

Elisha

Lesson 12 – Cheap Food Predicted
2Kings 6:24-7:20
Date: 9 September 2020 - Elisha20

The Prophet of God

1. Samaria Besieged (2Ki 6:24) [See Map]

- Benhadad's capital was Damascus.
- Besieged means that they totally blocked access to the city.

2. Dreadful Famine in Samaria (6:25)

- The people in Samaria were starving, including Elisha and the king. God does not always keep His people from hardships.
- Donkey's heads sold for 80 pieces of silver. About 400g of dove poo sold for 5 pieces of silver. A "cab" was about 1.5L.

3. The Shocked King (6:26-30)

- A woman begged the king for help (6:26). Her request was sickening (6:28-29). Dying of hunger would be a miserable way to die.
- The king then tore his clothes and put on sackcloth (6:30).
- We note that there is no hint in the narrative that the people or the king sought God's help during this siege.

4. King Jehoram Blamed Elisha (6:31-33)

- The king acted rashly. He blamed God, so he would kill God's man to solve the problem. Not very rational!
- Elisha **miraculously predicted** that the king was sending a messenger to get him and that the king was following him (6:32).
- He found Elisha in his house sitting with the elders. Perhaps these elderly men were seeking Elisha and God for help, but we are not told.
- Elisha showed no fear. Pink reminds us that, "**The one who truly fears the Lord, fears not man; and his heart is preserved from those trepidations which so much disturb the rest and so often torment the wicked.**"

5. Elisha Predicts Cheap Food (7:1-2)

- Elisha said that the next day food would be sold for cheap prices.
- The "*lord on whose head the king leaned*" was a captain or one of the highest officers of state, and one of the nearest attendants to the king. (Whedon)
- Foolishly, that lord mocked Elisha's prediction. Elisha then assured him that he would see it but not eat of it. Any person who will mock what God has said is a fool. **We may not boldly mock the Lord as that man did, but all too often, we secretly doubt the Lord's ability to answer a prayer that we pray or to fulfil a promise in His Word. When we doubt God, are**

we any better than that man was? May God increase our faith!

- The king must have believed Elisha, at least in part, for he said no more about killing Elisha.

6. Discovery by Four Lepers (7:3-11)

- The four lepers had nothing to lose and everything to gain (7:3-4). They lived outside the city because of their leprosy.
- They went toward the Syrian camp in the twilight, just after sunset. Upon entering the Syrian camp and found it deserted. They feasted and hoarded the treasures (7:5-8).
- The Lord did a mighty miracle in causing the Syrians to hear noises that did not exist (7:6). **The timing and method of God's deliverance for Samaria was such that it honoured God's prophet Elisha and gave all the glory to the Lord Himself.**
- After perhaps hours of partying, these leprous men convicted by their selfishness said, "*We do not well.*" (7:9)
- They went and called to the porter (gatekeeper) of the city and reported what they had discovered (7:10-11).
- This is an excellent picture of the Gospel that has satisfied our spiritual hunger and our duty to tell others who are starving.**

7. Search Confirmed the Fact (7:12-15)

- The porter awakened the king to tell him the news, but he suspects a Syrian plot (7:12).
- His servant gave him wise advice (7:13).
- The leper's story was verified (7:14-15).

8. Starving People Raided the Camp (7:16)

- Immediately, the people storm out of the city and raid the camp of the Syrians.
- Just as Elisha had predicted, food prices were cheap that next day. **God always keeps His word!**

9. The Mocker Died (7:17-20)

- These final verses restate the summary of the previous verse. They detail the event so that God's word by Elisha is glorified.
- The King's lord who mocked God was trampled to death by the stampede of people.
- Food did sell for the cheap price Elisha had predicted. God's word is dependable.