

## Prophets 14.

saw the soldiers of the king of Syria around the town and he said, "Oh, my master", he said, "We are going to be taken prisoners. We're ruined," and Elisha prayed, "Oh, Lord, open his eyes", and the Lord opened the eyes of the servant and he saw that the hills round about the city were filled with chariots of fire and horses of fire round about Elisha .

He saw the invisible power of God which was there and was real but was not visible to ordinary eyes. That was a vision. God opened his eyes so that he saw that which was true. We find the phrase used by Balaam in Numbers 24:4 where, in Numbers 24:4 Balaam says he is the one whose eyes were open. God caused Balaam there to see that which was to happen to Israel in the future and he said, "I see it now but not near. I behold him but not nigh, and he went ahead and described the rise of the power of David in years to come. We had the same thing a litthe earlier in Balaam's career as he was leaving home. The Lord stood, or the angel of the Lord stood with a drawn sword in the narrow pathway and donkey tried to get out of the way and Balaam ordered the donkey back into the path and you remember the Lord opened Balaam's eyes that he could see what was there as the donkey had been able to see and he had not. There are, then, real forces in the spiritual world which are ordinarily not visible to our eyes. To many people this would seem fantastic and unreal and like harping back to the superstitious mythology of the middle ages. That is the way it would have seemed a few years ago but then as you go up to New York to the Pennsylvania station and you walk into the door of the station and as you come in the door the door just opens in front of you and they tell you that there is an electric arc that opens the door and you find that there rays there which you do not see with your naked eye but which nevertheless are there and which are performing things with quite definite results. You can see that if science can find the existence of many forces in nature which we previously had not seen, had not realized existed, it certainly would be absurd for us to deny the existence of that which God declares exists, and speaks of in his Word, that there is much in the universe which under ordinary circumstances may be invisible to us but is nonettheless real and which God may reveal to us under certain circumstances just as the scientist can make certain things visible to us in certain ways which otherwise would not have been visible to us. Now the third type of vision is an imaginative picture or experience presented before the prophet. Probably this experience of Amos' would come under that head, where