



**Here's Hope:
Look For the
Unseen!
2 Kings 6:8-23**

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

“Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.

For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.

So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary,

but what is unseen is eternal.”

How do you see the unseen in a crisis?

How do you “comfort one another with these words?”

1 Thess. 4:18

One Key Would Be To Look For Your Crises in Scripture!

2 Peter 1:3

“What has been will be again, what has been done.....”

Ecclesiastes 1:9

Background of the Story

- **The Kingdom of Israel was at war with the Kingdom of Aram (Syria)**
- **When the King of Syria would try to ambush Israel in a surprise attack, it seems that Israel would find out about it before hand, and therefore avoid capture, 2 Kings 6:8-9**
- **The King of Syria assumed that there was a spy in his camp that must be tipping Israel off with Syria's plans, verse 11**
- **According to the story however, God is giving his prophet Elisha the inside (divine) information as to the enemy's whereabouts, and Elisha passes that information on to the King of Israel to keep them safe, 2 Kings 6:9-10**

- **When the King of Syria realizes that Elisha is “*The Mole,*” he then sends an army to capture him**
- **One morning, in Dothan, Elisha’s servant awakens early to find the whole city where they lived, surrounded by the horses and chariots of the enemy, looking to capture his master, verse 15**
- **So he cries to Elisha, “*Alas my master! how shall we do?*” verse 15**

Isn’t That the Question of the Ages for the Child of God?

- **Lord, my job is lost due to Covid 19. What shall I do?**
- **Lord, my health is not the best. What shall I do?**
- **Lord, the money runs out before the month does. What shall I do?**
- **Lord, my children won’t listen to me! What shall I do?**

Observations

- Now we might expect Elisha to have a *“masterful escape plan,”* or some sort of *“exit strategy,”* hidden tunnel, etc.
- But instead, he remarkably basically says to his servant, *“I can see some things that you don’t see!”* **verse16**
- *“Those who are with us are more than those with them”* **verse16.** You and God are in the majority!
- Then he asks of the Lord, *“Open his eyes so that he can see what I’m seeing.”* *(You ever pray that prayer?)* **verse 17**
- Sure enough, God answers his prayer and open his servant’s eyes, and he saw an army of God’s angels, complete with horses and chariots of fire surrounding the army that was surrounding them, **2 Kings 6:17**

- **As the enemies came toward the house, Elisha prayed that they be struck with blindness so that they couldn't see where they were going**
- **Elisha then dupes them, telling them that he would lead them where they needed to go (they are blind).**
- **He leads them right to the Israelites to be captured**



Observations

- Elisha asks the Lord to open the enemies' eyes, the blindness is removed, and the enemies find themselves captured by the Israelites in Samaria
- The King of Israel asks, *"Shall I kill them?"*
- Elisha tells him no, but instead, *"feed your enemy and send them back home"*
- Doesn't that concept sound familiar? Romans 12:20
- Let your enemy know your motivation for kindness in return for evil their intentions. *"Recompense to no man evil....."* Romans 12:17
- As a result, Syria attacked God's people no more
2 Kings 6:23

During This Pandemic, Are You Looking for What is Seen or What is Unseen?

Three Things That Are Unseen But Ever-Present

#1 God's Presence

- **When Elisha's servant looked outside; all he saw was the enemy, and he panicked (his vision was limited)**
- **Elisha's faith was different from his servant's faith, in the same house (could their house resemble our house?)**
- **God's presence at all times in our lives, should embolden our confidence. Look at David, Psalms 135:7-8, Matthew 28:20**
- **God is not far from each one of us, Acts 17:27**

#2 God's Protection

“I sought the Lord and He answered me; and delivered me from all my fears.” Psalms 34:4 (Covid 19 fears included)

“The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him and He delivers them. Taste (test for flavor) and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in Him.” Psalms 34:7-8

