



## Questions for further study

Sunday, November 10<sup>th</sup> '19

1. We started by considering the title of a book by the apologist Ravi Zacharias "Can man live without God?" (It was published in 2004 – probably today he might have chosen a different title. What he means is "can humans / people live without God?") What thoughts does this title prompt for you? What different angles can you consider this question from? In what ways can *Christians* live like God doesn't exist?

2. We're looking at an incident from Elisha's life. First check out facts about this prophet & the time's he lived in. Read 2 Kings 6:8-13

i) Elisha's efforts for his people put him in personal danger (v.11). Think of other examples of this in the Bible or for Christians through the generations. Remind yourself of what Jesus' said in Matthew 10:16-20.

ii) The king of Aram's officers had told him that Elisha could learn about his most secret plans. Yet he made a move against the prophet as if they could sneak up and carry Elisha away before he knew it. The king was not very wise! He didn't really understand with whom he was dealing. It was not only Elisha that his armies would confront! What encouragement can we draw from this that will help us remain steadfast?

3. Read v14-17. Here the account turns to spiritual realities. There's nothing wrong with the question Elisha's servant asked in v15!

Look up these links to find out information regarding the National Day of Prayer called on March 26<sup>th</sup> 1940.

[http://www.crossrhythms.co.uk/articles/life/Miracles\\_Angels/39906/p2/](http://www.crossrhythms.co.uk/articles/life/Miracles_Angels/39906/p2/)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1zbUqeYnyxw>

Elisha's response in v16 isn't a superficial "Don't worry, be happy" cliché. It's a profound faith that understands the resources that God can bring to bear in our lives as we face opposition and crisis.

Elisha's prayer that God might open the eyes of his servant was a prayer for spiritual discernment. (Physical sight is often used biblical metaphor for understanding and for faith.)

i) What are some of the ways in which we can find discernment? Psalm 119:66, 1 Corinthians 12:10, 1:9-10, James 1:5, etc

ii) What is the balance between our actively seeking spiritual sight and realizing that it only comes as a gift from God?

iii) What resources from God can we count on to help us in a crisis?

4. Read v18-23. What a great example of grace! Compare this with how God treats us....