

II KINGS 6:24 to 7:20

"Israel" about the year **850 BC**

BACKGROUND:

1000 BC.

King David ruled all 12 tribes of Israel. Jerusalem was the capital.

King Solomon, David's son and next king, built the Temple, married many foreign wives, worshipped their idols.

930 BC God's Judgment against Solomon's idol worship

Ten Tribes taken away from Solomon's son and ruled by Jeroboam. These 10 tribes became the nation "Israel."

Samaria eventually became its capital. Not one of the 20 kings of "Israel" were godly.

Two Tribes stayed with Solomon's son Rehoboam. These 2 tribes became the nation "Judah."

Jerusalem was the capital; the Temple was there. Less than half of the 20 kings of "Judah" were godly.

875 BC. "Israel" ruled by King Ahab & Queen Jezebel. Worst king of "Israel"--Baal worship. Prophet **ELIJAH**.

850 BC. "Israel" ruled by Ahab's 2nd son, king Jehoram / JORAM, ungodly.

Prophet **ELISHA's** many miracles: Widow's jars of oil, Shunamite woman's son's birth and return to life,

Naaman's leprosy healed, ax head floats, etc. **SYRIA**, the perennial enemy of "Israel" at this time.

AT THIS TIME: Read **II Kings 6:24-25**, regarding Israel about 850 BC.

The conditions Samaria were bad. Why?

How much meat is on a donkey's head???

Were they supposed to be eating donkey meat in the first place? See **Deuteronomy 14:2-6**.

How much weight of silver is 80 shekels? About 40 Troy ounces. \$20/oz. in 2021. \$800.

How tasty might "dove droppings" be? The Hebrew is difficult. *Could* be "seed pods."

¼ of a kab (cab) is about 1-2 cups. How much is 5 shekels? About 2 Troy ounces. \$40 in 2021

Read 6:26-30 Ugh! The conditions in Samaria are very bad

This was not un-foreseen by God. See **Leviticus 26: 1-2, 14-16, 21, 27-30**.

Tearing the clothes and wearing sackcloth were expressions of shock and grief. See **Genesis 37:29-36**.

See **Matthew 26:64-66**----Caiaphas' fake show of shock.

Was King Joram wearing sackcloth in genuine repentance? Or in *secret* repentance? It seems not.

Perhaps it was "God, I'm doing my part. Now you better help us."

Read 6:31-33

At whom does King Joram lash out? "Kill the messenger!" Then whom does King Joram blame?

(His devious wearing of sackcloth did not work.)

Is this a common re-action from unbelievers? Is this happening today? See **Matthew 10:22**.

Is this a common re-action from your own Old Adam? Examples, anyone? Adam, "The woman **YOU** gave"

The Christian, the Christian messenger, the Christian missionary, can expect this.

Elisha has no fear. You need have no fear. Your Father is guarding and directing.

The LORD always protects and promotes the proclamation of His message—that sin and death are dismantled;

that forgiveness, life, and love are abounding now and forever in the crucified and risen Jesus!

(cf. protection for Paul, Peter, Luther, and others as they proclaimed the message)

The LORD may allow the messenger to suffer or die (cf. Jesus, Paul, Peter, Stephen). But best for the messenge

Read 7:1-2

Elisha speaks with great hope and confidence.

Tomorrow for \$10.00 1 seah of fine flour----about 7 quarts; 2 seahs of barley----about 2 / 5 bushel

(----Compared to \$40.00 for 1-2 cups of dove-dung!----)

The officer of King Joram mocks—surely thinking “ Illogical and impossible!” But consider:
What did 10 of the 12 spies say after returning from checking out the Promised Land? **Numbers 13:25-33**
What did Sarah say in the tent when the LORD told Abraham she would have a child (age 90)? **Gen. 18:11-13**
What did the Sadducees of Jesus’ time flat out deny? **Mark 12:18**
“With God all things are possible.” **Matthew 19:26!** “Is anything too hard for the Lord?” **Gen. 18:14!**
The Christian, the Christian messenger, the Christian missionary, can expect such mocking. Examples?
King Joram’s officer will lose out.

Read 7:3-8 Four lepers were not intimidated anymore. As they saw it, what were the three possible scenarios?
In what way are you like the lepers? See **Romans 6:23A** Terminally ill.
Are you intimidated by death? Why need you not be? See **Romans 6:23B**. See **I Corinthians 15:55-57**.
The lepers made an amazing discovery! Talk about the jackpot! What had been God’s simple solution (cf. 7:6)
Other amazing discoveries in the Bible:
The shepherds heard angels, and then saw the Christ child—**Luke 2**.
The women saw the tomb empty. heard the angel’s news, and saw Jesus—**Matthew 28**.

Read 7:9-11 What did the lepers feel compelled to do? Why? They knew the dire straits of those in Samaria.
How is that like us, particularly in keeping with Mission Festival?
They said, “This is a day of good news!” For us, what’s another word for “Good News”?
When we remember our own dire straits and everyone else’s dire straits, and see the Gospel, we are compelled
to act—as the LORD enables! Speak, pray, assist, support, etc.
See Peter and John **Acts 4:18-20** People at Jesus’ time **Mark 7:32-37**
This is the heart of Mission Festival! We have Good News to share with those in need!
Read Easter hymn **TLH 198 vv. 4-5**. Read again **the second line of v. 5**

Read 7:12-14 What made King Joram skeptical? Human experience? Pride? How about
lack of trust in the Lord, and the Lord’s prophecies through Elisha!
The Christian, the Christian messenger, the Christian missionary, can expect the same skepticism.
Is your Old Adam at times skeptical, when facing a tough spot in life? Cast logic and reason aside.
Think of the Israelites on the shore of the Red Sea **Exodus 14:9-14**
Childlike trust is so simple, that it’s hard!
What can the Christian, the Christian messenger, the Christian missionary say or do when someone is skeptical?
Can you argue them into believing your message?
Invite them to read and hear the Word of Jesus! The Holy Spirit warms the heart through the Word.
Remember Philip and Nathanael when Jesus was gathering His first disciples? See **John 1:43-46**.

Read 7:15-16 What became true as could be ?!
Is there anything like the joy of the rescued?!
This is the joy that the Christian, the Christian messenger, the Christian missionary is privileged to see!
As one who has received the Good News, is that joy still yours? Many times it is not. Why?
When things are going good, what’s the last thing you need? Who’s the last one you need?
Thank the LORD for every time you get knocked down!
There are at least 2 other Old Testament instances where a city under siege was miraculously spared:
See **II Kings 19:32-35**. The city is Jerusalem See **II Kings 6:11-18**. The city is Dothan.

Read 7:17-20
When will the scoffers see the Truth, but too late for them?
Remember Jesus’ parable of the Rich Man and Poor Lazarus **Luke 16:19-31**

CONCLUSION:

II Kings 7:9 “This is a day of Good News! . . . Let us go and tell . . .” **MISSION FESTIVAL!**
Read **HYMN 496** “Hark! The voice of Jesus crying!” for very appropriate thoughts!

Pastor Kanzenbach--