

Story

Once a upon a time, there was a city.

A terrible famine that took place in this city and lasted a long time.

The people were so very hungry that they became cannibals, cooking and eating their own child!

In this city, there lived 4 lepers but they were thrown out of the city gates during the famine.

At the same time, their enemies surrounded and laid a siege on this city. Thus no food and water can enter the city.

Story

The 4 lepers were in a dilemma. Stay here also die, why not go to the enemy camp, maybe they will give us food. If they kill us, we die anyway.

The lepers approached the enemy camp but it was very quiet... no guards... no one in sight. They found food and water. So they ate till their hearts contented.

They took silver, gold and clothes. In another tent, they plundered and hid all they have taken.

Story

Their conscience caught up with them. Why are they eating and drinking while their fellow friends in the city die in hunger.

So they went back to the city and informed the guards at the gate.

The King didn't believe but sent out the guards to investigate anyway.

They came back and reported the good news to the King. So the siege is lifted.

The Siege *Is Lifted*

2 Kings 7:3-9

Some Background

2 Kings 6:8-14 The God who sees. King of Aram was at war with Israel. Elisha alerted King of Israel about the ambush set by King of Aram. The army of Israel was unharmed but harm is coming to Elisha

2 Kings 6:15-23 King of Aram sent troops to capture Elisha. But God protected him and in turn, Elisha protected the enemy troops and even ask the King to give food and water to them

Some Background

2 Kings 6 (NIV)

v24 Some time later, Ben-Hadad king of Aram mobilized his entire army and marched up and laid siege to Samaria.

v25 There was a great famine in the city; the siege lasted so long that a donkey's head sold for eighty shekels of silver, and a quarter of a cab of seed pods for five shekels.

v26 As the king of Israel was passing by on the wall, a woman cried to him, "Help me, my lord the king!"

Some Background

2 Kings 6 (NIV)

v27 The king replied, “If the LORD does not help you, where can I get help for you? From the threshing floor? From the winepress?”

v28 Then he asked her, “What's the matter?” She answered, “This woman said to me, ‘Give up your son so we may eat him today, and tomorrow we'll eat my son.’”

v29 So we cooked my son and ate him. The next day I said to her, ‘Give up your son so we may eat him,’ but she had hidden him.”

Some Background

2 Kings 6 (NIV)

v30 When the king heard the woman's words, he tore his robes. As he went along the wall, the people looked, and there, underneath, he had sackcloth on his body.

v31 He said, "May God deal with me, be it ever so severely, if the head of Elisha son of Shaphat remains on his shoulders today!"

Some Background

2 Kings 6 (NIV)

v32 Now Elisha was sitting in his house, and the elders were sitting with him. The king sent a messenger ahead, but before he arrived, Elisha said to the elders, “Don't you see how this murderer is sending someone to cut off my head? Look, when the messenger comes, shut the door and hold it shut against him. Is not the sound of his master's footsteps behind him?”

Some Background

2 Kings 6 (NIV)

v33 While he was still talking to them, the messenger came down to him. And [the king] said, “This disaster is from the LORD. Why should I wait for the LORD any longer?”

7v1 Elisha said, “Hear the word of the LORD. This is what the LORD says: About this time tomorrow, a seah of flour will sell for a shekel and two seahs of barley for a shekel at the gate of Samaria.”

Some Background

2 Kings 7 (NIV)

v2 The officer on whose arm the king was leaning said to the man of God, “Look, even if the LORD should open the floodgates of the heavens, could this happen?” “You will see it with your own eyes,” answered Elisha, “but you will not eat any of it!”

v3 Now there were four men with leprosy at the entrance of the city gate. They said to each other, “Why stay here until we die?”

Some Background

2 Kings 7 (NIV)

v4 If we say, 'We'll go into the city' - the famine is there, and we will die. And if we stay here, we will die. So let's go over to the camp of the Arameans and surrender. If they spare us, we live; if they kill us, then we die."

v5 At dusk they got up and went to the camp of the Arameans. When they reached the edge of the camp, not a man was there,

Some Background

2 Kings 7 (NIV)

v6 for the Lord had caused the Arameans to hear the sound of chariots and horses and a great army, so that they said to one another, “Look, the king of Israel has hired the Hittite and Egyptian kings to attack us!”

v7 So they got up and fled in the dusk and abandoned their tents and their horses and donkeys. They left the camp as it was and ran for their lives.

Some Background

2 Kings 7 (NIV)

v8 The men who had leprosy reached the edge of the camp and entered one of the tents. They ate and drank, and carried away silver, gold and clothes, and went off and hid them. They returned and entered another tent and took some things from it and hid them also.

v9 Then they said to each other, “We're not doing right. This is a day of good news and we are keeping it to ourselves. If we wait until daylight, punishment will overtake us. Let's go at once and report this to the royal palace.”

The Siege Is Lifted

What are some possible reasons, that the King of Aram laid a siege on the city of Samaria?

- He wanted to capture Elisha for upsetting his ambush plans and also Elisha's capture
- He believed that by capturing Elisha, Israel will be powerless against his army



The Siege Is Lifted

Who are the Characters of this story?

4 lepers

Samaritans

King's Officer

Elisha

God Almighty



The Siege Is Lifted

4 Lepers

Unlikely heroes God's idea

Experienced mercy v.8

Bearers of good news v.9,10

Who are they?

“Go share Jesus!”



The Siege Is Lifted

Samaritans

Siege & great famine 6 v.24,25

Desperate...dog-eat-dog situation
6 v.28

Dying unless help and hope come



The Siege Is Lifted

Modern day Samaritans

People & cities in bondage and blind

god of this age blinds minds 2 Cor.4.4

v4 The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

Bondage to sin, superstition, culture, corruption, religion



The Siege Is Lifted

Athenians - to unknown god Acts 17.22,23

22 Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: "Men of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious.

23 For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. Now what you worship as something unknown I am going to proclaim to you.

Who are they? Anyone without Jesus



The Siege Is Lifted

King's Officer

Smart, powerful but a sceptic

Only saw the visible & natural

Disbelieved in God ch7 v2, v19

7v2 The officer on whose arm the king was leaning said to the man of God, "Look, even if the LORD should open the floodgates of the heavens, could this happen?"



The Siege Is Lifted

v19 The officer had said to the man of God, “Look, even if the LORD should open the floodgates of the heavens, could this happen?” The man of God had replied, “You will see it with your own eyes, but you will not eat any of it!”

Died a terrible death Ch7 v20

v20 And that is exactly what happened to him, for the people trampled him in the gateway, and he died.

Who are they? Could be you & me



The Siege Is Lifted

Elisha

Prophet of God - obedient &
courageous Ch6 v31

Spoke an unbelievable message Ch7 v1

Where are the Elishas that display
obedience to the Lord and courage
to speak of God's righteousness?



The Siege Is Lifted

God Almighty

Unseen but not untouched

Merciful to all Jn.3.16

Miracle of Salvation

He is here!

