

Dig-a-bit Month 9 Episode 3
The God of More: The God of More Deliverance
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Deliverance in the Empty Camp

Hello there. This is Dig-a-Bit number three for month nine. The God of more deliverance. I have loved this chapter. I've talked to more than one woman who says this is her favorite one so far. Just because maybe these women find themselves, particularly in positions where they are begging for deliverance from some physical pain, or from some emotional heartache that's going on in their worlds right now.

But studying the God of more deliverance has indeed been faith building for Cindy Colley. I wanted us to take just a quick walk through Second Kings Chapter seven. That's one of the passages that you were supposed to read in between Second Kings... I guess we started really in chapter one, but in between what we zeroed in on in chapter six and in what we are going to zero in on in the life of Hezekiah in chapter 20.

And what I had is to read the intermittent passages there, because I think that they help us to understand the context of what's happening in Hezekiah's life and the magnitude when we're reading about the Syrians all throughout the book, it's the magnitude of the deliverance that happened in Hezekiah's life when we get to chapters 19 and 20 there.

It's just more amazing if we have read what leads up to it in the nations of both. We have them mixture of the nations of both Judah and Israel, and the great deliverance that God offers several times over in these chapters that we read. I want us to look at Second Kings chapter seven, because it is just amazing to me that in chapter six, we read about the amazing, horrible nature of the famine that's going on inside of the city of Samaria.

And as we read about that, it says that they got so hungry that they were paying good money for the dung, that excrement of a dove. That's what they were willing to pay to eat. And it gives us the price that they are willing to pay for that. And then it's in verse 25 of chapter six, there was a great famine in Samaria.

And behold, they besieged it until a donkey's head was sold for 80 pieces of silver. The head of a donkey. This the bony part, and the fourth part of a can of doves dung for five pieces of silver. You got to be pretty hungry. Those people in the city of Samaria had wasted away the good pleasure of Jehovah, and gotten themselves into a predicament where they were that hungry.

And then in chapter seven, Elisha makes this unbelievable prophecy, and we're going to see how unbelievable it really is in verse two. But in verse one Elisha said, hear the word of the Lord tomorrow, about this time tomorrow we're talking about 24 hours from there being willing to pay five pieces of silver for part of a for a tiny little serving of dove dung.

And Elisha said, hear ye the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord, tomorrow about this time shall a measure of fine flour be sold for a shekel, and two measures of barley for a shekel in the gate of Samaria, he says, your economy is about to happen here. You are about to be able to buy the food you need at reasonable prices.

Then a Lord on his hand, the king lead answered the man of God and said, wow! Behold, if the Lord would make windows in heaven, could this thing even be? And he said, behold, you will see it with your eyes, but you will not eat thereof. Elisha made two prophecies there tomorrow. At this time you're going to have the food that you need at the price that you won't believe.

And then this man said, If God had a window in heaven, could this happen? And Elisha said, it will happen, but you won't be able to eat of this plenty that's about to come. All right, that's where we are. And then there were four leprous men at the entering in of the gate, and they said to each other, why are we sitting here until we die?

I want to just mention about those four leprous men— I don't think the Bible bears this out on them. It doesn't. But, some historians tell us that these four leprous men were Gehazi and his three sons. And you remember when Gehazi was smitten to be leprous. And it says he and his seed would be leprous from then on.

That was when he went after, Naaman's servant to take what was being offered as payment for the cleansing of Naaman, you remember? And he did that in a deceit and in subtlety, kept that from his master. And then he was told that he would be smitten leprous. Well, a lot of people think this was Gehazi being with his three sons who were about to be involved in this deliverance in chapter seven.

So there were four leprous men at the gate, and they said to each other, why are we sitting here 'til we die? And why did the leprous men have to be at the gate? Because they couldn't go into the city and be among the civilized people. They were unclean. And they said they have three choices. They said, if we enter into the city, the famine is in the city, and we'll die there anyway.

We're not going to be able to live in that city. Even people who are well can't live in that city, much less people who are cast aside because of leprosy. And if we sit here, we're going to die. We're very hungry. There's no food here. We're going to die. But if we fall into the host of the Syrians, if by chance they save us alive, at least we'd be alive.

And if they kill us, we're going to be dead the same as we would be in either of the other choices. So they rose up in the twilight to go to the camp of the Syrians. And when they came to the outside of the camp, the uttermost part of the camp of Syria, scholars tell us that's probably where the big armies would have been —behold, there was no one there.

The camp of the Syrians was empty. These leprous men are walking into the twilight zone. It was twilight. I just read that. But they're walking into this twilight zone where nobody is. For the

Lord had made the host of the Syrians to hear the noise of chariots and the noise of horses, even the noise of a great host.

