

SHOCK AND AWE

2 Kings 6:24-7:20

FROM PASTOR MARK

In the Days of Elisha, God was calling Israel back to Himself and even showed mercy to the enemy nation of Syria. In spite of that mercy Syria quickly returned and the northern kingdom of Israel found itself on the ropes. God's Word was needed desperately and God continued to reveal it through His prophet.

- I. **SHOCKING SIEGE and SHOCKING REACTIONS (6:24-31)**
 - A. Famine and Inflation (24-25)
 - B. A Horrifying Conversation (26-29)
 1. The King's Despair (26-27)
 2. The People's Desperation (28-29)
 - C. The King's Hardness (30-31)
 1. The Need for Repentance (30)
 2. The Rejection of Repentance (31)
 - D. NOTE: *GOD'S WORD INTERPRETS LIFE'S CIRCUMSTANCES* (Lev. 26:23-29, Deut. 28:52-58).
- II. **SHOCKING ATTACK and SHOCKING PROMISES (6:32-7:2)**
 - A. Elisha and the Elders (6:32)
 - B. The Assassin and the King's Message (6:33)
 - C. Elisha and God's Promises (7:1-2)
 1. Promise #1: End of Famine
 2. Rejection of Word of God
 3. Promise #2 Punishment for Unbelief
 - D. NOTE: *GOD'S WORD WILL SUCCEED* (Isaiah 55:10-11).
- III. **SHOCKING DISCOVERY and CONFIRMATION (7:3-15)**
 - A. Four Lepers and Their Shocking Discovery (7:3-11)
 - B. Official Confirmation (12-14)
 - C. NOTE: *GOD'S POWER FULFILLS HIS WORD* (Gen. 18:14, Jer. 32:17).
- IV. **SHOCK AND AWE at the City Gate (7:16-20)**
 - A. Fulfilment of Elisha's Promise #1 (16)
 - B. Fulfilment of Elisha's Promise #2 (17-20)
 - C. NOTE: *GOD'S WORD INSPIRES AWE: GOD SAID IT, THAT SETTLES IT* (1 Thes. 2:13).

TAKING IT HOME TODAY:

1. Our esteem for God's Word (Isaiah 66:2)
2. Our sharing God's Word (2 K. 7:9, the logic of the lepers: "This day is a day of good news...")

FOR NEXT TIME—Read 2 Kings 8:1-15, *The Unseen Hand*

TO DISCUSS WITH FAMILY OR FRIENDS:

1. What was shocking in today's passage?
2. What did you learn about God from this passage?
3. Which of these truths about God's Word is most encouraging to you currently and why?

- a. God's Word interprets life's circumstances.
 - b. God's Word will succeed (Isaiah 55:10-11).
 - c. God's power fulfills His Word (Gen. 18:14a, Jeremiah 32:17).
 - d. God's Word inspires awe (1 Thessalonians 2:13).
4. Read Isaiah 66:2. How could you increase your esteem for God's Word?