

## Ladies Bible Study 2 Kings 7 & 8

### Recap from 2 Kings 6: 32-33

<sup>32</sup> Now Elisha was sitting in his house, and the elders were sitting with him. The king sent a messenger ahead, but before he arrived, Elisha said to the elders, “Don’t you see how this murderer is sending someone to cut off my head? Look, when the messenger comes, shut the door and hold it shut against him. Is not the sound of his master’s footsteps behind him?” <sup>33</sup> While he was still talking to them, the messenger came down to him. The king said, “This disaster is from the LORD. Why should I wait for the LORD any longer?”

### God’s Miraculous Provision for Samaria

#### Part 1 Famine in Besieged Samaria

#### Read 2 Kings 7: 1-2

1. What is King Joram’s attitude toward God?
2. What was the king planning to do?
3. Why does God allow his people to suffer?
4. What did Elisha prophesize?
5. Why do you think the officer doubt Elisha’s words?

The king’s officer didn’t believe and doubt God’s power. Several false premises:

1. First, he doubted the **power** of God. If God willed it, He certainly could **make windows in heaven** and drop-down food from the sky for the hungry, besieged city of Samaria.
2. Second, he doubted the **creativity** of God. In the mind of the king’s officer, the way food could come to the city was from above, because the city was surrounded by a hostile, besieging army. He had no idea that God could bring provision in a completely unexpected way. “How often faith breaks down in this way! It knows that God is, and that He can act. But it only sees one way and refuses to believe that such a way will be taken. The supply came without the opening of heaven’s windows.” (Morgan)
3. Third, he doubted the **messenger** of God. Though the promise was admittedly hard to believe, the king’s officer could have and should have believed it because it came from a man with an established track record of reliability.
4. All in all, the officer well illustrates the conduct of unbelief:
  - Unbelief dares to question the truthfulness of God’s promise itself.
  - Unbelief says, “This is a new thing and cannot be true.”
  - Unbelief says, “This is a sudden thing and cannot be true.”
  - Unbelief says, “There is no way to accomplish this thing.”
  - Unbelief says, “There is only one way God can work.”
  - Unbelief says, “Even if God does something, it won’t be enough.”

<https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/2-kings-7/>

***In fact, you shall see it with your eyes, but you shall not eat of it:*** Through Elisha, God pronounced a harsh judgment upon the king's doubting officer. He would see the word fulfilled, but not benefit from its fulfillment.

i. "Unbelievers do not really enjoy the things of this life. The mass of them find that wealth does not yield them satisfaction, their outward riches cannot conceal their inner poverty. To many men it is given to have all that heart can wish, and yet not to have what their heart does wish. They have everything except contentment." (Spurgeon)

(<https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/2-kings-7/>)

## **Part 2 The Siege Lifted**

### **Read v. 3-5 The Four Lepers**

6. Who are these lepers?

Unfounded Jewish traditions say these four were actually Gehazi and his three sons. Gehazi was afflicted with leprosy because of his greed toward Naaman (2 Kings 5:27).

### **Read v. 6-7**

7. How God caused the Syrians to abandon their camp? What other times did God cause armies to be confused?

### **Read 8-9**

8. The lepers realize their responsibility to the city. What is our responsibility as Christians?

i. If the only result of our religion is the comfort of our poor little souls, if the beginning and the end of piety is contained within one's self, why, it is a strange thing to be in connection with the unselfish Jesus, and to be the fruit of his gracious Spirit. Surely, Jesus did not come to save us that we might live unto ourselves. He came to save us from selfishness." (Spurgeon)

ii. Yet, *they enjoyed the feast first* before they told others about it. We cannot properly share the good news of Jesus Christ unless we ourselves are enjoying it.

(<https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/2-kings-7/>)

Wolfgramm (1994) compare is discovery of the deserted camp to the resurrection of Jesus-the disbelief of Thomas, the surprise of the women finding the grave empty, forgiveness of sins, life and salvations, their duty to tell others.

9. What was the prophecy Elisha made about the Officer?

## **Part 3 Plundering of the Camp**

### **Read v. 10-17**

10. Why did the lepers tell the gatekeeper and not the king?

11. What did the king fear? Do you think the king's fears were reasonable? Why or why not?

Interesting facts

5 horses-indefinite small number, actual # 2 pairs

Some thought that “that remain in it”= fewness of surviving horses; “in it” could mean LXX and “here’ are similar in the Hebrew ([https://biblehub.com/commentaries/2\\_kings/7-13.htm](https://biblehub.com/commentaries/2_kings/7-13.htm))

There are a few different ways to answer this question, and it really depends on what kind of flour you are using. A seah of flour is generally equivalent to 10 cups, but this can vary depending on the type of flour and how tightly it is packed. For example, if you are using a very dense flour like **rye flour**, you might only get 9 cups out of a seah.

