

## 1 **Soul Under Siege**

2 Kings 6:24-33

## 2 **Disobedience & Famine**

- In the Bible, there is a correlation between disobedience and famine.
- Famine is characterized by a lack of food and other resources, which almost always comes in Scripture as a result of disobedience.
- Famines, both spiritual and physical, are one of the consequences listed in Scripture for disobedience.

## 3 **Amos 8:11-12**

- *“Behold, the days are coming,” declares the Lord GOD, “when I will send a famine on the land—not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD. They shall wander from sea to sea, and from north to east; they shall run to and fro, to seek the word of the LORD, but they shall not find it.*

## 4 **Spiritual & physical famine**

- The same things that cause physical famine can also cause spiritual famine in our lives. In this case, it is a “besieging” or “hemming in.”
- In today’s lesson, we will see the fulfillment of a very specific prophecy or judgment from the book of Deuteronomy regarding an especially vicious kind of famine.
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## 5 **Deuteronomy 28:14-19**

- *“But if you will not obey the voice of the LORD your God or be careful to do all his commandments and his statutes that I command you today, then all these curses shall come upon you and overtake you. Cursed shall you be in the city, and cursed shall you be in the field.*

## 6 **Deuteronomy 28:14-19**

- *Cursed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. Cursed shall be the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground, the increase of your herds and the young of your flock. Cursed shall you be when you come in, and cursed shall you be when you go out.*

## 7 **Blessings and curses**

- Deuteronomy 28 outlines the blessing and curses of the Law of God. Following a relatively general statement of the curses, they are listed in greater detail.

## 8 **Deuteronomy 28:52-53**

- *“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. 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.*

## 9 **A siege**

- The curse goes like this:
  - Your enemies will come around you and besiege you, cutting you off from all sources of food.
  - You will become so famished that you will eventually resort to one of the most horrific, desperate crimes imaginable: cannibalism.
- As it turns out, this is exactly what will happen in the remainder of 2 Kings 6.

## 10 **Syria**

- For many years, the northern nation of Israel has been in a state of “cold war” with the nation of Syria (Aram-Damascus) for several years.
- The raiding Syria had carried out for several years had finally ceased after God had delivered a large Syrian raiding force into the hands of the King of Israel (previous lesson).

## 11 **Joram**

- But Joram’s apostasy was not curbed by the multiple displays of God’s power to his reign:
  - God’s miraculous defeat of the Moabite King Mesha and the subsequent successful campaign through Moab


- The many miracles of Elisha, including the healing of Namaan the leper
- God’s thwarting of the Syrian raids via Elisha
- The recent blinding and capture of a Syrian army who had come to take Elisha

12  **Joram**

- Despite all of these miracles, Joram refused to follow Jehovah and instead continued in the calf worship first instigated by Jeroboam.
- Joram (or Jehoram) was an apostate, and though he did not reign as wickedly as either his parents or his older brother (Ahaziah), he also failed to follow God faithfully.
- It is not enough to be *not as bad* as someone else.

13  **Joram**

- *In the eighteenth year of Jehoshaphat king of Judah, Jehoram the son of Ahab became king over Israel in Samaria, and he reigned twelve years. He did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, though not like his father and mother, for he put away the pillar of Baal that his father had made. Nevertheless, he clung to the sin of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, which he made Israel to sin; he did not depart from it.* – 2 Kings 3:1-3

14  **1) Disobedience leads to siege**

- Joram’s apostasy and disobedience eventually leads to the siege of his capitol city of Samaria.
- By its very nature, a siege involves a cutting off of both the incoming and the outgoing.

15  **1) Disobedience leads to siege**

- Disobedience, apostasy, and compromise (like that of Jeroboam’s false religion) lead to two distinct kinds of stoppages:
  - What comes in (the Word of God, renewal)
  - What goes out (ministry toward others, carrying out the Great Commission)
- We effectively cut ourselves off from the Spirit of God, which is what sustains the Christian life.

16  **2 Kings 6:24-27**

- *Afterward Ben-hadad king of Syria mustered his entire army and went up and besieged Samaria. 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. Now as the king of Israel was passing by on the wall, a woman cried out to him, saying, “Help, my lord, O king!” And he said, “If the LORD will not help you, how shall I help you? From the threshing floor, or from the winepress?”*

17  **2) Siege leads to famine**


- Cut off from food, it isn’t long before the people of Samaria are starving, so much so that:
  - A donkey’s head, which is the most repulsive, least-nourishing part of an animal that would have been unclean, sold for 2 lbs. of silver
  - A half pint of seed pods (horse fodder) sold for two ounces of silver.

18  **2) Siege leads to famine**

- Cut off from the empowering of the Spirit and the nourishment of the Word of God, we will soon become weak and ineffective as Christians.
- To live a Spirit-filled Christian life doesn’t mean to live in a constant state of emotional high.
- Rather, it is relying on the Spirit instead of the strength of our own flesh.

19  **2 Kings 6:28-29**

- *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.’ 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.”*

20  **2 Kings 6:30-31**

- *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—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.”*

21  **3) Famine leads to desperation**

- Famine rendered the inhabitants of Samaria desperate – so desperate in fact that they were willing to eat their own children.
- This woman considered it a great injustice that another woman had withheld and hidden her own son from this gruesome pact.
- King Joram is so angered by this that he intends to take out his rage on the one man who can truly solve his problem: Elisha.

22  **3) Famine leads to desperation**

- A famine of the Word of God and the empowering of the Spirit in the Christian's life always results in desperation, because there is a need that cannot be filled.
- This typically manifests itself in one of two ways:
  - Turning to a religious emotional experience
  - Numbing the pain with another love

23  **2 Kings 6:32**

- *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?"*

24  **2 Kings 6:33**

- *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?"*

25  **How much longer?**

- Elisha effectively stalls the king's hitman long enough for the king himself to arrive.
- When the king arrives, he blames all of his problems on God and wants to know how much longer he has to wait for God to fix his problem.