

## SIEGE OF SAMARIA. 2 KN. 6:24-33. 10/15/23. #14.

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24 And it happened after this that Ben-Hadad king of Syria gathered all his army, and went up and besieged Samaria. 25 And there was a great famine in Samaria; and indeed they besieged it until a donkey's head was sold for eighty *shekels* of silver, and one-fourth of a *kab* of dove droppings for five *shekels* of silver. 26 Then, as the king of Israel was passing by on the wall, a woman cried out to him, saying, "Help, my lord, O king!" 27 And he said, "If the LORD does not help you, where can I find help for you? From the threshing floor or from the winepress?" 28 Then the king said to her, "What is troubling you?" And she answered, "This woman said to me, 'Give your son, that we may eat him today, and we will eat my son tomorrow.' 29 So we boiled my son, and ate him. And I said to her on the next day, 'Give your son, that we may eat him'; but she has hidden her son." 30 Now it happened, when the king heard the words of the woman, that he tore his clothes; and as he passed by on the wall, the people looked, and there underneath *he had* sackcloth on his body. 31 Then he said, "God do so to me and more also, if the head of Elisha the son of Shaphat remains on him today!" 32 But Elisha was sitting in his house, and the elders were sitting with him. And *the king* sent a man ahead of him, but before the messenger came to him, he said to the elders, "Do you see how this son of a murderer has sent someone to take away my head? Look, when the messenger comes, shut the door, and hold him fast at the door. Is not the sound of his master's feet behind him?" 33 And while he was still talking with them, there was the messenger, coming down to him; and then *the king* said, "Surely this calamity *is* from the LORD; why should I wait for the LORD any longer?"  
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### 1. A city surrounded

- a. Ben Hadad II had ceased raiding Israel
  - a1. After Elisha led Syrian army into Samaria, Syria gave up on looting Israel
  - a2. BH decided to capture Samaria
- b. Elisha had informed the king, that God would relieve the city (vs. 33)
- c. The situation grew increasingly desperate
  - a1. A donkey's head (unclean) cost the price of nearly 3 servants & a pint of dove dung (for fuel) cost ¼ loaf of bread (NIV translates *dove dung* as *carob pods*)
  - a2. A woman complains to King Joram that a woman & her ate her son, but the woman had hid her son so she could not eat him

### 2. A city under judgment

- a. Dt. 28; Lv. 26 God had stated that He would send famine & invaders to the land to punish rebellious Israel for idolatry & doing evil
- b. This situation was as God had predicted

- c. There was no repentance for their sins
  - a1. Joram did not call for a day of repentance & confession before God
  - a2. Joram did not command that all idols were to be destroyed or false prophets slain
  - a3. Notice that Joram wore sackcloth under his royal clothes & not over it as a sign of humiliation
- d. Joram did not blame himself for the tragedy
  - a1. Joram blamed God & Elisha
  - a2. God had not responded to the city's plight yet as God waited for Joram to humble himself (2 Chr. 7:14)

### 3. An angry king

- a. Finally, Joram decides to take out misery on Elisha
  - a1. He was tired of waiting on the Lord (unlike Abr. waiting 25 yrs. for a son)
  - a2. He sends a messenger out to arrest Elisha so that he could be executed
- b. Elisha was not to blame for the tragedy
  - a1. He was a messenger of God
  - a2. We often become angry at the messenger of unwelcome news (confronted with our sins, bad health report, told we are wrong)
- c. Elisha knows that the messenger is coming
  - a1. He calls Joram a murderer
  - a2. The elders of the city had been conferring with Elisha, so he tells them to bar the door
- d. When the king comes, Elisha informs him that by the same time the next day, bread & grain will be plentiful & cheap (7:1-5)
- e. There is a futility to blame God & His servants
  - a1. Cannot oppose God's will
  - a2. When God imposes judgment upon a sinner, it is the sinner's fault & not God (he was warned, instructed, & given time to repent)
- f. God had shown his grace in the 3 Syrian raids & capture of the Syrian troops
- g. Joram neither repented nor prepare defenses