- This is what Elisha's servant saw when he was blessed to have his eyes opened—God's Protection
- Jesus mentioned a massive army available to Him once, when an arrest was attempted in Gethsemane (12 legions of angels, Matthew 26:53) Legion=between 4000 and 6000 men
- Sometimes Jesus will bless our “faith to become sight,” to show His love for us (the servant got “faith confirmation”)
- When living during a Pandemic we need God's “angels of protection” (when people are not of faith but risky and dangerous, “unvaccinated carriers”, wearing no protection)

#3 God's Providence

- In reading this true story, you get a strong sense of God's *"Purposeful Providential Intervention,"* in our lives
- First, God has always promised to take care of His own
- In this story, His own are attacked by the enemy of His people
- God, through Elisha, tips Israel consistently on the whereabouts of their enemies' next move
- When the enemy finally surrounds Israel, God renders them sightless; so now God has rendered Israel's enemy helpless
- Who knew that Israel's proof of faith and obedience was the key to their deliverance?

Observations

- Many times, when we make plans, we aren't really the ones who control the outcome
- We can do our best to control the outcome BUT, so much of our lives are dictated by things out of our control
- Just when you think you have things figured out, something happens, that throws a "*monkey wrench*," into our plans (due to consequences of our decisions or something totally unsuspected)
- Suddenly, our plans change, or they totally disappear (Dependable people die, jobs are lost, relationships dissolve)

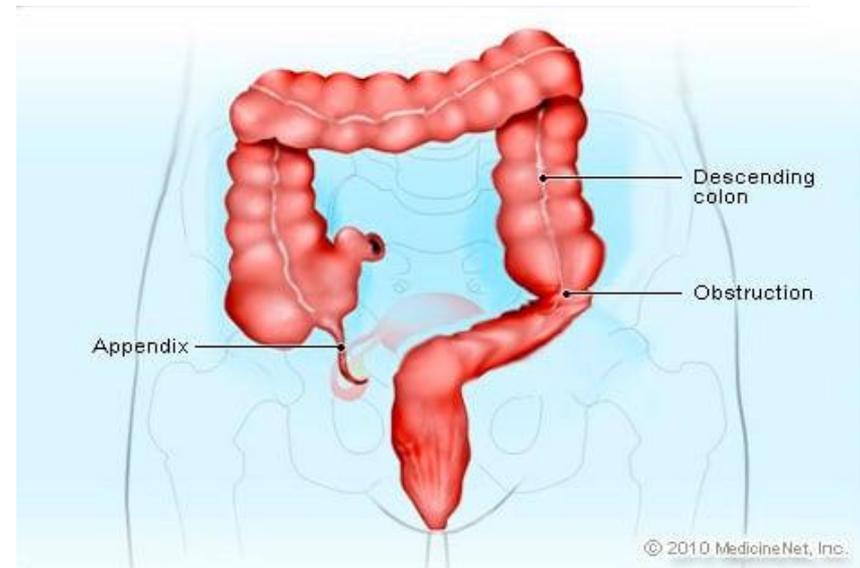
James Writes to Christians Scattered Across the Roman Empire

“Now listen, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.” Why you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.

Instead, you ought to say, “If it is the Lord’s will, we will live and do this or that.” James 3:13-15

In Conclusion

- **Your plans may be noble, but don't lose sight of God in your plans**
- **Too often, our lives are dedicated to serving our own agenda, with God as an “appendix.” (No credit or consideration)**
- **The best way to live is to align yourself with God's plans rather than wonder if He can fit into yours!**