<https://www.thewellflouredkitchen.com/how-many-cups-are-in-a-seah-of-flour/>)

Additional readings:

<https://www.thewellflouredkitchen.com/what-is-a-seah-of-flour/>

a measure of fine flour be sold for a shekel] The measure is the Hebrew seah, which is said to be about a peck. It was six times as much as the Kab mentioned in 2 Kings 6:5. So that the change which Elisha foretells would provide six times as much good food for one-fifth of the price for which, in the famine, the vilest had been sold. ([https://biblehub.com/commentaries/2\\_kings/7-1.htm](https://biblehub.com/commentaries/2_kings/7-1.htm))

## **Read v. 16-20**

### Footnotes

2 Kings 7:1 That is, probably about 12 pounds or about 5.5 kilograms of flour; also in verses 16 and 18

2 Kings 7:1 That is, about 2/5 ounce or about 12 grams; also in verses 16 and 18

2 Kings 7:1 That is, probably about 20 pounds or about 9 kilograms of barley; also in verses 16 and 18

2 Kings 7:3 The Hebrew for leprosy was used for various diseases affecting the skin; also in verse 8. (<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Kings+7&version=NIV#en-NIV-9709>)

## **Read 2 Kings 8: 1-6**

### **The Shunammite’s Land Restored**

12. Who was the king that did this?

Why did the woman ask for her land to be returned?

*Read Lev. 25: 23-24<sup>23</sup> “The land must not be sold permanently, because the land is mine and you reside in my land as foreigners and strangers.<sup>24</sup> Throughout the land that you hold as a possession, you must provide for the redemption of the land.*

13. What was the significance of this act by the king?

14. What do you remember about Gehazi? When do you suppose this event happen in Gehazi’s life?

## Hazael Murders Ben-Hadad

Read v. 7-15

15. Who was Ben-Hadad?

### [Smith's Bible Dictionary - Ben-hadad](#)

#### **Ben-hadad** [H]

(*son of Hadad* ), the name of three kings of Damascus. BENHADAD I., King of Damascus, which in his time was supreme in Syria. He made an alliance with Asa, and conquered a great part of the north of Israel. ( [1 Kings 15:18](#) ) His date is B.C. 950. BEN-HADAD II., son of the preceding, and also king of Damascus. Long wars with Israel characterized his reign. Some time after the death of Ahab, Benhadad renewed the war with Israel, attacked Samaria a second time, and pressed the siege so closely that there was a terrible famine in the city. But the Syrians broke up in the night in consequence of a sudden panic. Soon after Ben-hadad fell sick, and sent Hazael to consult Elisha as to the issue of his malady. On the day after Hazael's return Ben-hadad was murdered, probably by some of his own servants. ( [2 Kings 8:7-15](#) ) Ben-hadad's death was about B.C. 890, and he must have reigned some 30 years. BEN-HADAD III., son of Hazael, and his successor on the throne of Syria. When he succeeded to the throne, Jehoash recovered the cities which Jehoahaz had lost to the Syrians, and beat him in Aphek. ( [2 Kings 13:17](#) [2 Kings 13:25](#) ) The date of Ben-hadad III is B.C. 840. ([www.biblestudytools.com/dictionary/ben-hadad/](http://www.biblestudytools.com/dictionary/ben-hadad/))

Brief bio of Ben-Hadad(<https://www.biblegateway.com/resources/encyclopedia-of-the-bible/Benhadad-Ben-Hadad>)

16. What does this section tell us?

17. What was the purpose of the 10 camels of gifts?

18. What do you think became of all the treasures brought to Elisha?

## Jehoram King of Judah

Read v. 16-24

19. Jehoshaphat 'did what was right in the sight of God' but he also did several things which were against God's commands. What are these things?

20. What is God's message to us?

**Read Romans 16: 17**

<sup>17</sup> *I urge you, brothers and sisters, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them.*

**2 Cor. 6: 14 & 17**

<sup>4</sup> *Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?*

<sup>17</sup> *Therefore, "Come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you."*

Following god's commands may not be popular, but not to do so is disastrous

21. What is the significance of v. 19? What does it tell you about human nature?

Read more about King Jehoram in 2 Chronicles 21.

### **Jehoram's death**

#### **Read 2 Chron. 21: 18-19**

*<sup>18</sup>After all this, the LORD afflicted Jehoram with an incurable disease of the bowels. <sup>19</sup>In the course of time, at the end of the second year, his bowels came out because of the disease, and he died in great pain. His people made no funeral fire in his honor, as they had for his predecessors.*

FYI

Three comments on the bowel disease

- i. "The *Targum* seems to intimate that he had a constipation and inflammation in his bowels; and that at last his bowels gushed out." (Clarke)
  - ii. Apparently, he suffered for **two years**. "This was a long while to lie under so intolerable a disease; and yet all this was but a typical hell, a foretaste of eternal torments, unless he repented." (Trapp)
  - iii. "Translation problems have increased the difficulty, and the end may have come suddenly, 'in two days' (*cf.* Keil, Dillard), rather than at the end of the *second year*." (Selman)
- <https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/2-chronicles-21/>

### **Ahaziah King of Judah**

#### **Read v. 25-29**

22. Who were Ahaziah's parents?

23. Does Ahaziah's rule surprise you? Why or why not?

Note that Joram was uncle to Ahaziah

What happens next to Uncle and nephew?

Comes next week and find out from ch. 9

<https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/2-kings-7/enduringword.com/>

<https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/2-kings-8/>

<https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/2-chronicles-21/0>

Wolfgramm, A. J. (1994). *Kings*. Concordia Publishing House

