

# 2 KINGS 7 vs 1

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The first and second books of the kings originally were one book, which Jewish tradition credits to the prophet Jeremiah. The subject follows the successes and failures of the kings of both Judah and Israel. This second book of kings follows the decline of **Israel** leading up to their captivity in Syria; and 170 years later, to the decline of **Judah** leading up to their captivity in Babylon.

Elisha says that food will suddenly be plentiful with the retreat of Syrian army,

**<sup>1</sup> Then Elisha said / addressing the king and those with him, Listen to the word of the LORD; Thus says the LORD, Tomorrow about this time a measure of fine flour will be sold for a shekel, and two measures of barley for a shekel, in the gate of Samaria.**

**<sup>2</sup> Then the officer on whose hand the king leaned answered the man of God, and said, Behold, if the LORD would open windows in heaven, could this thing be? And he said, Behold, you will see it with your eyes, but you will not eat of it.**

**<sup>3</sup> And there were four leprous men at the entrance of the gate: and they said one to another, Why sit here until we die?**

**<sup>4</sup> They say to themselves, If we propose to enter the city, then the famine is in the city, and we will die there: and if we remain here, we die also. So now come, let us go over to the army of the Syrians: if they let us live, we will live; and if they kill us, we will only die.**

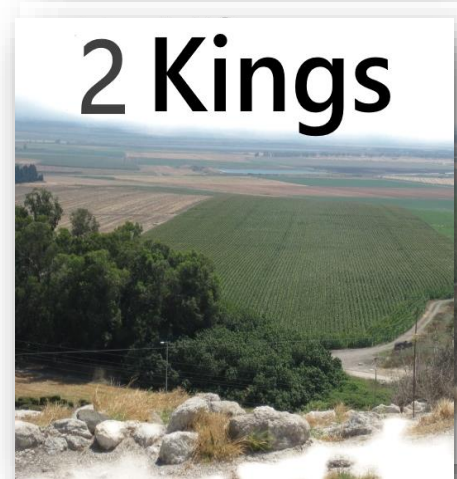
**<sup>5</sup> So they arose at twilight, to go to the camp of the Syrians: and when they reached the edge of the camp of Syria, behold, there was no one there.**

**<sup>6</sup> For the LORD made the army of Syrians hear a sound of chariots, and a sound of cavalry, even the sound of a large army: till they said one to another, the king of Israel must have hired the kings of the Hittites, and the kings of the Egyptians to attack us.**

**<sup>7</sup> For this reason, they arose and fled in the night, and left their tents, and their horses, and their asses, even the camp as it was, and fled for their life.**

**<sup>8</sup> And when these lepers came to the edge of the camp, they went into one tent, and ate and drank, and carried from there silver, and gold, and raiment, and went and hid it; and came again, and entered into another tent, and carried from there also, and went and hid it.**

**<sup>9</sup> Then they said one to another, We are not doing right: this is a day of good news, and we remain silent: if we wait until the morning dawns, punishment will overtake us. So now come, let us go and inform the household of the king.**



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<sup>10</sup> So they came and called to the gate-keeper of the city: and they told them, saying, We came to the camp of the Syrians, and, behold, there was no one there, not the sound of a man, but horses tied, and asses tied, and the tents as they were.

<sup>11</sup> And he called the gate-keepers; and they told it within the king's household.

<sup>12</sup> Then the king arose in the night, and said to his servants, I will now tell you what the Syrians have done to us. They know we are starving; so they went from the camp to hide themselves in the field, saying, When they come out of the city, we will catch them alive, and get into the city.

<sup>13</sup> And one of his servants answered and said, Please send some men with five of the horses that remain, which are left in the city, (behold, if they live they will fare like all the multitude of Israel that survive: behold, I say, if they die, they will die like all the multitude of the Israelites that perish) so let us send and see.

<sup>14</sup> So they took two chariot horses; and the king sent after the army of the Syrians, saying, Go and see.

<sup>15</sup> And they went after them to the Jordan: and, lo, all the way was full of garments and weapons which the Syrians had thrown away in their haste. And the messengers returned, and told the king.

<sup>16</sup> And the people went out, and plundered the tents of the Syrians. So a measure of fine flour was sold for a shekel, and two measures of barley for a shekel, according to the word of the LORD.

<sup>17</sup> And the king appointed the officer on whose hand he leaned to have charge of the gate: and the people trampled him in the gate, and he died, as the man of God had said, who spoke when the king came down to him.

<sup>18</sup> And it happened as the man of God had spoken to the king, saying, Two measures of barley for a shekel, and a measure of fine flour for a shekel, will be sold tomorrow about this time in the gate of Samaria:

<sup>19</sup> and that officer who answered the man of God, and said, Now behold, if the LORD should open windows in heaven, could such a thing be? And he said, Behold, you will see it with your eyes, but will not eat of it.

<sup>20</sup> And so it happened to him: for the people trampled him in the gate, and he died.

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