will love and bless the children who do not fight back because someone has hit them or has done something they do not like.

Teachings of Jesus

When Jesus was here upon earth, He preached many wonderful sermons to the people. He taught the people how to live; He taught them how to pray; He taught them how to treat others; He taught them how to prepare for Heaven. In one of His sermons He said, "Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you."

Elisha lived many years before Jesus was born, and did not have the New Testament which we have today, but he knew how to treat his enemies. He did just what Jesus taught when He came – he did good to those who hated him. In Romans 12:21, we read, “Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.”

QUESTIONS

How did Elisha measure up to the following teachings of Jesus?

1. “Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you” (Luke 6:27).
2. “Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful” (Luke 6:36).
3. “Give, and it shall be given unto you” (Luke 6:38).
4. “Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy” (Matthew 5:7).
5. “Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God” (Matthew 5:9).
6. “Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness’ sake: for their’s is the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 5:10).
7. “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven” (Matthew 5:16).
8. “Have faith in God” (Mark 11:22).

TITLE

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Lesson 73

II Kings 6:1-23

Jesus, My Refuge And Shelter

WATCH AND PRAY 33

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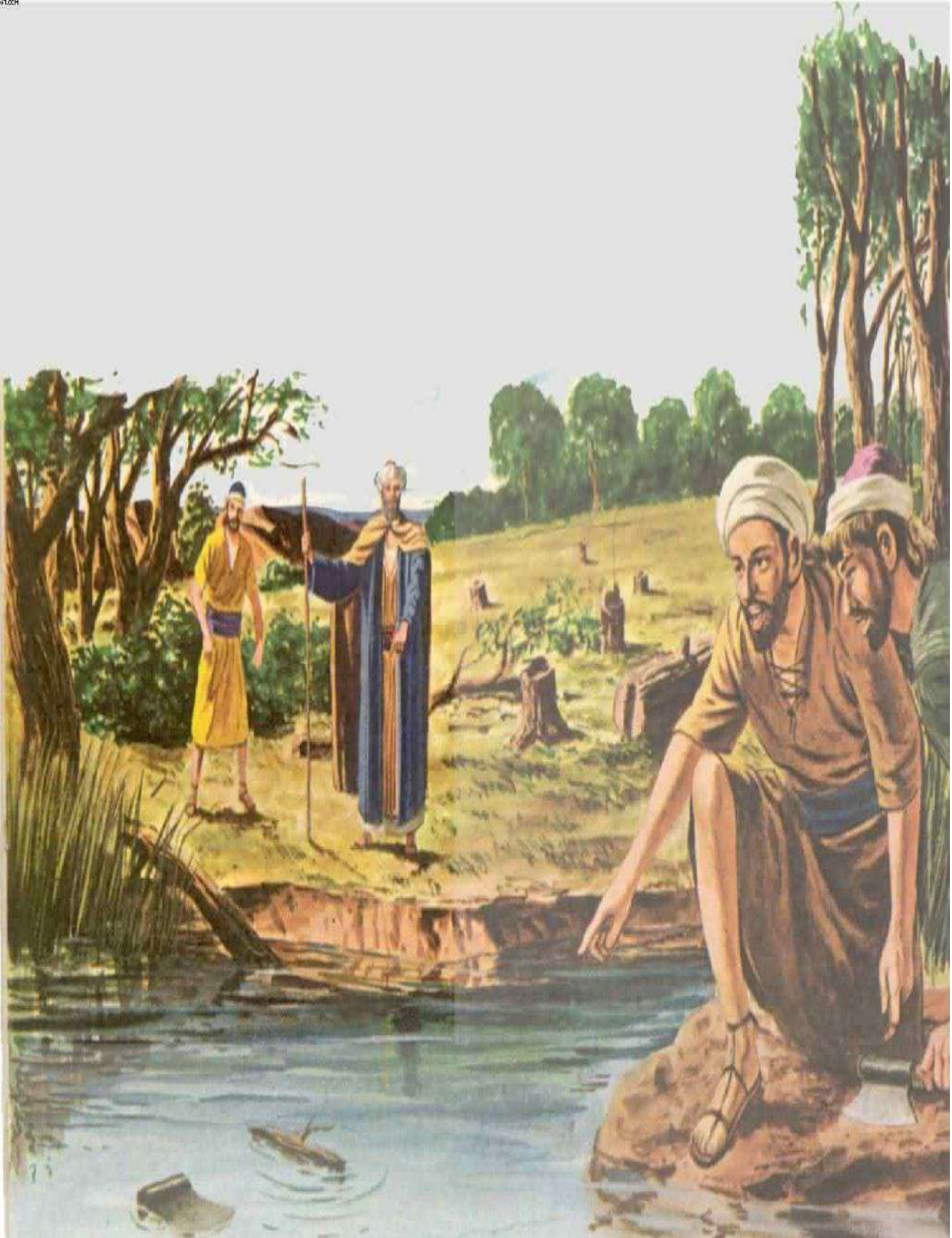
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Jesus, My Refuge And Shelter

