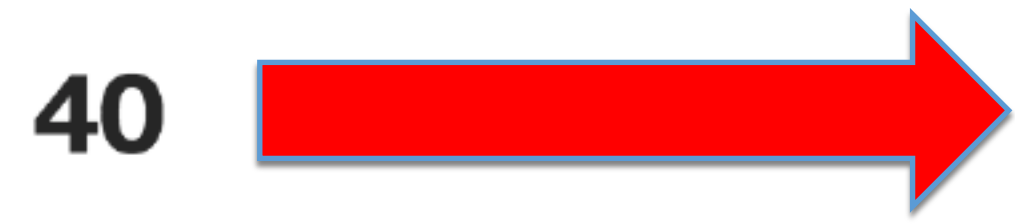


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SHARPENING OUR FOCUS

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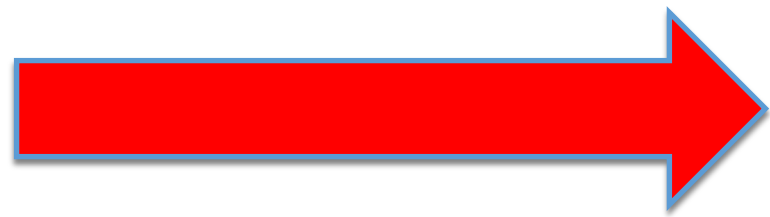
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SHARPENING OUR FOCUS

IN A DISTRACTED WORLD

2 Kings 6:8-23 page 368

8 Now the king of Aram was at war with Israel. After conferring with his officers, he said, “I will set up my camp in such and such a place.”

9 The man of God sent word to the king of Israel: “Beware of passing that place, because the Arameans are going down there.”

10 So the king of Israel checked on the place indicated by the man of God. Time and again Elisha warned the king, so that he was on his guard in such places.

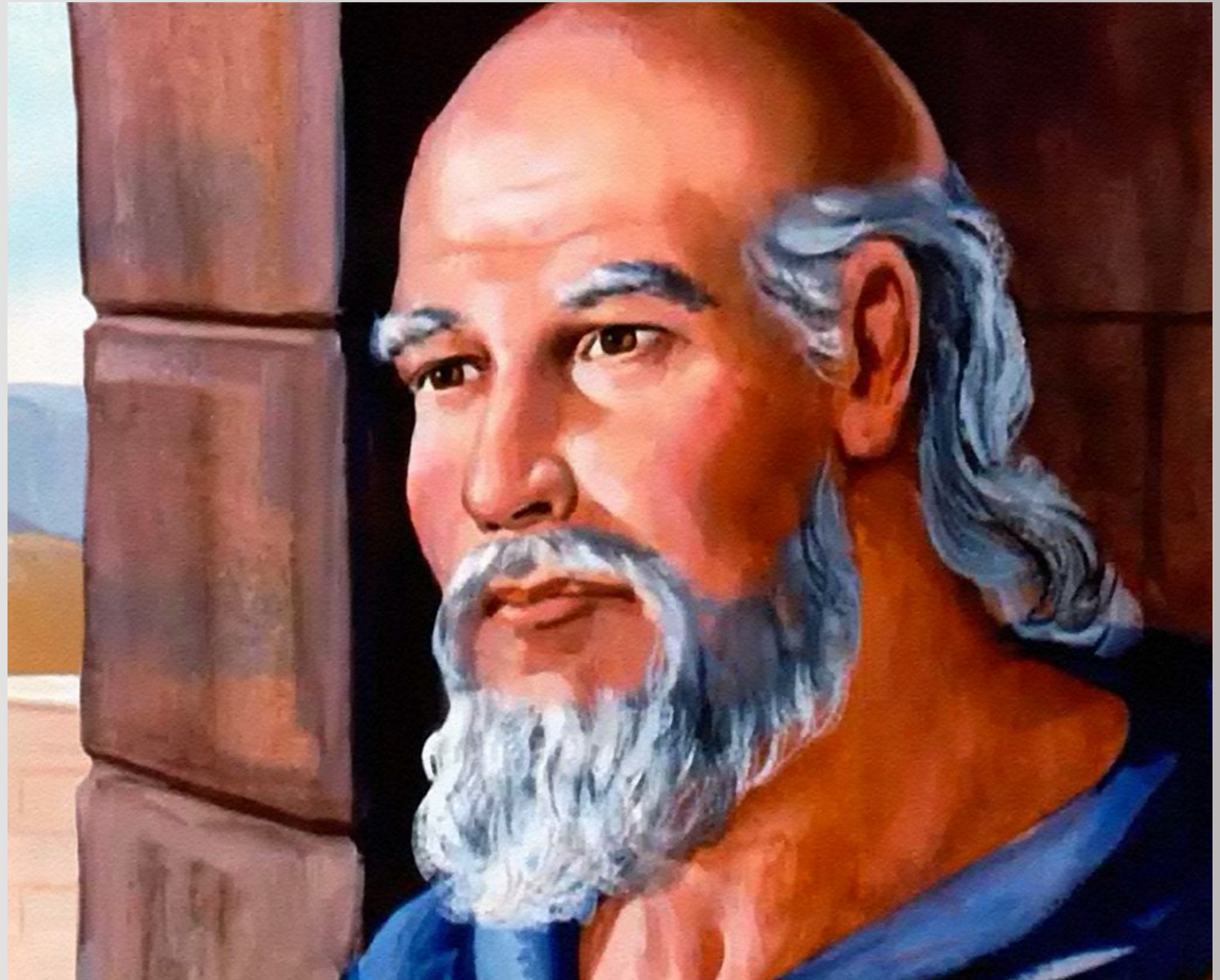
11 This enraged the king of Aram. He summoned his officers and demanded of them, “Tell me! Which of us is on the side of the king of Israel?”

