

WAIT HOPE TRUST

2 Kings 6:24-25 Some time later, Ben-Hadad king of Aram [Syria] mobilized his entire army and marched up and laid siege to Samaria. ²⁵ There was a great famine in the city; the siege lasted so long that a donkey's head sold for [about two pounds] of silver, and [about four ounces] of seed pods [or dove's dung] for [about five ounces of silver].

Jehoram, King of Israel, sees an atrocity that infuriates him. Two women agreed to consume their own progenies. They are arguing about how they were supposed to take turns in this endeavor, but when it was the second person's turn, the woman hid her descendent, rather than sacrifice him to the cause of warding off their mutual starvation.

2 Kings 6:33 While [Elisha] was still talking to [the community leaders he was sitting with], the messenger [of the king] came down to him.

The king said, "This disaster is from the Lord. Why should I wait for the Lord any longer?"

2 Kings 7:1 Elisha replied, "Hear the word of the Lord. This is what the Lord says: About this time tomorrow, [12 pounds] of the finest flour will sell for [2/5 of an ounce] and [20 pounds] of barley for [2/5 of an ounce] at the gate of Samaria."

² 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!"

³ 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? ⁴ 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."

⁵ At dusk they got up and went to the camp of the Arameans. When they reached the edge of the camp, no one was there, ⁶ 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!" ⁷ 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.

⁸ The men who had leprosy reached the edge of the camp, entered one of the tents and ate and drank. Then they took 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.

⁹ Then they said to each other, "What we're doing is not 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."

¹⁰ So they went and called out to the city gatekeepers and told them, "We went into the Aramean camp and no one was there—not a sound of anyone—only tethered horses and donkeys, and the tents left just as they were." ¹¹ The gatekeepers shouted the news, and it was reported within the palace.

¹² The king got up in the night and said to his officers, "I will tell you what the Arameans have done to us. They know we are starving; so they have left the camp to hide in the countryside, thinking, 'They will surely come out, and then we will take them alive and get into the city.'"

¹³ One of his officers answered, "Have some men take five of the horses that are left in the city. Their plight will be like that of all the Israelites left here—yes, they will only be like all these Israelites who are doomed. So let us send them to find out what happened."

¹⁴ So they selected two chariots with their horses, and the king sent them after the Aramean army. He commanded the drivers, "Go and find out what has happened." ¹⁵ They followed them as far as the Jordan, and they found the whole road strewn with the clothing and equipment the Arameans had thrown away in their headlong flight. So the messengers returned and reported to the king. ¹⁶ Then the people went out and plundered

the camp of the Arameans. So [12 pounds] of the finest flour sold for a [2/5 of an ounce], and [20 pounds] of barley sold for [2/5 of an ounce], as the Lord had said.

¹⁷ Now the king had put the officer on whose arm he leaned in charge of the gate, and the people trampled him in the gateway, and he died, just as the man of God had foretold when the king came down to his house. ¹⁸ It happened as the man of God had said to the king: “About this time tomorrow, [12 pounds] of the finest flour will sell for [2/5 of an ounce] and [20 pounds] of barley for [2/5 of an ounce] at the gate of Samaria.”

¹⁹ 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!” ²⁰ And that is exactly what happened to him, for the people trampled him in the gateway, and he died.

Wait for the Lord.

Psalm 27:14 Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.

Psalm 130:5-6 I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope. ⁶ I wait for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning, more than watchmen wait for the morning.

Hope beyond hope.

Luke 1:37 [The angel Gabriel said to Mary,] “For nothing will be impossible with God.”

Trust the Lord.

Isaiah 26:4 Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD, the LORD himself, is the Rock eternal.

1 Samuel 15:29 He who is the Glory of Israel does not lie or change his mind; for he is not a human being, that he should change his mind.”

Hebrews 5:7 During the days of Jesus’ life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission.

Psalm 13:5 But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation.