



THIS IS A DAY OF
Good News

2 KINGS 6:24-7:20

THIS IS A DAY OF **Good News**

Context

ISRAEL & SYRIA AT WAR - (2 KINGS 6,7)



- * Syria's familiarity with Elisha - (6:12; cf. 2 Kings 5)
- * Ben-Hadad sends large army to capture Elisha - (6:13-17)
- * Elisha leads blinded Syrian soldiers into Samaria where they are captured - (6:18-20)
- * Elisha demands mercy from Joram, king of Israel - (6:21-23)

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Context

ISRAEL & SYRIA AT WAR - (2 KINGS 6,7)



- * Some time after the events in 6:1–23 Ben-Hadad mobilizes his entire army and besieges Samaria - (6:24,25)
- * The severity of the conditions in the city of Samaria - (6:25-33)
 - * The value of a donkeys head - (2lbs of silver) & 1/2 pint of Dove dung (2 ounces of silver) - (6:25)
 - * Cannibalism - (6:26-30)
 - * Joram wearing sackcloth - wants Elisha dead - gives up on God - (6:30-33)

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Context

ELISHA'S PROPHECY REJECTED – (2 KINGS 7:1,2)



“Hear the word of the Lord.
Thus says the Lord:
‘Tomorrow about this time a
seah of fine flour shall be
sold for a shekel, and two
seahs of barley for a shekel,
at the gate of Samaria.’ ”

- * Elisha announced that in about 24 hours, not only would the siege be over, but there would be plenty of food to eat at pre-siege prices.
- * The personal attendant of the king did not believe this prophecy - 7:2
- * Elisha replied that the officer would see the miracle with his own eyes - but because of his unbelief he would not experience the blessing (cf. 7:17).

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2 KINGS 7:3-10 (NKJV)

³ Now there were four leprous men at the entrance of the gate; and they said to one another, "Why are we sitting here until we die? ⁴ If we say, 'We will enter the city,' the famine is in the city, and we shall die there. And if we sit here, we die also. Now therefore, come, let us surrender to the army of the Syrians. If they keep us alive, we shall live; and if they kill us, we shall only die."

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2 KINGS 7:3-10 (NKJV)

⁵ And they rose at twilight to go to the camp of the Syrians; and when they had come to the outskirts of the Syrian camp, to their surprise no one was there. ⁶ For the Lord had caused the army of the Syrians to hear the noise of chariots and the noise of horses—the noise of a great army; so they said to one another, “Look, the king of Israel has hired against us the kings of the Hittites and the kings of the Egyptians to attack us!”

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2 KINGS 7:3-10 (NKJV)

⁷ Therefore they arose and fled at twilight, and left the camp intact—their tents, their horses, and their donkeys—and they fled for their lives. ⁸ And when these lepers came to the outskirts of the camp, they went into one tent and ate and drank, and carried from it silver and gold and clothing, and went and hid them; then they came back and entered another tent, and carried some from there also, and went and hid it.

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2 KINGS 7:3-10 (NKJV)

⁹ Then they said to one another, “We are not doing right. This day is a day of good news, and we remain silent. If we wait until morning light, some punishment will come upon us. Now therefore, come, let us go and tell the king’s household.” ¹⁰ So they went and called to the gatekeepers of the city, and told them, saying, “We went to the Syrian camp, and surprisingly no one was there, not a human sound—only horses and donkeys tied, and the tents intact.”

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THE FOUR LEPERS – (2 KINGS 7:3-10)



- * Lepers were customarily confined to quarters outside the camp (Leviticus 13:46; Num 5:2-4).
- * “At the entrance of the gate” - probably out of desperation seeking food -
- * “Why are we sitting here until we die?” - There was NO HOPE in remaining where they were.
- * Sinners acknowledging their situation - deciding to act ...

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THE FOUR LEPERS – (2 KINGS 7:3-10)



- * Recognizing their hopeless situation, they weigh their 3 options - (7:4)
 - * “If we say, We will enter the city,’ the famine is in the city, and we shall die there” -
 - * “... if we sit here, we die also”
 - * “... let us surrender to the army of the Syrians. If they keep us alive, we shall live; and if they kill us, we shall only die.”