And they said to each other, the King of Israel has hired against us the kings of the Hittites and the kings of the Egyptians to come upon us. God made them be afraid. He made them hear noises that made them be afraid and flee from their camp. And they arose and fled in the twilight, and left their tents, and their horses and their donkeys, even the camp as it was, and they ran for their lives.

The Syrians are on the run, not from any man, but from a noise that God made. And when these lepers came to the uttermost part of the camp, they went into one tent, and they ate. They were hungry. If they had not been hungry, they wouldn't have stopped to eat, because I'm sure they were scared they were coming back.

They were starving, they ate and they drank, and they carried away silver and gold and clothing. And I went and hid it. And then they came again, and they went to the next tent, and they carried these things also. And they went and hid them, and then they got afraid. Verse nine says, then they said to each other, oh, this is not good.

This day is a day of good tidings. And we hold our peace. We gotta tell somebody. Because if we stay here to the morning light, something bad is going to happen to us. Some punishment is going to overtake us. So let's go tell the King's household we got to go tell somebody that this whole camp of Syrians is empty.

So they came and they called to the porter of the city, and they told them, see, they couldn't go into the king themselves. So they called to the porter of the city, to the door keeper, as it were, and they said, we went into the camp. Nobody was there, and there were no voices, but their horses were still tied up and their donkeys were still tied up.

The tents were full just like they were. It's just like they left suddenly and the porters went to tell the king's— the king's house. And the king got up in the night and said to his servants, I will show you what the Syrians have done. They know that we are hungry. So they went out of the camp. I know they went out of the camp, and they were hiding themselves in the field, saying, when they come out of the city, whenever they come, we're going to catch him.

And then we will go into their city and take their city, he said— it's just a strategy. And one of his servants said, let some take, I pray you, five of the horses that remain which are left in the city, behold, they are as all the multitude of Israel that are left in it.

That means those horses were hungry too. The horses were dying too. Behold. I say they are even as all the multitude of the Israelites that are consumed. And let's send and let's see if what these lepers are saying is true. And they took therefore two chariots with horses, and the king sent after the host of the Syrians, saying, go and see.

And so they went to the Jordan, and all the way was full. They were then were going on the trail where the Syrians had been, and all the way was full of garments and vessels, and the Syrians had just thrown them down in their haste. They had run out of there, and they had thrown down their forks and spoons and their vessels and their clothes.

And the messengers returned and told the king, verse 16, listen to this carefully. And the people went out and spoiled 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. Let me ask you something in deliverance. Does the Lord keep his word?

Oh, yes, he said exactly what happened within 24 hours— there it happened. So in verse one he made the prophecy. In verse 16, the prophecy had come true. And what else did he prophesy in verse two? That the things would be sold for this amount. But there was this man who didn't believe...this man was in the gate at the right place, at the wrong time.

And verse 19 of the same chapter says that Lord answered the man of God, and said, that man that had answered to the man of God, and said, now behold, is the Lord to make windows in heaven, might such a thing be? And he had said, behold, thou shalt see it with your eyes, but you won't be able to eat it.

So there's that same man, and he's seeing all this plenty happen there in the city of Samaria, verse 20. And so it fell out. And to him for the people trod upon him, ran over him in the gate, and he died. He was trampled by the multitude of people as they went to get this plunder and bring it back again he was trampled.

He saw the good fortune, but he didn't get to eat the flour, the fine flour, or the measures of barley, just as God had said, and yes, Malachi 3:10 does tell us that God does have a window. Let's turn over to the last book in the Old Testament, and let's read from Malachi 3:10, talking about the deliverance of our God.

Verse eight— Will a man rob God? Yet you robbed me, but you say, wherein we robbed you in tithes and offerings. The people were holding back what belonged to God. You're cursed with a curse, for you've robbed me, even the whole nation. So bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in my house.

And prove me here with, says the Lord of hosts. Prove me and see if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. That's what happened in Second Kings seven, God actually opened up the windows of heaven and made a loud noise, and he opened up the windows of heaven and poured out a blessing of fine flour and barley and all that the people could eat, and all the plunder and clothing and vessels that they could take.

And he gave the Syrians over to them, even though the Syrians were bigger and more powerful, he gave them the Syrians. He fed his people. And yet we know that those same people were

very fickle and in the end were carried away by the Assyrians into captivity because they failed to appreciate and recognize the ability of the great Jehovah God that we serve.

I love Second Kings chapter seven. It is just one more example from the era of the kings of God's great, powerful deliverance.

I hope you have a great evening, day, wherever you are, whatever you're doing tonight, I'm going to our local digging deep class and tomorrow night, May 19th will be our podcast, live from the West Huntsville Studio. I hope that you're able to join us there. Or if you're looking back, I hope you found the archive. Have a great day.