Singapore Bible College Mhathung Odyuo

31-03-2021 Message 2 of 2

2 Kings 6:24–7:20 15 Minutes

**God’s Provision and Power**

***2 Kings 6:24–7:20***

**Topic:** Belief

**Subject:** How does God reveal his power and provision in our lives?

**Complement:** God allows difficult times in our lives to show his power and provision.

**Purpose:** The listener will trust in God during life's difficult situations.

# Introduction

### [Interest: The listeners will understand God’s provision and power.]

#### Have you ever felt alone? Loneliness comes during our complex and difficult times. Does it seem like no one cares about you, and you feel like you do not have any friends, even though there are countless people around you?

#### Sometimes we even wonder, “Has God abandoned me?”

#### And imagine the present situation when the Junta has led a coup in Myanmar; what will be our friends from Myanmar thinking about the current political situation? I am sure many of them might be thinking, “Has God forsaken us?” Or even their neighboring countries have abandoned us? So far, I don't see any county coming to their refuge; right now, it is only talking, and in fact, the Government of India has even directed the North East state of India not to entertain the people of Myanmar in our country. India's North-East state also shares the border with Myanmar, and the Myanmar people started to flee from their country to take shelter in their neighboring countries.

#### So what do we when we face difficulties in life? Do we rely on our knowledge, strength, money, or political power? Or do we play blame games like blaming others, our friends, family, etc.?

### Need: What do you do when you face difficulties in life? Do we rely on your knowledge, strength, money, or political power?

### Subject: How does God reveal his power and provision in our lives?

### Background: The Israelites were being destroyed and captured by Assyria, and they were going through the wrath of God because they sinned by worshiping and serving the false God. They really needed to see God work among them! We already saw last week how God used Elisha when their enemies surrounded them. Elisha prayed, and the enemies became blind, and they were then taken to Samaria, where their sight was returned. That same God who did miracle is still at work.

### Preview: Today's passage will show us two ways that God shows his power and provision in our lives.

### Text: 2 Kings 6:24-7:20 is our text. We will look at 2 Kings 6:24 to 7:20. Can we turn our Bible to 2 Kings 6:24 to 7:20?

(Let us see how God used Elisha again to demonstrate his power to the Israelites.)

1. **I. God shows his power through our hardship (2 Kings 6:24–7:1-2).**

 [It is during the difficult times that we see the LORD is stronger than anyone else!]

Our passage says: **24**Sometime later, Ben-Hadad, King of Aram, mobilized his entire army and marched up and laid siege to Samaria. **25**There was a great famine in the city; the siege lasted so long that a donkey’s head sold for eighty shekels[a] of silver and a quarter of a cab[b] of seed pods[c] for five shekels.[d]

* 1. God allows hardships caused by our enemies in our lives (24-31).

### This is two pounds of silver and equal to SGD648.05, so imagine how much the city was suffering. Who would spend that much money for a donkey head?

### If you are a hunter or familiar with the different types of animal and structure, then it will surprise you more, because there is nothing much to eat in a donkey’s head. If it was a pig head then you might say. “Oh, well, at least there are lots of good stuff to eat.”

### The text continues…

**26**As the King of Israel passed by on the wall, a woman cried to him, "Help me, my lord the king!"

**27**The King replied, "If the Lord does not help you, where can I get help for you? From the threshing floor? From the winepress?” **28**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.’ **29**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.”

**30**When the King heard the woman's words, he tore his robes. As he went along the wall, the people looked, and they saw that, under his robes, he had sackcloth on his body. **31**He said, "May God deal with me, be it ever so severely if the head of Elisha son of Shaphat remains on his shoulders today!”

### Isn't it amazing that the king started to blame Elisha and wanted Elisha's head instead of solving the problem of his city? Instead of going to the Lord and asking for help, the king tried to kill God's messenger. Even in our human life, many a time when we face problems and difficulties, we tend to blame others rather than reasoning what the cause was and why it happened.

