

Elijah and Elisha

#20, under siege, II Kings 6:24-33

In the siege of a city, no one goes into it and no one goes out! Over time the reserves of food and water run out and the people will either starve or give themselves over to the invading tyrant.

24 Now it came about after this, that Ben-hadad king of Aram gathered all his army and went up and besieged Samaria.

[1.] v:24, besieged Samaria, The Lord keeps allowing problems in Israel! Write down what you think has gone wrong.

25 There was a great famine in Samaria; and behold, they besieged it, until a donkey's head was sold for eighty shekels of silver, and a fourth of a kab of dove's dung for five shekels of silver.

[2.] v:25, great famine, How long do you think it would take for the things in this verse to be worth money?

a donkey's head . . . eighty shekels of silver. The siege resulted in a terrible famine gripping the city of Samaria. This ignominious body part of an unclean animal (Lev. 11:2-7); Deut. 14:408) sold at an overvalued value price of about two lbs. of silver. **dove droppings . . . five shekels of silver.** "Dove droppings" was either a nickname for some small pea or root, or literal dung to be used as fuel or food in the desperate situation. Approximately one pt. cost about two oz. of silver.

MacArthur Study Bible

26 As the king of Israel was passing by on the wall a woman cried out to him, saying, "Help, my lord, O king!" 27 He said, " If the Lord does not help you, from where shall I help you? From the threshing floor, or from the wine press?"

[3.] v:26, cried out to him, Regarding royalty and commoners, what life style has the famine broken down?

[4.] v:27 He said, How many times, would the king have previously spoken to the average citizen?

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28 And the king said to her, "What is the matter with 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'; but she has hidden her son."

30 When the king heard the words of the woman, he tore his clothes - now he was passing by on the wall - and the people looked, and behold, he had sackcloth beneath on his body.

[5.] v:26-27, If the Lord, Why might the king acknowledge the power of God in this circumstance?

[6.] Question [5.], Why would this be the reason the Lord sent Israel's enemies to lay siege?

[7.] v:28-29, she answered, In your own words, jot down the woman's story.

[8.] v:28-29 again, she answered, How desperate would a people have to be to make a deal like that?

[9.] Something to think about. This account shows how people behave when they are starved for food. How does the Lord see believer's behaving, when they are starved for His Word?

[10.] v:30, tore his clothes, Why did the king do that?

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31 Then he said, "May God do so to me and more also, if the head of Elisha the son of Shaphat remains on him today."

32 Now Elisha was sitting in his house, and the elders were sitting with him. And the king sent a man from his presence; but before the messenger came to him, he said to the elders, "Do you see how this son of a murderer has sent to take away my head? Look, when the messenger comes, shut the door and hold the door shut against him. Is not the sound of his master's feet behind him?"

[11.] v:30, he said, **If the people heard the king, what would they think?**

[12.] v:31 again, head of Elisha, **Why, would the king put the blame on Elisha?**

[13.] Question [10.] **As a believer, give some reasons why the world blames you for their problems?**

[14.] v:32, take away, **Write down your thoughts on how Elisha knew that the king wanted him dead?**

[15.] v:32 again, when the messenger, **What were Elisha's instructions regarding the messenger?**

[16.] v:32 again, hold the door, **Who did Elisha say was following the messenger?**

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33 While he was still talking with them, behold, the messenger came down to him and he said, "Behold, this evil is from the Lord; why should I wait for the Lord any longer?"

[17.] v:33, this evil, The king blamed Elisha for the trouble. Who did the messenger blame?

[18.] v:33 again, why, Looking at our own heart, if we love God when things are good but blame Him when things are not, what problem do we have?

[19.] The Lord supernaturally preserved this historical account for the Christian's good. What did we learn that helps us?

NOTES