### 2 Kings

## Chapter 7

1And EliSha replied:  
  
 ‘Listen to the word of Jehovah; for this is what He said:  
  
 ‘At this same time tomorrow, a scoop of fine flour will sell for a copper coin, and two scoops of barley will sell for a copper coin inside the gates of Samaria.’  
  
2But this envoy (the one who led the king by the hand and whom he leaned on) said to EliSha:  
  
 ‘{Look!} Are you saying that Jehovah will make it all pour from the sky?  
It’ll never happen!’  
  
And EliSha said:  
  
 ‘Look! You’ll see it with your own eyes… However, you won’t eat any of it.’  
  
  
3Well that evening, there were four lepers who were standing outside the city gate.  
  
And one said to the other:  
  
 ‘Why are we just waiting here to die?  
  
 4‘If we go into the city, there’s a famine and we’ll just starve to death there. However, if we go into the camp of the Syrians… Although they could kill us, they might also allow us to live.’  
  
5So they got up during the night and snuck into the camp of the Syrians... But when they reached the camp, {Look!} they found no one there. 6For Jehovah had created the sounds of horses, chariots, and a huge army, and all the people in the camp thought the king of IsraEl had hired the kings of the Hittites and Egyptians to come and attack them.  
  
7So they all got up and just ran away in the darkness, abandoning their tents, their horses, and their burros, as they ran for their lives!  
  
8Well at that, the lepers went into the camp and entered one of the tents, and they ate and drank whatever they found there. They also took some silver, gold, and clothing.  
  
Then they went into another tent and took all that was there, and they hid everything.  
  
9But then, one said to the other:  
  
 ‘Let’s do the right thing today, because this is good news!  
  
 ‘We could just say nothing and wait until morning as we take more of these things; but let’s go and announce what’s happened to the house of the king!’  
  
10So they went up to the city gate and yelled:  
  
 ‘We entered the Syrian camp because {Look!} we couldn’t hear anything, and we found that no one is there!  
  
 ‘All we can find is their horses and burros, which are still tied, and their tents. And everything has been left just as it was!’  
  
11Well, the gatekeepers ran and announced this to the house of the king... 12Then the king got out of bed and said to his servants:  
  
 ‘Let me tell you what the Syrians are doing; they know that we’re starving, so they’ve left their camp and they’re hiding in the fields!  
  
 ‘They think that we’ll leave the city, then they can rush in and attack us… And after that, they can just walk into our city.’  
  
13But one of his servants said:  
  
 ‘Well, let’s go and take five of the horses that they’ve left behind, and then let us send out some of the sick and dying… And we can watch to see what happens.’  
  
14So then the king of IsraEl sent out two of his men on horses to look for the king of Syria.  
  
He said to them:  
  
 ‘Go search for him!’  
  
15Well, they traveled as far as the [River] JorDan and {Look!} all they found was clothing and other things that the Syrians had dropped as they fled... And after the messengers returned and reported this to the king, 16the people went out and tore the camp of Syria to shreds!  
  
17Then the king assigned his envoy (the one who took the king by the hand and whom he leaned upon) to be in charge of the [city] gate. Well, the [large crowd of] people crushed him underfoot at the gate and he died – just like the man of God said when this messenger came to see him.  
  
18So, just as EliSha had told the king at the same time on the previous day, two scoops of barley actually sold for a copper coin, and a scoop of fine flour sold for a copper coin inside the gates of Samaria!  
  
19And the envoy who had said to EliSha:  
  
 ‘{Look!} Will Jehovah make it pour from the sky? It’ll never happen...’  
  
...and to whom EliSha had said:  
  
 ‘{Look!} You’ll see it with your eyes, but you won’t eat any of it...’  
  
20Well, that’s what happened to him, for the king had put him in charge of opening the city gate, and the people trampled him to death as they rushed out.