

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan

II KINGS 7

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The great story of II Kings 7 begins in chapter 6. In verse 23, we have the historical context presented. Ben-Hadad, King of Syria, has invaded the land of Israel, south of his nation. He had been so successful in his invasion that he reached all the way to Samaria, the capital of the Northern Kingdom of Israel. The invasion was accompanied by a great famine which ravaged the capital's food supply. God had warned in the Torah that when the nation turned from God, that he would bring devastation to them. It was happening in Samaria. Jehoram, the King of Israel during this time, was walking on the walls of Samaria when he was confronted with a woman yelling to him an unthinkable story of the cannibalization of a child, and demanding justice that a promise was not kept in relation to killing and eating another child. Bizarre! This so enraged the king that he tore his clothes and vowed to kill Elisha the prophet, whom he believed was responsible for the drought and famine, as Elijah was during the days of Ahab.

The King of Israel dispatched a messenger to Elisha, who was sitting with the elders of the city. Elisha asked that the messenger be allowed entry and to hold him because God allowed him to see that Jehoram, the king

was coming as well. When the king came, Elisha informed him that the LORD would defeat the Syrian army miraculously and they would return to Syria and the city of Samaria would be fed and saved from destruction. An officer of the king heard the prophesy of the prophet and expressed his doubt as to the reliability of the Elisha. Elisha immediately pronounced his doom and said, "you shall see it with your eyes, but you shall not eat of it." It came to pass that the officer of the king was put in charge of the gate and was trampled in the rush when the thing came to pass that Elisha predicted.

Verses 3-16 is one of the most profound stories in the life of Elisha. The story of the four lepers who risked it all and found home in the total desperation of their condition. "Why are we sitting here until we die?"

Prayer and Action Steps

God uses desperation oftentimes to make us examine alternatives that we would never have thought of before. It is often in frustration, when we come to the end of ourselves and self-effort, that God shows us His way.

Date _____ Scripture _____

- *Read the chapter. If you have time, read it again.*
- *Highlight, underline or circle the Key Verse or Verses of the chapter.*
- *Ask yourself these questions as you read through the chapter.*

Is this historical narrative, analogy, metaphor, allegory, or some other element of speech or communicating truth?

What is the Context? Old Testament? New Testament? What is the writer speaking or writing about? To whom is he writing?

Is this a clear passage of Scripture (can only be interpreted one way)? Or could the passage be interpreted legitimately, in two or more ways, according to grammar and context?

Does the passage teach a Biblical Precept; that is, tells you something to be, do or act? _____

Are there principles in this chapter that if followed, would require me to change my attitudes or actions? _____

Does the passage give a Biblical Pattern that is followed here and other places in the Bible? _____

