

## 2 Kings Chapter 07 Commentary

**2Ki 7:1 ¶ "Then Elisha said, Hear ye the word of the LORD; Thus, saith the LORD, Tomorrow 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. 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."**

In the previous chapter we read about the great famine in Samaria, and the siege laid against it by Benhadad king of Syria. We remember the desperateness of the situation, so that the Israelites had turned to cannibalism. We remember that the king of Israel had sent to take off the head of Elisha, God's prophet. Here we have Elisha's reply to the king of Israel, telling him that tomorrow, about this same time, the famine would be relieved. The man on whose arm the king leaned declared that even God could not make this possible. Elisha tells him that you shall see it, but you shall not eat of it.

One picture we do not want to lose sight of is that Elisha is always a picture of Christ and his finished work of eternal salvation. What do you mean? As Elisha told this man what was going to happen for Israel, so Jesus told us what would happen for the New Testament Church and her individual members. What do you mean? Israel was in a dire situation and could not deliver herself from the enemy king and his armies. They were starving to death. If you are a child of God, before your new birth, you were under siege by the enemy, and you were starving to death. What happens when a child of God is born again? You are given eternal forgiveness of sins and eternal life, and the Holy Spirit of God is implanted in you in your new birth. Therefore, if you have been born again; you have a continual supply of the bread of life in Jesus Christ. You will never be in a famine, for the want of bread, if you are living the life of a child of God in accordance with God's commandments.

Remember what king David tells us in ***Ps 37:25 "I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread."*** What about Israel here in this situation? Remember that Israel is completely embroiled in idolatry, thus their starving situation is a judicial judgment against them. And we are told by Jesus in ***Joh 6:35 "And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst."***

However, as we see in this situation with Israel: if we turn from God to idolatry, we will find ourselves, here in time, returned to a waste howling wilderness of sin, and confusion of mind, under the judicial judgments of God. Now, thinking of the judicial judgments of God on our lives, aren't you glad that we are given eternal remission of sins and eternal life in Christ? Why? Jesus has saved us from eternal damnation in the lake of fire, where all whose sins Jesus did not redeem shall go. Therefore, we can rejoice that we are saved from eternal damnation, and we will only come under the judicial judgments of God here in time. This helps us to understand that this world is not our home, but rather, our home is in heaven, in the place Jesus has gone to prepare for us. Hallelujah! Amen!

**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? 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."**

Now, we shall see the providential hand of God at work, and it is through leprous men. These four lepers were outside Samaria and they reason things out. We can sit here and starve to death, we can enter the city and starve to death, or we can go to the Syrians and if they kill us, we are but dead. However, they hold onto the hope that the Syrians will let them live.

There is a picture of the unregenerated child of God. How, you ask? First, if they remain outside the city, the church, in their leprous condition, they will die. Understand, they are outside the city, not in the church fellowship, where they shall eventually starve to death. Secondly, if they enter the city, a picture of the church, in their leprous condition, they will starve. Why? Because the new birth has not happened; they are still leprous, and therefore, they cannot see, understand, or eat of the bread of life, without condemnation coming upon them. Thirdly, we see that the unregenerate, under the influence of Satan blinding their eyes and understanding, they reason that since they cannot enter the church and find life, they just as well turn to the

world, the Syrians. If the Syrians kill them because they are leprosy, they will just be dead. Thus, we see that the unregenerate turn to the things of the world and engage in all kinds of immorality, until they are pricked in their heart, as these were when they found life. However, these did not come to the Syrians, because God had prepared the way of life for them already, as we shall see below. Now, they must turn to the church, to Christ, and tell the good news of salvation by the grace of God.

**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. 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. 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."**

Now, according to the prediction of Elisha, this is the evening of the same day that he made the prophesy of what would happen tomorrow. When the lepers arrive at the Syrian camp, the camp is empty. God had made the Syrians to hear the sound of chariots, horses, and a great host. The Syrians interpreted this sound to be the Hittites and the Egyptians, who they presumed that Israel had hired against them, and they fled in the twilight, leaving all their possessions behind. Consider, who did God allow to accomplish the death of Jesus on the cross. The unregenerate, of the Israelites, through the hands of the Romans to whom they were subservient.

Oh! What a glorious deliverance of God's people, without a single Israelite taking up their sword. The salvation of Israel came in the night, and they were delivered from the hand of the Syrians. This is a picture of the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross, which was accomplished, by Jesus alone, in the great darkness that came over the land. Where Jesus gave his life and overcame all the enemies of God's people, who are to be saved. Oh! What a great God we serve!