12 “None of us, my lord the king,” said one of his officers, “but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the very words you speak in your bedroom.”

ELISHA

Prophet of God

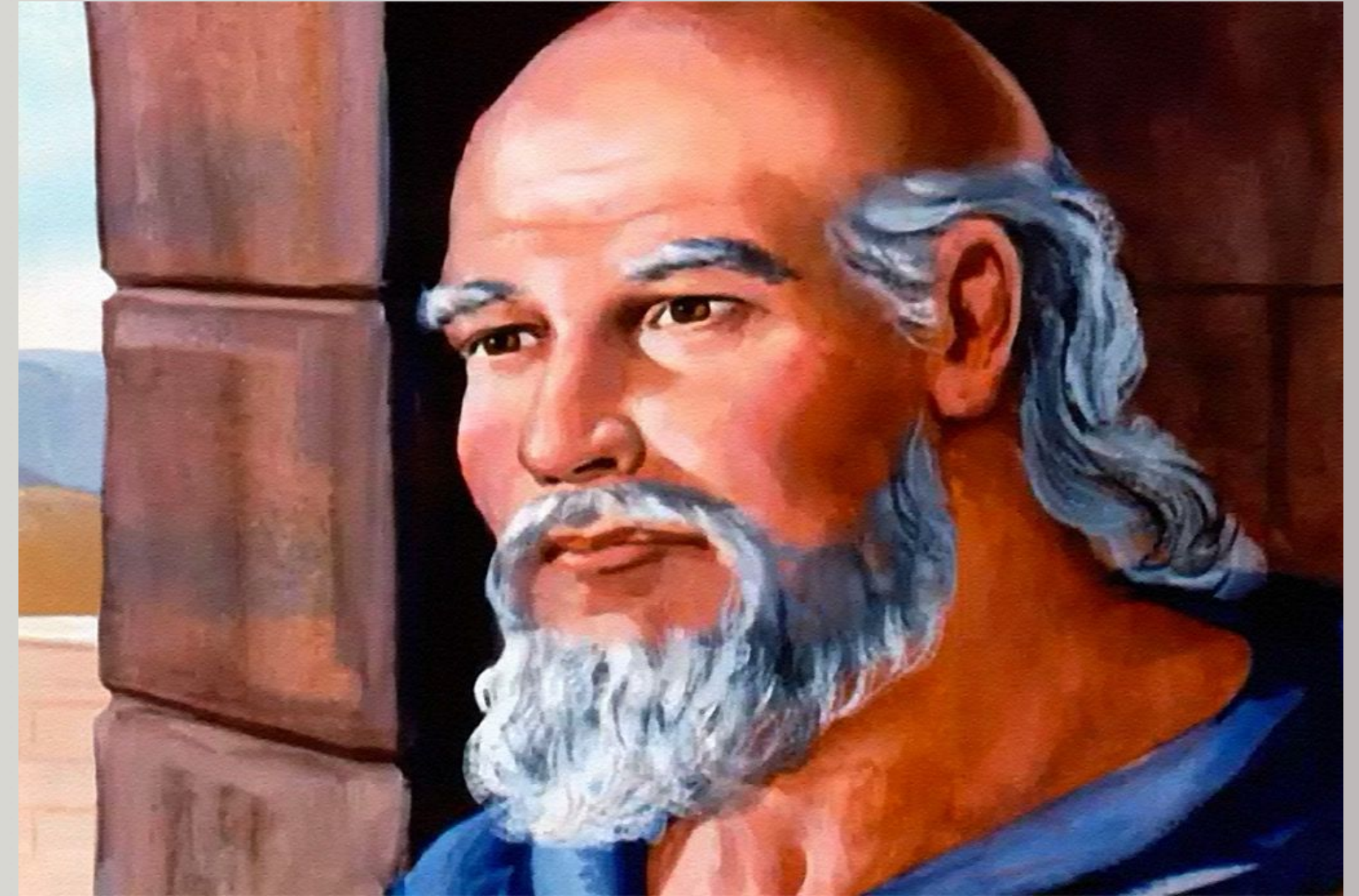
848-797 BC



13 “Go, find out where he is,” the king ordered, “so I can send men and capture him.” The report came back: “He is in Dothan.” 14 Then he sent horses and chariots and a strong force there. They went by night and surrounded the city.

15 When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early the next morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. “Oh no, my lord! What shall we do?” the servant asked.

**16 “Don’t be afraid,”
the prophet answered.**



**“Those who are with us are more than
those who are with them.”**

DBA – Don't Be Afraid

16 “Don't be afraid,” the prophet answered. “Those who are with us are more than those who are with them.”

Servant--overwhelmed by the army, but **he was blind to the presence of God with him and size of the forces that were present to protect him and Elisha.**

Servant doubted two things about God –

1. Steadfastness of God's love for him

2. The strength of God's power to protect him.

He thought God abandoned him. No hope.

The essence of sin is a lack of confidence and belief in God's goodness and favor. A lack of faith in God's goodness. Every sin begins with an evil heart of unbelief. – Martin Luther

Why are we anxious and afraid?

We doubt his love and control over our life.

Our evil heart keeps telling us we can't really trust him.

We keep trying to earn our relationship and salvation with God by our good works.

17 And Elisha prayed, “Open his eyes, Lord, so that he may see.” Then the Lord opened the servant’s eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

“The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and he delivers them.

Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.

Psalms 34:7-8 (NIV)

**Afraid? Worried?
Tempted? Drifting?
Rebellious? No Hope?**



WHAT WE NEED IS CLEARER VISION