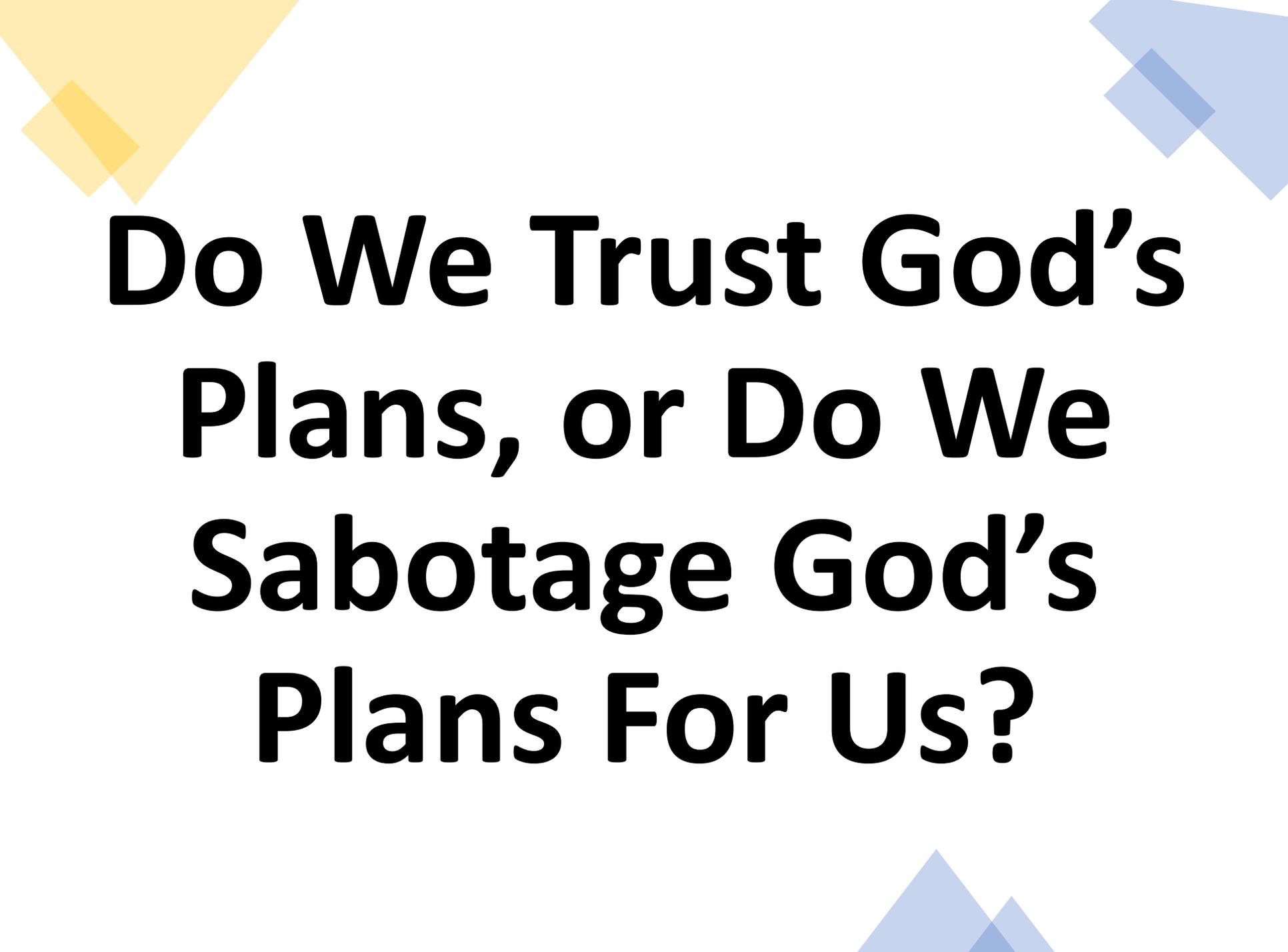
Did You Not Know That God Has Plans For You?

“For I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

Jeremiah 21:11

“Blessed is the man That walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor standeth in the way of sinners , Nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers.....”

Psalms 1

The image features a white background with decorative geometric shapes in the corners. In the top-left corner, there are overlapping yellow and light orange shapes. In the top-right corner, there are overlapping light blue and medium blue shapes. In the bottom-right corner, there are overlapping light blue and medium blue shapes. The central text is in a large, bold, black sans-serif font.

**Do We Trust God's
Plans, or Do We
Sabotage God's
Plans For Us?**



The Plan of Salvation

Hear the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Believe the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Repent of Sins

Acts 17:30

Confess Christ

Acts 8:37

Be Baptized

Acts 8:38