### Now, why did God allow hardship in the city?

#### Did God abandon them? No, he did not because He sent them Elijah and Elisha as prophets to bring them back to him. God also did so many miracles for them one after another, Elisha raised a dead child to live (2 kings 4:8-37), Elisha made poisonous food-safe (2 kings 4:38-41), and the Israel even won battels without a fight because of Elish (2king s6: 8-23)

#### But what did the King or the Israelites do in return? They saw everything with their own eyes, yet they still worshiped the Idols and served the false gods. God will not simply allow hardship. Imagine if You and I were God and have the same power as God, then what will be our response? We may have wiped out the entire city.

(God provides hardship, and God has also promised to help us in our hardship but judges us when we fail to believe in Him.)

* 1. God has promised to help us in our hardship.

### As the story continues, the King sends a messenger to cut Elisha's head.

#### When the messenger reaches and tells Elisha, the King said, “This disaster is from the Lord. Why should I wait for the Lord any longer?” Then Elisha replied, “Hear the word of the Lord”. This is what the Lord says: About this time tomorrow, a seah of the finest flour will sell for a shekel and two seahs of barley for a shekel at the gate of Samaria.” In other words, in 24 hours, this expensive food will be dirt cheap!

#### The officer on whose arm the King was leaning said to the man of God, “Look, even if the Lord should open the floodgates of the heavens, could this happen?”

#### “You will see it with your own eyes,” answered Elisha, “but you will not eat any of it!”

### Wow, isn't it shocking that you still dare to ask, “Look, even if the Lord should open the floodgates of the heavens, could this happen?” even after seeing lots of miracles done by God for them through the prophets?

### Isn't it amazing how God works? He works in so many ways that our human mind can never think about it, and one of the reasons for the messenger to doubt also shows that the city is in big trouble and has a larger issue, which our human mind and thought cannot imagine being solved in one day.

### The good news is that God never forsakes us or leaves us alone even though we are a sinner and we disobey him. He still loves and cares for us, and he will still help us in our hard times if we go to him.

(So we are looking at this question: How does God reveal his power and provision in our lives? We have seen so far that *God shows his power through our hardship*. Now this is how God shows his *provision*…)

1. **II. God gives provision during our hardship (2 Kings 7:3-20).**

[Our God alone has the power to turn an impossible situation to one of wonders.]

As we look further in 7: 3, we see four lepers who were not allowed to enter the city and were staying at the entrance of the city gate; they said to each other, "Why stay here until we die? **4**If we say, ‘We’ll go into the city’—the famine is there, and we will die. And if we stay here, we will die. So let’s go over to the camp of the Arameans and surrender. If they spare us, we live; if they kill us, then we die.” So

**5**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,

Why was there no one? Because…

**6**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!” **7**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.

**8**The men who had leprosy reached the edge of the camp, entered one of the tents and ate and drank. Then they took silver, gold and clothes, and went off and hid them. They returned and entered another tent and took some things from it and hid them also.

**9**Then they said to each other, “What we’re doing is not right. This is a day of good news and we are keeping it to ourselves. If we wait until daylight, punishment will overtake us. Let’s go at once and report this to the royal palace.”

And the story continues, the lepers not only take items for them, but they also inform the king and the entire city famine was restore within 24 hours, and a seah of the finest flour sold for a shekel, and two seahs of barley sold for a shekel, as the Lord had said.

* 1. God can do things that seem impossible to us (3-16).

Who would have thought that the prophecy will be fulfilled through the leper's people, the people whom the society looked down on them? They were not even allowed to come inside the city, so they lived outside the city gate and begged for their living.

Isn't our God funny, too? He let the Arameans lay siege to Samaria, which leads the Israelites to famine but now God uses the Arameans to reverse the famine in the city. Who would have imagined that way to reverse the famine in the city? Our God alone has the power to turn the impossible situation to wonders.

Our God does not only provides but also . .

* 1. God will judge when we fail to believe in Him (17-20).

We see in verse 19: 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!” **20**And that is exactly what happened to him, for the people trampled him in the gateway, and he died.

When I read this passage, it reminds me of an incident my friend told me. My friend introduced the Black Friday sale to me, which I never knew about until last year. She told me that when she was in States, people were rushing and waiting for the store to open for sale, and unfortunately, when the shop opened, one person was pushed down while rushing, and he was trampled by the mob of people and lost his life.