Book of Ephesians – 6 Chapters

Who is God – Doctrine Chapters 1-3

PRAYER 3:14-21

How do we live – Application Chapters 4-6

Ephesians 3

16 I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.

And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, 18 may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, 19 and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Let me see the angels.

Then I will believe....



What we need is.....

God working out His purpose/will in our life.

God gives us.....

Awareness of His presence

(The Lord was with Joseph)

Insight into the heart of God



2 Kings 6

18 As the enemy came down toward him, Elisha prayed to the Lord, “Strike this army with blindness.” So he struck them with blindness, as Elisha had asked.

19 Elisha told them, “This is not the road and this is not the city. Follow me, and I will lead you to the man you are looking for.” And he led them to Samaria.

20 After they entered the city, Elisha said, “Lord, open the eyes of these men so they can see.” Then the Lord opened their eyes and they looked, and there they were, inside Samaria.

21 When the king of Israel saw them, he asked Elisha, “Shall I kill them, my father? Shall I kill them?”

22 “Do not kill them,” he answered.

“Would you kill those you have captured with your own sword or bow? Set food and water before them so that they may eat and drink and then go back to their master.”

23 So he prepared a great feast for them, and after they had finished eating and drinking, he sent them away, and they returned to their master.

So the bands from Aram stopped raiding Israel's territory.

Ultimate victory is not destroying your enemies

but turning

your enemies

into friends.



Do you trust me?

Password for 2020

DBA – Don't Be Afraid

“Don't be afraid,” the prophet answered.

“Those who are with us are more than those who are with them.”

DBA – Don't Be Afraid

“If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Romans 8:32

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SHARPENING OUR FOCUS

IN A DISTRACTED WORLD