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THE FOUR LEPERS – (2 KINGS 7:3-10)



- * At dusk the four enter the Syrian camp and find it deserted. (7:5)
- * The same God who caused one Syrian army to see things that were not there (2 Kings 6:18) now causes another Syrian army to hear what they assumed to be the armies of the Hittites & Egyptians hired by Israel. - (7:6; cf Pro 28:1).
- * The Syrian soldiers flee, leaving all their provisions - [*tents, horses, donkeys – fled for their lives*].(7:7)

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THE FOUR LEPERS – (2 KINGS 7:3-10)



- * At first the lepers filled their own stomachs, pockets & even hid some of the treasure so they could retrieve it later - 7:8
- * They could have easily convinced themselves this was “pay-back time” ... But even having leprosy - these men were not bitter or resentful ...
- * “We are not doing right. This day is a day of good news, and we remain silent.” - (7:9; Luke 15:17).

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THE FOUR LEPERS – (2 KINGS 7:3-10)



*** We are not doing right**

- * “This day is a day of good news, and we remain silent.” - (7:9; Jam 4:17)
- * If we wait until morning light, some punishment will come upon us. - (7:9; Num 32:23; Ezk 3:17-21)
- * Now therefore, come, let us go and tell the king’s household.”

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THE CAUTIOUS INVESTIGATION (7:10-15)



* **They Tell Others The “Good News”**

- * The lepers return to Samaria and tell the gatekeepers - (7:10,11)
- * The Israelite king thought the whole thing was a trap - (7:11,12)
- * The king approves a “fact finding mission” which verifies the Syrian army had crossed the Jordan - (7:13-15)

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GOD'S WORD PROVEN TRUE – (7:16-20)



*** Both of Elisha's prophecies come to pass**

- * Two measures of barley sold for a shekel and a measure of fine flour sold for a shekel - (7:1,16,18)
- * The officer who had doubted the truthfulness of Elisha's prophecy was trampled to death as he attempted to control the crowd that poured out of the city - (7:17, 19,20)

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SOME LESSONS



* **Our Enemies & Famine**

- * The people of God have many enemies - BUT - as the people of God - we have God - Our enemies will always be outnumbered! (2 Kings 6:16; 7:1; Rom 8:31)
- * There is a famine - for the word, Amos 8:11; of righteousness, Rom 3:10-23; etc. - But God has provided abundantly for our needs in Christ - Eph 1:3; 2 Pet 1:3; etc

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SOME LESSONS



*** The Need To Recognize Our Situation & Search For A Remedy -**

- * Physical deformities are easier to recognize than spiritual deformities - but spiritual deformities are more serious - (Mat 6:25-34; 16:26; 2 Cor 13:5)
- * God has provided a remedy for sin - the enemy's defeated - there's hope in Christ - (Jn 3:16; Mt 7:7-14)

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SOME LESSONS



*** Those of us who have found salvation in Christ have a responsibility -**

- * Are we doing right if we do not share the good news of salvation? - (Acts 8:4; 1 Thes 1:8)
- * Today is the day of salvation, (2 Cor 6:2), for both those needing to hear the gospel & those needing to share it - we should act with haste!

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SOME LESSONS



*** Those of us who have found salvation in Christ have a responsibility -**

- * God can use anyone to spread His message - the biggest qualities needed are "LOVE for God & truth" & "FAITH" in God & His word" - Acts 8:4; 1 Cor 1:19,27,28; Rom 1:16
- * Every Christian should be able to tell someone how to become a Christian - Act 19:1-5

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SOME LESSONS



* **Why Many May Remain Silent?**

- * For some, it may be they are starving themselves - Hos 4:6; 1 Pet 2:2; 2 Pet 1:5-10;
- * For others, it may be out of fear or discouragement - Rev 21:8; Acts 4:29,31; Gal 6:9; Heb 12:1-3
- * For many others, it may just be the idea that it is too complicated - or I am inadequate - Acts 8; 16; 1 Pt 3:15

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SOME LESSONS



*** Why Many May Remain Silent?**

- * Ashamed?
- * Unbelief?
- * Selfish?
- * Hypocrites?
- * Lazy?

