

2Kings 7:1 ¶ Then Elisha said, Hear ye the word of the LORD; Thus saith the LORD, To morrow about this time *shall* a measure of fine flour *be sold* for a shekel, and two measures of barley for a shekel, in the gate of Samaria.

2Kings 7:2 Then a lord on whose hand the king leaned answered the man of God, and said, Behold, *if* the LORD would make windows in heaven, might this thing be? And he said, Behold, thou shalt see *it* with thine eyes, but shalt not eat thereof.

Elisha responded to the message from the king by declaring a message from the LORD. CJB: "Tomorrow, by this time, six quarts of fine flour will sell for only a *shekel*, and half a bushel of barley for a *shekel* [in the market] at the gate to Shomron."

It seems that the king had arrived. The man helping support the king basically said that such a thing was impossible even if the LORD opened the windows of heaven.

Elisha then declared that the man would see that what the LORD's word as declared by Elisha was true, but he would not get to eat of the provision.

JFB provides a historical insight: "When an Eastern king walks or stands abroad in the open air, he always supports himself on the arm of the *highest* courtier present."

2Kings 7:3 ¶ And there were four leprous men at the entering in of the gate: and they said one to another, Why sit we here until we die?

2Kings 7:4 If we say, We will enter into the city, then the famine *is* in the city, and we shall die there: and if we sit still here, we die also. Now therefore come, and let us fall unto the host of the Syrians: if they save us alive, we shall live; and if they kill us, we shall but die.

Meanwhile, there were four leprous men outside the gate of the city. They were discussing whether to try to go back into the city or surrender to the Syrians. They knew that they had to do something or they would surely starve to death. They knew there was no food in the city, and that the Syrians had food. They figured their chances were at least 50/50 with the Syrians.

2Kings 7:5 And they rose up in the twilight, to go unto the camp of the Syrians: and when they were come to the uttermost part of the camp of Syria, behold, *there was* no man there.

2Kings 7:6 For the Lord had made the host of the Syrians to hear a noise of chariots, and a noise of horses, *even* the noise of a great host: and they said one to another, Lo, the king of Israel hath hired against us the kings of the Hittites, and the kings of the Egyptians, to come upon us.

2Kings 7:7 Wherefore they arose and fled in the twilight, and left their tents, and their horses, and their asses, *even* the camp as it *was*, and fled for their life.

So the men got up at dusk and headed to the Syrian camp. Much to their surprise, there was no one in the camp. The LORD had in some miraculous way

caused the Syrians to hear a noise like they were about to be attacked. They thought the king of Israel had hired the kings of the Hittites and Egyptians to come to their rescue. So, as dusk approached they left their tents, horses, donkeys and everything in the camp and fled for their lives.

2Kings 7:8 And when these lepers came to the uttermost part of the camp, they went into one tent, and did eat and drink, and carried thence silver, and gold, and raiment, and went and hid *it*; and came again, and entered into another tent, and carried thence *also*, and went and hid *it*.

2Kings 7:9 Then they said one to another, We do not well: this day *is* a day of good tidings, and we hold our peace: if we tarry till the morning light, some mischief will come upon us: now therefore come, that we may go and tell the king's household.

When the lepers reached the outskirts of the camp, they went into one of the tents and found food and drink. They also carried out silver, gold and clothing and took it away to hide it. Then they came back went into another tent and repeated their actions. Finally, they realized that what they were doing would get them in trouble if they did not go and share the news with the king and those in Samaria.

Guzik made a thought-provoking application: "*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.*"

2Kings 7:10 So they came and called unto the porter of the city: and they told them, saying, We came to the camp of the Syrians, and, behold, *there was no man there, neither voice of man, but horses tied, and asses tied, and the tents as they were.*

2Kings 7:11 And he called the porters; and they told *it* to the king's house within.

They went to the gates and shouted to the gatekeeper that the Syrian camp was empty. The gatekeeper then called out for someone to go and report the news to the king.

2Kings 7:12 ¶ And the king arose in the night, and said unto his servants, I will now shew you what the Syrians have done to us. They know that we *be* hungry; therefore are they gone out of the camp to hide themselves in the field, saying, When they come out of the city, we shall catch them alive, and get into the city.

2Kings 7:13 And one of his servants answered and said, Let *some* take, I pray thee, five of the horses that remain, which are left in the city, (behold, they *are* as all the multitude of Israel that are left in it: behold, *I say*, they *are* even as all the multitude of the Israelites that are consumed:) and let us send and see.

2Kings 7:14 They took therefore two chariot horses; and the king sent after the host of the Syrians, saying, Go and see.

2Kings 7:15 And they went after them unto Jordan: and, lo, all the way *was* full of garments and vessels, which the Syrians had cast away in their haste. And

the messengers returned, and told the king.

The king was skeptical when he heard the news; he thought the Syrians were setting a trap for them. They knew that the people in the city were starving, and he thought they planned to capture them as they came out of the city seeking food.

One of his servants suggested that he send some of his men out on five of the remaining horses in the city to check out the situation. The king agreed, but he decided to send out two chariots. The men in the chariots followed their trail all the way to the Jordan and found clothing and many other articles that had been cast aside as they fled.

Verse 15 “vessels” = “any apparatus (as an implement, utensil, dress, vessel or weapon):—armour ((-bearer)), artillery, bag, carriage, + furnish, furniture, instrument, jewel”

The messengers then returned to report to the king.

2Kings 7:16 And the people went out, and spoiled the tents of the Syrians. So a measure of fine flour was *sold* for a shekel, and two measures of barley for a shekel, according to the word of the LORD.

2Kings 7:17 And the king appointed the lord on whose hand he leaned to have the charge of the gate: and the people trode upon him in the gate, and he died, as the man of God had said, who spake when the king came down to him.

2Kings 7:18 And it came to pass as the man of God had spoken to the king, saying, Two measures of barley for a shekel, and a measure of fine flour for a shekel, shall be to morrow about this time in the gate of Samaria:

2Kings 7:19 And that lord answered the man of God, and said, Now, behold, *if* the LORD should make windows in heaven, might such a thing be? And he said, Behold, thou shalt see it with thine eyes, but shalt not eat thereof.

2Kings 7:20 And so it fell out unto him: for the people trode upon him in the gate, and he died.

When the people heard the news, they went out and took the spoil left by the Syrians. A measure of fine flour and two measures of barley each sold for a shekel—just as the LORD had declared through Elisha.

The king appointed the man who had supported him and that had declared Elisha’s prophecy to be an impossibility to take charge of the gate. He was trampled and killed by the starving masses while trying to do his job. He never got to benefit from God’s provision—just as Elisha had prophesied.