**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. 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. 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. 11 And he called the porters; and they told it to the king's house within."**

These lepers went into a couple of tents. They ate, they drank, and they carried forth the treasures therein and hid them. God did afflict their conscience, and they said we must go tell the king's household and share this good news; else God will punish us. What a wonderful instrument God has given to his children, to have a conscience that will listen to his voice and act accordingly. It surely delivers us out of much tribulation if we listen to that still small voice of God.

They come to Samaria and call the porter of the door. They tell what they have found, who in turn told the king's house. The message is now come to the king's household of the salvation of God in their lives. This picture gives us the imagery of the lepers, coming in their sinful flesh, leprosy, to the king's household, a picture of the church, bringing the good news of their salvation, and the salvation of the king's household, which gives us a picture of the New Testament Church. Remember, as we look back on the cross and the crucifixion of Jesus, we see the message of our deliverance came in the darkness, when Jesus finished the work of the eternal salvation of all of God's people.

**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. 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. 14 They took therefore two chariot**

**horses; and the king sent after the host of the Syrians, saying, Go and see. 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."**

Notice the time schedule, which Elisha has prophesied of, coming to fruition. The lepers went in the evening to the Syrian Camp. They come in the night, to the king's household bearing the good news of salvation. The king of Israel is immediately suspicious that the Syrians are setting a trap, and saying, when we come out, they will capture us. One of his servants said, and rightly so, let us send to find out if the report is true. They send out and find the trail of garments and vessels thrown aside by the Syrians, that they may flee with greater haste from the host they believed to be after them, all the way to the river Jordan. They return and tell the king. We believe this is in the dawning of the next day.

Do you remember what we are told about the Bereans in **Ac 17:10 ¶ "And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea: who coming thither went into the synagogue of the Jews. 11 These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so."** We see that Israel had some who thought it worthwhile to see if the reports were true. Sadly, there are so many in this world of sin and sorrow, that when they hear the gospel of Jesus Christ and of his great salvation, they do not even believe enough to search the scriptures and see if these things are true.

Did you notice that the Syrians had gone over the river Jordan and left the land of Israel. Thus, we see the victory of Jesus in the new birth of a child of God. How? When you are indwelt with Christ in you, the enemy has heard the noise of the host of heaven coming to make war upon the inherited sin nature, and the inherited sin nature must leave the land of Israel, the heart and soul, and flee from utter destruction by God. Thus, there is imputed to us the new nature of Christ, free of the sinfulness of the inherited sin nature of the flesh.

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

How do these leprous men have anything to do with us today? Remember, leprosy is a symbol of sin. God does not have anyone who is sinless to work with on earth today. Where were you before the new birth? You were outside the city of the king starving to death. Yet, you could not enter the city in your leprous condition for you would still starve. You could go to the camp of the enemy, mingle with the world, with the hope that you may live or die. However, when you went to the camp of the enemy, the enemy has been driven out of their camp by God. There you may satiate your appetite and hide some of the earthly treasures. Their conscience began to conflict them in their hearts and minds, which is the sign of the new birth; You cannot keep the message of the salvation provided by God to yourself. You must return to the city of the king's house and tell the good news. The church will question you about this salvation and check to see if it is real. Then they accept your message of the salvation of God. Now we can talk about the joy of the salvation of God. God has delivered Israel and they have more than enough to eat.

God also raises the people's esteem for Elisha the prophet, by fulfilling everything he prophesied. Remember the man who was filled with unbelief? The king puts him in charge of the gates of the city. To what purpose? To keep order, and to shut the gates should the enemy try to sneak in. Remember, this is the man that said: even God could not do that. He was shown that God could do it. But, as Elisha prophesied, he never got to partake of it, for he was trampled underfoot and died.

Again, I reiterate that Elisha is a picture of Jesus Christ. We see that the salvation of Israel came in the night. We understand that God caused a great darkness to be over the land, about midday, when Jesus completed the work of our eternal remission of sins. We understand that when the report came that Jesus was risen from the

dead, a few of the disciples had to go and see for themselves that it was true. When they saw Jesus, as he appeared unto them before his final return to his place in heaven, they believed the report of the gospel and began to proclaim it to the king's household, which included both Jews and Gentiles. Those who believed were given this eternal salvation.

There are those who do not believe the gospel of Jesus Christ, and they will die in their unbelief, being trampled underfoot as the man in this scene did not believe. This same picture is true today. There are those who hear the gospel of Jesus Christ and believe unto salvation, by the gift of God. Aren't you glad that God's ministers, of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, are preaching and teaching God's eternal salvation, and they are proclaiming this truth to the glory of God's name, Hallelujah! Amen!