

Then Elisha said, "Hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the LORD: 'Tomorrow about this time a seah of fine flour shall be sold for a shekel, and two seahs of barley for a shekel, at the gate of Samaria.'" <sup>2</sup>So an officer on whose hand the king leaned answered the man of God and said, "Look, if the LORD would make windows in heaven, could this thing be?" And he said, "In fact, you shall see it with your eyes, but you shall not eat of it." <sup>3</sup>Now there were four leprous men at the entrance of the gate; and they said to one another, "Why are we sitting here until we die? <sup>4</sup>If we say, 'We will enter the city,' the famine is in the city, and we shall die there. And if we sit here, we die also. Now therefore, come, let us surrender to the army of the Syrians. If they keep us alive, we shall live; and if they kill us, we shall only die." <sup>5</sup>And they rose at twilight to go to the camp of the Syrians; and when they had come to the outskirts of the Syrian camp, to their surprise no one was there. <sup>6</sup>For the Lord had caused the army of the Syrians to hear the noise of chariots and the noise of horses—the noise of a great army; so they said to one another, "Look, the king of Israel has hired against us the kings of the Hittites and the kings of the Egyptians to attack us!" <sup>7</sup>Therefore they arose and fled at twilight, and left the camp intact—their tents, their horses, and their donkeys—and they fled for their lives. <sup>8</sup>And when these lepers came to the outskirts of the camp, they went into one tent and ate and drank, and carried from it silver and gold and clothing, and went and hid them; then they came back and entered another tent, and carried some from there also, and went and hid it. <sup>9</sup>Then they said to one another, "We are not doing right. This day is a day of good news, and we remain silent. If we wait until morning light, some punishment will come upon us. Now therefore, come, let us go and tell the king's household." <sup>10</sup>So they went and called to the gatekeepers of the city, and told them, saying, "We went to the Syrian camp, and surprisingly no one was there, not a human sound—only horses and donkeys tied, and the tents intact." <sup>11</sup>And the gatekeepers called out, and they told it to the king's household inside

### 1. Scoffing at good news

- a. King Joram was upset that God had not delivered Samaria as Elisha said he would
  - a1. He wanted to take off Elisha's head
  - a2. Elisha announces that within a day, wheat & barley would be so plentiful, they will sell for \$1/bushel of wheat & 2 bu. of barley
- b. Even though Joram had not repented of his sins, God was going to show mercy on Israel for the sake of his covenant with Abraham
  - a1. Joram should no signs of belief
  - a2. Even though God had worked through Elisha, Joram would not humble himself
- c. The king's aid scoffed at Elisha's words
  - a1. Even if God opened up the widows of heaven (a term used of The Flood), & rained grain, this could not happen
  - a2. Elisha tells the man that he will see it for himself, but not partake of the bounty
- d. Doubting Elisha was doubting God

### 2. Lepers to the rescue

- a. 4 lepers lived outside the gate (unclean)
  - a1. They reason that they would die of hunger if they stayed where they were
  - a2. If they went to the Syrians they would either be given bread or die quickly by the sword
- b. The lepers found no one in the Syrian camp
  - a1. Each tent was in place with all contents
  - a2. The lepers ate their fill as darkness fell
  - a3. They looted several tents & hid the booty
- c. Unlike Joram, a twinge of guilt overtakes the 4
  - a1. Why should they keep this good news to themselves when people were starving in the city (God would judge them)?
  - a2. These outcasts feared God when the king did not show reverence for God
- d. During the night the lepers give the news to guard
  - a1. The guard passes news to the king
  - a2. God used the lowly to witness his grace
- e. God had caused the Syrian army to hear horses & chariots coming (assumed it was Egyptians)
  - a1. They fled for their lives
  - a2. Their weapons were strewn along road

### 3. A king befuddled

- a. Joram was skeptical = it must be a trap
  - a1. When Israel exited the city they would be ambushed by the Syrian army
  - a2. Joram does not consult Elisha
- b. A servant suggests that they risk sending out a few soldiers in a couple of chariots to find out
- c. The recon team finds the tents empty & clothing weapons strewn on the road to the Jordan

.....<sup>17</sup>Now the king had appointed the officer on whose hand he leaned to have charge of the gate. But the people trampled him in the gate, and he died, just as the man of God had said, who spoke when the king came down to him. <sup>18</sup>So it happened just as the man of God had spoken to the king, saying, "Two seahs of barley for a shekel, and a seah of fine flour for a shekel, shall be sold tomorrow about this time in the gate of Samaria." <sup>19</sup>Then that officer had answered the man of God, and said, "Now look, if the LORD would make windows in heaven, could such a thing be?" And he had said, "In fact, you shall see it with your eyes, but you shall not eat of it." <sup>20</sup>And so it happened to him, for the people trampled him in the gate, and he died.

- d. The king's aid is trampled & dies as Elisha said