Jesus my Refuge and Shelter,
Jesus my Friend and Companion
Jesus my Comfort in time of need
My Savior when hope is all gone
Jesus my Fortress and Stronghold
A wonderful Friend indeed

PICTURE 1

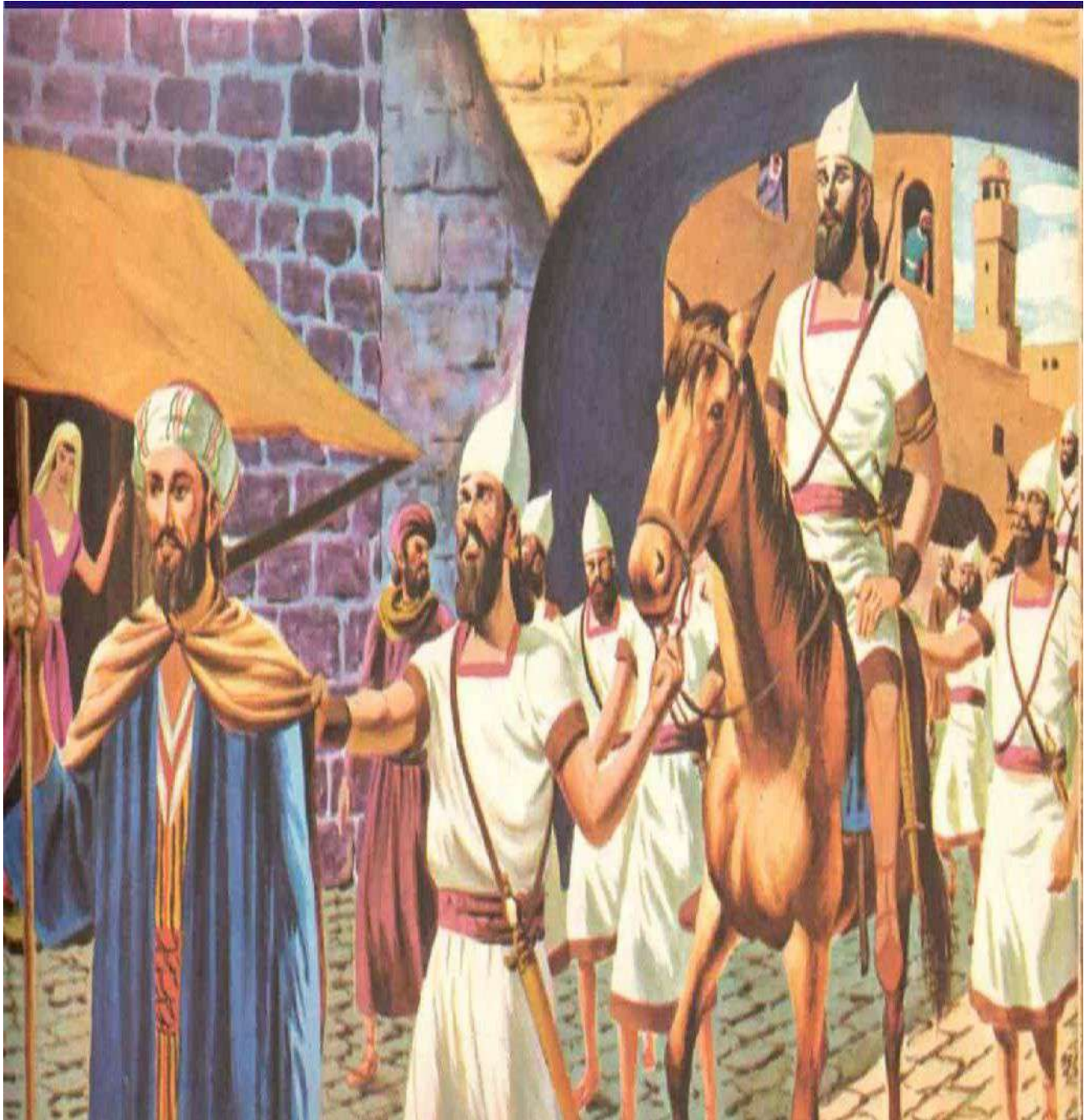
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PICTURE 2



PICTURE 3



PICTURE 4