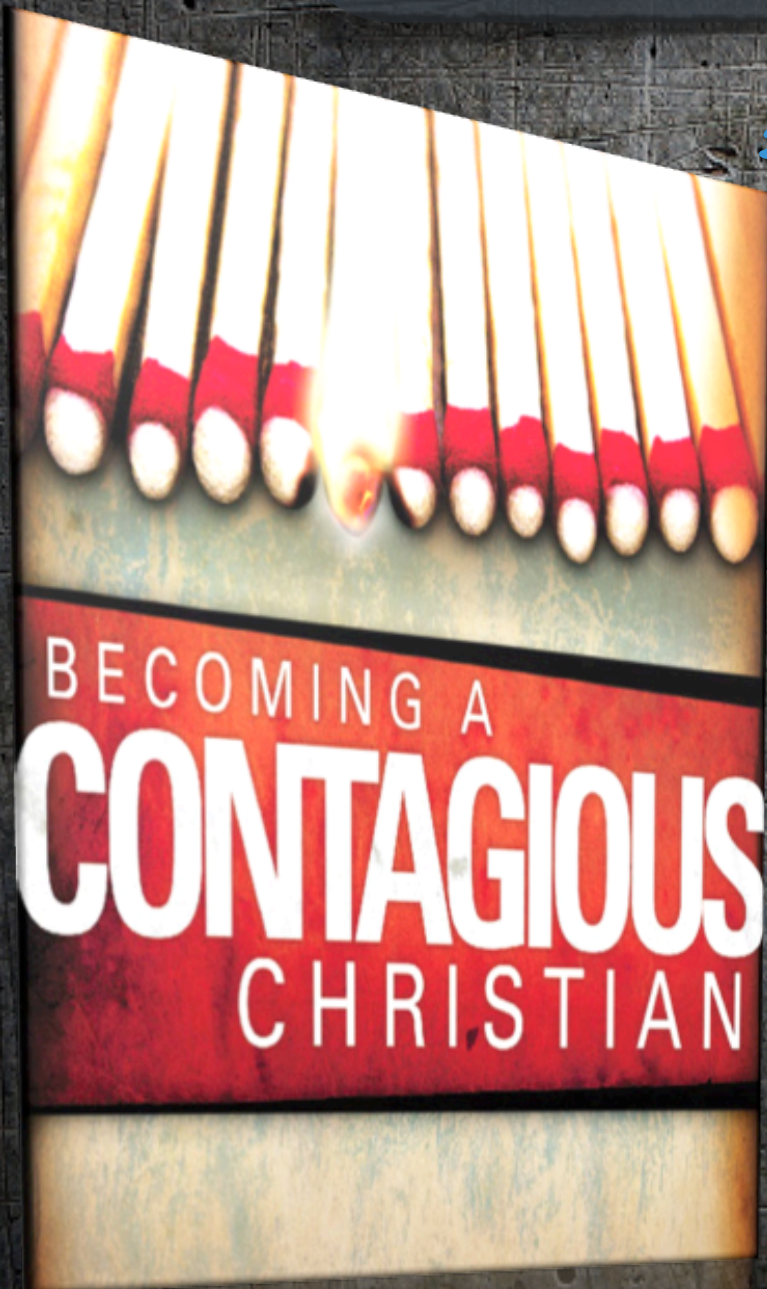
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SOME LESSONS

* Brethren, if we are silent with regards to the "good news" then the words of the four lepers are true of us:

2 Kings 7:9 (NKJV)

⁹ Then they said to one another, "We are not doing right. This day is a day of good news, and we remain silent. If we wait until morning light, some punishment will come upon us. Now therefore, come, let us go and tell the king's household."



THIS IS A DAY OF **Good News**

WHAT IS OUR
NEED? – TO HEAR
OR TO SPEAK?



**Whatever Our NEED - Let Us
Act With Haste - Today Is
The Day of Salvation!!**

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1 THESSALONIANS 1:2-10 (NKJV)

² We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers, ³ remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father, ⁴ knowing, beloved brethren, your election by God.



1 THESSALONIANS 1:2-10 (NKJV)

⁵ For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, as you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake. ⁶ And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit,



1 THESSALONIANS 1:2-10 (NKJV)

⁷ so that you became examples to all in Macedonia and Achaia who believe. ⁸ For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place. Your faith toward God has gone out, so that we do not need to say anything.



1 THESSALONIANS 1:2-10 (NKJV)

⁹ For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, ¹⁰ and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

