2 Kings 6:24-7
Grace When Hitting Rock Bottom
Jay Hohfeler



Aram = Aramean people. AKA: Syrians
hadad: Pagan god of storm & thunder
Ben-hadad: Title for King of Syria; means son of the god of storm & thunder
Samaria = Capital city of Israel's Northern Kingdom
Jehoram = King of Israel (northern kingdom)

~850 BC



Ben-hadad's Siege of Samaria

[24] Afterward Ben-hadad king of Syria mustered his entire army and went up and besieged Samaria. [25] And there was a great famine in Samaria, as they besieged it, until a donkey's head was sold for eighty shekels of silver, and the fourth part of a kab of dove's dung for five shekels of silver.

[26] Now as the king of Israel was passing by on the wall, a woman cried out to him, saying, "Help, my lord, O king!" [27] And he said, "If the LORD will not help you, how shall I help you? From the threshing floor, or from the winepress?" [28] And the king asked her, "What is your trouble?" She answered, "This woman said to me, 'Give your son, that we may eat him today, and we will eat my son tomorrow.' [29] So we boiled my son and ate him. And on the next day I said to her, 'Give your son, that we may eat him.' But she has hidden her son." [30] When the king heard the words of the woman, he tore his clothes—now he was passing by on the wall—and the people looked, and behold, he had sackcloth beneath on his body— [31] and he said, "May God do so to me and more also, if the head of Elisha the son of Shaphat remains on his shoulders today."

LEVITICUS 26	DEUTERONOMY 28
[27] "But if in spite of this you will not listen to me, but walk contrary to me, [28] then I will walk contrary to you in fury, and I myself will discipline you sevenfold for your sins. [29] You shall eat the flesh of your sons, and you shall eat the flesh of your daughters.	***[52] "They shall besiege you in all your towns, until your high and fortified walls, in which you trusted, come down throughout all your land. And they shall besiege you in all your towns throughout all your land, which the LORD your God has given you. [53] And you shall eat the fruit of your womb, the flesh of your sons and daughters, whom the LORD your God has given you, in the siege and in the distress with which your enemies shall distress you.***

[32] Elisha was sitting in his house, and the elders were sitting with him. Now the king had dispatched a man from his presence, but before the messenger arrived Elisha said to the elders, "Do you see how this murderer has sent to take off my head? Look, when the messenger comes, shut the door and hold the door fast against him. Is not the sound of his master's feet behind him?" [33] And while he was still speaking with them, the messenger came down to him and said, "This trouble is from the LORD! Why should I wait for the LORD any longer?"

- **Has there been a time when God was obviously disciplining you?**
- **Out of answers**
- **Where God cut off avenues of escape so that you were stuck in your trouble?**
- **How should we or the King of Israel respond?**

WRONG RESPONSES	HEALTHY RESPONSES
Lord, I don't need this - Resist Him - Fight Him	Yielding
• Determine that the Lord has no provision for me in this. • He will be no help	• Repentant • Saying the words of sin • Repentance is a way of life, not an occasional event
• Like these women—just desperate • Taking measures into their own hands • Ignoring God • Depending on self	Rehearsing the attributes of God
• Non-repentant • Know the Lord wants something different, but you won't give it	Psalm 121 **I lift up my eyes to the hills.** **From where does my help come?** **2 My help comes from the LORD,** **who made heaven and earth.**
Blaming God	Accepting the discipline
Oblivious to God's promptings	
Waiting on God seems pointless	

Elisha Promises Food

7 But Elisha said, "Hear the word of the LORD: thus says the LORD, Tomorrow about this time a seah of fine flour shall be sold for a shekel, and two seahs of barley for a shekel, at the gate of Samaria." 2 Then the captain on whose hand the king leaned said to the man of God, "If the LORD himself should make windows in heaven, could this thing be?" But he said, "You shall see it with your own eyes, but you shall not eat of it."

The Syrians Flee

3 Now there were four men who were lepers at the entrance to the gate. And they said to one another, "Why are we sitting here until we die? 4 If we say, 'Let us enter the city,' the famine is in the city, and we shall die there. And if we sit here, we die also. So now come, let us go over to the camp of the Syrians. If they spare our lives we shall live, and if they kill us we shall but die." 5 So they arose at twilight to go to the camp of the Syrians. But when they came to the edge of the camp of the Syrians, behold, there was no one there. 6 For the Lord had made the army of the Syrians hear the sound of chariots and of horses, the sound of a great army, so that they said to one another, "Behold, the king of Israel has hired against us the kings of the Hittites and the kings of Egypt to come against us." 7 So they fled away in the twilight and abandoned their tents, their horses, and their donkeys, leaving the camp as it was, and fled for their lives. 8 And when these lepers came to the

edge of the camp, they went into a tent and ate and drank, and they carried off silver and gold and clothing and went and hid them. Then they came back and entered another tent and carried off things from it and went and hid them.

9 Then they said to one another, "We are not doing right. This day is a day of good news. If we are silent and wait until the morning light, punishment will overtake us. Now therefore come; let us go and tell the king's household." 10 So they came and called to the gatekeepers of the city and told them, "We came to the camp of the Syrians, and behold, there was no one to be seen or heard there, nothing but the horses tied and the donkeys tied and the tents as they were." 11 Then the gatekeepers called out, and it was told within the king's household. 12 And the king rose in the night and said to his servants, "I will tell you what the Syrians have done to us. They know that we are hungry. Therefore they have gone out of the camp to hide themselves in the open country, thinking, 'When they come out of the city, we shall take them alive and get into the city.'" 13 And one of his servants said, "Let some men take five of the remaining horses, seeing that those who are left here will fare like the whole multitude of Israel who have already perished. Let us send and see." 14 So they took two horsemen, and the king sent them after the army of the Syrians, saying, "Go and see." 15 So they went after them as far as the Jordan, and behold, all the way was littered with garments and equipment that the Syrians had thrown away in their haste. And the messengers returned and told the king.

16 Then the people went out and plundered the camp of the Syrians. So a seah of fine flour was sold for a shekel, and two seahs of barley for a shekel, according to the word of the LORD. 17 Now the king had appointed the captain on whose hand he leaned to have charge of the gate. And the people trampled him in the gate, so that he died, as the man of God had said when the king came down to him. 18 For when the man of God had said to the king, "Two seahs of barley shall be sold for a shekel, and a seah of fine flour for a shekel, about this time tomorrow in the gate of Samaria," 19 the captain had answered the man of God, "If the LORD himself should make windows in heaven, could such a thing be?" And he had said, "You shall see it with your own eyes, but you shall not eat of it." 20 And so it happened to him, for the people trampled him in the gate and he died.

What did Elisha predict back at the beginning of the chapter regarding food prices?

2 Kings 7:1	2 Kings 7:16
"Tomorrow about this time a seah of fine flour shall be sold for a shekel, and two seahs of barley for a shekel, at the gate of Samaria."	**So a seah of fine flour was sold for a shekel, and two seahs of barley for a shekel, according to the word of the LORD.**

And what about the King's captain?

2 Kings 7:2	2 Kings 7:20
Then the captain on whose hand the king leaned said to the man of God, "If the LORD himself should make windows in heaven, could this thing be?" But he said, "You shall see it with your own eyes, but you shall not eat of it."	**And so it happened to him, for the people trampled him in the gate and he died.**

We need to believe in:

- God's Word
- God's Provision
- God's Deliverance