

{12} II Kings

(23) And he prepared great provision for them: and when they had eaten and drank, he sent them away, and they went to their master. So the bands of Syria did not return to the land of Israel.

(24) And it came to pass after this, that Benhadad king of Syria gathered all his army, and went up, and besieged Samaria.

(25) And there was a great famine in Samaria: and, they besieged it, until a donkey's head was sold for eighty pieces of silver {shekel} {about 32 oz.; 912 gm.},<sup>b</sup> and the fourth part of a cab of dove's dung {about 11 oz.; 0.31 L.} for five pieces of silver.

(26) And as the king of Israel was passing by upon the wall, a woman cried to him there, saying, Help, my lord, O king.

(27) And he said, If the LORD {Jehovah} does not help you, how shall I help you? out of the barn floor, or out of the wine press?

(28) And the king said to her, What ails 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: and she has hidden her son.

(30) And it came to pass, when the king heard the words of the woman, that he tore his clothes; and he passed by upon the wall, and the people looked, and, saw, *he had* sackcloth within upon his flesh.

(31) Then he said, God do so and more also to me, if the head of Elisha the son of Shaphat shall remain on him this day.

(32) But Elisha sat in his house, and the elders sat with him; and *the king* sent a man from before him: but before the messenger came to him, he said to the elders, See how this son of a murderer has sent to take away my head? look, when the messenger comes, shut the door, and hold him fast at the door: *are* not the sound of his master's feet behind him?

(33) And while he yet talked with them, the messenger came down to him: and he said, Look, this evil is of the LORD {Jehovah}; why should I wait for the LORD {Jehovah} any longer?

**Chapter 7**

(1) Then Elisha said, Hear the word of the LORD {Jehovah}; **This is what the LORD {Jehovah} says, Tomorrow about this time a measure of fine flour {homer; cor} {about 6.25 bushels; 60 gallons; 222 liters}<sup>a</sup> shall be sold for a shekel [of silver] {about 0.4 oz; 11.4 grams}, and two measures of barley for a shekel, in the gate of Samaria.**

6:25b – shekel – 0.4 ounces; 11.4 grams  
 – 1/4 of a cab – about 11 ounces or 0.31 liters – a little less than a pint  
 - 1 cab = 1/6 seah = about 1 1/3 quarts or 1.2 liters  
 – see Appendix J: Bible Weights and Measures  
 7:1a - – measure – cor – homer – 6.25 bushels = 60 gallons = 222 liters  
 – see Appendix J: Bible Weights and Measures

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(2) Then an officer on whose hand the king leaned answered the man of God, and said, Indeed, *if* the LORD {Jehovah} would make windows in heaven, could this thing be? And he {Elisha} said, You shall see *it* with your eyes, but shall not eat of it.

(3) And there were four leprous men at the entrance of the gate: and they said to one another, Why should we sit here until we die?

(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 will die also. Now therefore come, and let us fall to the host {army} of the Syrians: if they save us alive, we shall live; and if they kill us, we shall but die.

(5) And they rose up in the twilight, to go to the camp of the Syrians: and when they had come to the outermost part of the camp of Syria, *there was* no man there.

(6) Because the Lord had caused the army of the Syrians to hear a noise of chariots, and a noise of horses, *even* the noise of a great army: and they said to one another, The king of Israel has hired against us the kings of the Hittites, and the kings of the Egyptians, to come upon us.

(7) Therefore they arose and fled in the twilight, and left their tents, and their horses, and their donkeys, *even* the camp as it *was*, and fled for their lives.

(8) And when these lepers came to the outermost part of the camp, they went into one tent, and ate and drank, and carried from there silver, and gold, and clothing, and went and hid *it*; and came again, and entered into another tent, and carried from there *also*, and went and hid *it*.

(9) Then they said to one another, We are not doing well: this day *is* a day of good news, and we are holding our peace: if we stay until the morning light, some mischief will come upon us: now therefore come, that we may go and tell the king's household.

(10) So they came and called to the porter {gate keeper} of the city: and they told them, saying, We came to the camp of the Syrians, and, indeed, *there was* no man there, neither voice of man, but horses tied, and donkeys tied, and the tents as they *were*.

(11) And he called the gate keepers; and they told *it* to the king's household inside.

(12) And the king arose in the night, and said to his servants, I will now show you what the Syrians have done to us. They know that we are hungry; therefore they have 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.

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(13) And one of his servants answered and said, I ask you let *some* take, five of the horses that remain, which are left in the city, (indeed, they *are* as all the multitude of Israel that are left in it: look, *I say*, they *are* even as all the multitude of the Israelites that are consumed:) and let us send and see.

(14) They therefore took two chariot horses; and the king sent after the army of the Syrians, saying, Go and see.

(15) And they went after them to the Jordan River: and, all the road *was* full of clothes and vessels, which the Syrians had cast away in their haste. And the messengers returned, and told the king.

(16) And the people went out, and spoiled the tents of the Syrians. So a measure of fine flour {homer; cor} {about 6.25 bushels; 60 gallons; 222 liters} was sold for a shekel [of silver] {about 0.4 oz; 11.4 grams}, and two measures of barley for a shekel, according to the word of the LORD {Jehovah}.<sup>b</sup>

(17) And the king appointed the officer on whose hand he leaned to have the charge of the gate: and the people trampled him in the gate, and he died, as the man of God had said, who spoke when the king came down to him.

(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 tomorrow about this time in the gate of Samaria:

(19) And that officer answered the man of God, and said, Now, look, *if* the LORD {Jehovah} should make windows in heaven, could such a thing be? And he said, Indeed, you shall see it with your eyes, but shall not eat of it.<sup>c</sup>

(20) And so it happened to him: because the people trampled him in the gate, and he died.

### Chapter 8

(1) Then Elisha spoke to the woman, whose son he had restored to life, saying, Arise, and go both you and your household, and live wherever you can live: because the LORD {Jehovah} has called for a famine; and it shall also come upon the land seven years.

(2) And the woman arose, and did according to the saying of the man of God: and she went with her household, and lived in the land of the Philistines seven years.

(3) And it came to pass at the seven years' end, that the woman returned out of the land of the Philistines: and she went forth to cry to the king for her house and for her land.

(4) And the king talked with Gehazi the servant of the man of God, saying, I ask you, Tell me, all the great things that Elisha has done.

7:16b – II Ki. 7:1

7:19c – II Ki. 7:2