

FAMINE AND ATTEMPTED HOMICIDE

2 KINGS 6:24-7:20

The Crime: Someone's son is dead, and the king is homicidal.

The investigation: War has terrible consequences. The siege of Samaria by a foreign power has led to terrible famine, so bad that people have turned to cannibalism. In response, the king of Israel blames not himself, or the opposing army, but God. His solution: seek to behead the leading prophet of God. The prophet, however, has a message for the people of Israel, "God will provide." And God does, through the most unlikely of heroes – four lepers.

☐ **Monday: Read 2 Kings 6:24-29.**

In the shadow of war, the community turned on each other.

How do you tend to respond when the world seems too cruel, or resources are low, or life feels like it's closing in? Do you give up, turn inward, or turn to God?

☐ **Tuesday: Read 2 Kings 6:30-33.**

The king, taking no responsibility, blamed God and Elisha.

When life falls apart, where do you tend to direct your anger—at people, systems, God?

What would it take to pause and ask, "*Where is God in this?*" instead?

☐ **Wednesday: Read 2 Kings 7:1-2.**

With his life on the line, and starvation all around, Elisha didn't give up hope.

When has God spoken hope or possibility into a situation where you saw none?

Who in your life has been a voice of faith when you needed it?

☐ **Thursday: Read 2 Kings 7:3-8.**

God uses four outcasts to change the story and save the people.

Where might God be working through unexpected people or sources in your life right now?

☐ **Friday: Read 2 Kings 7:9-11.**

The lepers didn't just stumble upon God's provision—they *shared it*.

When have you experienced God's goodness or provision?

Who in your life that is struggling may need you to share that kind of hope or resource?

☐ **Saturday: Read 2 Kings 7:12-20.**

The king and his men, even after hearing the news of hope, were skeptical and distrustful.

In what area of my life do I need to stop blaming and start trusting?

The Verdict: Do not blame God for humankind's injustice and evil. Trust! For God's deliverance can come in unexpected ways, and God's blessings are meant to be shared, not hoarded.

The Lesson: Do not turn on each other in dire times. Trust God! And be generous with your blessings.