

SEEING THE UNSEEN

There most definitely IS an unseen world. For anyone who believes God's word, this should not be a surprising concept. God has not shared a great deal of detail with us about the unseen world but we have enough biblical information that we can understand the reality and the purpose of that realm.

The Hebrew writer makes it quite clear in the first chapter of that book. Speaking of angels in the context, we see these words, "**Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?**" Yes, angels are real and they render help to God's people. When and precisely *how* this happens is in God's hands and He has not shared those details with us. Faithful Christians are content to allow God to handle the processes whether we know those details or not.

One of the great events in the Bible is found in II Kings 6. The king of Aram (modern day Syria) was trying to capture Elisha, God's prophet, in the city of Dothan (verses 11-14). Early in the morning Elisha and his servant rise to see the entire city surrounded by the army and cavalry of Aram. Elisha's servant was understandably distraught, their demise seemed imminent! But Elisha knew *and saw* something that his servant could not see, *the unseen realm!* Elisha utters the now famous words, "**Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.**" His servant must have thought Elisha had gone crazy. There are two of them facing thousands of enemy soldiers, mounted cavalry and chariots! They were hopelessly outnumbered.

Then Elisha prayed that God would open the eyes of his servant. God grants the request and suddenly his servant sees the reality, "**And the Lord opened the servant's eyes and he saw; and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.**"

Indeed, he now sees God's own angelic army there in force, far out-numbering the Aramean forces! The rest of the story unfolds through verse 23 and it was the end of the marauding bands of Arameans attacking Israel in that generation.

I wonder how often we, today, wring our hands in fear or frustration simply because we don't see God's plans or his angels. By definition, *we can't see the unseen*. But we remember Hebrews 1:14, that God's angels are ministering spirits sent out to render service to His people.

I wonder how often our own spirits forget Psalm 73:1, "**Do not fret because of evildoers.**" I must confess that it is hard to follow that instructive when I see rioters, looters and arsonists running wild on the evening news.

But I still remember God's word and accept the challenge to keep my fears in check because, "... greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world," I John 4:4. Fear, trepidation and frustration *can only happen in one person's heart!* They do not exist out in mid air. Your heart can find the strength to "**not fret because of evildoers.**"

The process of personal peace is, not surprisingly, *personal!* It is not the herd mentality that peace is and never has been controlled by the culture! **Read Philippians 4:1-13.** Therein we find the magnificent reality that, "**the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.**"

The heathen rage (Ps. 1:1) and the enemies of God go about blindly (literally or figuratively, II Kings 6:15-19) but if and when we, as God's people, really do put Him on the thrones of our hearts, the peace that follows will, astoundingly, surpass all comprehension!