

THE CERTAINTY OF PROPHECY

TEXT: (II Kings 6:24-7:2, NIV)

KEY VERSE: “We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts” (II Peter 1:19, NIV).

INTRODUCTION

1. “If in spite of these things you do not accept my correction but continue to be hostile toward me, I myself will be hostile toward you and will afflict you for your sins seven times over” (Leviticus 26:23-24, NIV).

I. A TERRIBLE SITUATION

A. Turned to Cannibalism

1. “As the king of Israel was passing by on the wall, a woman cried to him, ‘Help me, my lord the king!’
 he king replied, ‘If the LORD does not help you, where can I get help for you? From the threshing floor? From the winepress?’ Then he asked her, ‘What’s the matter?’
 She answered, ‘This woman said to me, “Give up your son so we may eat him today, and tomorrow we’ll eat my son.”’ So we cooked my son and ate him. The next day I said to her, “Give up your son so we may eat him,” but she had hidden him” (II Kings 6:26-29, NIV).

B. A Hard Heart

1. “May God deal with me, be it ever so severely, if the head of Elisha son of Shaphat remains on his shoulders today!” (II Kings 6:31, NIV).

C. The Certainty of God’s Word

1. “Before the king’s messenger arrived, Elisha said to the elders, ‘That murderer is sending someone to kill me! Now, when he gets here, shut the door and don’t let him come in. The king himself will be right behind him.’ He had hardly finished saying this, when the king arrived and said, ‘It’s the LORD who has brought this trouble on us! Why should I wait any longer for him to do something?’” (II Kings 6:32-33, GNT).
2. “Listen to what the LORD says! By this time tomorrow you will be able to buy in Samaria ten pounds of the best wheat or twenty pounds of barley for one piece of silver” (II Kings 7:1, GNT).
3. “The personal attendant of the king said to Elisha, ‘That can’t happen—not even if the LORD himself were to send grain at once!’
 ‘You will see it happen, but you won’t get to eat any of the food,’” Elisha replied” (II Kings 7:2, GNT) .

II. FULFILLMENT OF PROPHECY

A. The Impossible

1. “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible” (Matthew 19:26, NIV).

B. God's Methods

1. "They said to one another, 'What are we doing sitting here at death's door? If we enter the famine-struck city we'll die; if we stay here we'll die. So let's take our chances in the camp of Aram and throw ourselves on their mercy. If they receive us we'll live, if they kill us we'll die. We've got nothing to lose'" (II Kings 7:3-4, MSG).
2. "At dusk they got up and went to the camp of the Arameans. When they reached the edge of the camp, no one was there, for the LORD had caused the Arameans to hear the sound of chariots and horses and a great army, so that they said to one another, 'Look, the king of Israel has hired the Hittite and Egyptian kings to attack us!' So they got up and fled in the dusk and abandoned their tents and their horses and donkeys. They left the camp as it was and ran for their lives" (II Kings 7:5-7, NIV).

III. FULFILLMENT OF PROPHECY

A. Not Doing the Right Thing

1. "Then they said to each other, 'We're doing wrong. Today we have good news, but we are silent. If we wait until the sun comes up, we'll be discovered. Let's go right now and tell the people in the king's palace'" (II Kings 7:9, NIV).
2. "Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you" (Matthew 7:12, NLT).
3. "Forget about the wrong things people do to you, and do not try to get even. Love your neighbor as you love yourself. I am the LORD" (Leviticus 19:18, NCV).

B. Go and Share the Benefits of God

1. "So [the four lepers] went and called out to the city gatekeepers and told them, 'We went into the Aramean camp and no one was there—not a sound of anyone—only tethered horses and donkeys, and the tents left just as they were'" (II Kings 6:10, NIV).
2. "But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you" (Matthew 5:44, NIV).
3. "The officer had said to the man of God, 'Look, even if the LORD should open the floodgates of the heavens, could this happen?' The man of God had replied, 'You will see it with your own eyes, but you will not eat any of it!' And that is exactly what happened to him, for the people trampled him in the gateway, and he died" (II Kings 7:19-20, NIV).

C. The Certainty of Prophecy—Jesus Is Coming Soon

1. "You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come" (Matthew 24:6 NIV).
2. "There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of birth pains" Matthew 24:7-8, NIV).
3. "They will fall by the sword and will be taken as prisoners to all the nations. Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled" (Luke 21:24, NIV).

CONCLUSION

1. "The officer had said to the man of God, 'Look, even if the LORD should open the floodgates of the heavens, could this happen?' The man of God had replied, 'You will see it with your own eyes, but you will not eat any of it!' And that is exactly what happened to him, for the people trampled him in the gateway, and he died" (II Kings 7:19-20, NIV).

2. “And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son” (Zechariah 12:10).
3. “I tell you, in that night there shall be two *men* in one bed; the one shall be taken, and the other shall be left. Two *women* shall be grinding together; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two *men* shall be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left” (Luke 17:34-36, KJV).

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Discuss the certainty of prophecy.
2. Discuss how impossible situations provide the opportunity for miracles.
3. Discuss how you can get ready for the second coming of the Lord.
4. Are you ready?