The difference is out here it did not just happen, or it was not an accident, but it was predicted, and it happened exactly as it was anticipated or prophesied. It shows that God's word is the truth, and it reminds us to believe in God's provision, God's hope, God's word, and believe in God's deliverance. Our God does not only provide during our difficult times, but he also judges us when we fail to believe and trust his provision.

(So, how does God reveal his power and provision in our lives? How do we see that he is stronger and more able to provide?)

# Conclusion

### God allows difficult times in our lives to show his power and provision (MI).

### Main Points:

#### God's shows his power through hardship in our lives.

#### God’s gives provision during our hard times.

### Exhortation/Application: Trust and rely on God in our difficulties.

#### When we face difficulties or dark times, let us stop playing the blame game, but let us check our hearts and lifestyles and go to God. For we may fail God, But God will not fail us. Let us trust God and walk with our God in every situation.

#### To close my sermon, I will like to present a song I will walk with God to rededicate my life to trust him and walk with him in all the walks of my life.

# Study Questions (Step 1)

# Context: What did the author record just before this passage?

 There was a war going between King Aram and Israel, and to end the war, Elisha prepared an excellent feast for the enemy, and after they had finished eating and drinking, he sent them away, and they returned to their master. So the bands from Aram stopped raiding Israel’s territory.

# Purpose: Why is this passage in the Bible?

This passage in the Bible let us the God never fails to meet His people's need when they trust him. We must have hope, faith, and trust in God when we face difficulties in life.

# Background: What historical context helps us understand this passage?

It was hard to find a good king and leader at that time, and injustice prevailed. So the prophet's role came in to speak on behalf of God of Israel to remind them to obey the Torah's command. The prophets challenge Israel to follow to repent and follow their God.

# Sources Used

### The New American Commentary

### Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries

### Cornerstone Biblical Commentary

# Questions & Answers (cf. p. 22 #1)

**Who is the author of 2 Kings?**

Prophet Jeremiah

**What was the situation during the king time?**

A lot of injustice and bad example of kings and leadership was prevailing during the 1 and 2 king times; which is why the prophet were introduced to speak on behalf of the God of Israel. And the prophet's role was too confronting the Israel king from adultery and injustice.

**What was the prediction made by Elijah?**

### The food will be cheap and plenty by the next day [[1]](#footnote-1)

### The man will see the plentiful food yet will not eat any of it.

**Who were the first to enjoy the Elijah prophecy?**

The four lepers who had nothing to lose became the first to enjoy the prophecy of Elijah.

**What was the condition of the country at that time?**

The condition of the country was going through famine; we can even see some women cannibalizing their children

**Why is the second king so important?**

Because it features many unique events and people, two people raised from dead, Prophet Elijah left the earth without dying. The Jordan river's water rolled back twice, and there is also much evidence testifying God working among the people.

**What was the condition of Jerusalem during the time of 2 kings?**

A famine had broken out in the city, and we can even see some women cannibalizing their children.

**Who was to blame for the famine?**

Elijah got blamed for the famine because of his past involvement in a miracle prayer, so the King thought it was Elijah who prayed to let famine prevail in the city. But the famine was a judgment from the Lord.

**Why should we not doubt the promise of God?**

We need to believe in the promise of God because those who fail to believe the promise of God, then like the doubting office, will not experience his blessing, either salvation or sanctification.

# Tentative Subject/Complement Statements

Text

# Possible Illustrations

### Text

# Possible Applications

### Text

# Older Outlines of This Sermon Text or Outlines by Others (Books, Commentaries, etc.)

### Text

**God’s Provision and Power**

2 Kings 6:24–7:20

**Exegetical Outline (Steps 2-3)**

1. **Exegetical Idea (CPT): The way God demonstrated his divine provision and power to Israel was by letting Israel experienced a great famine and causing a disturbance to their enemy.**
2. **I.** **The way God demonstrated his divine provision and power to Israel was by letting Israel experienced a great famine caused by their enemy (2 Kings 6:24–33 , 7 1-2).**
	1. The King of Syria attacked Samaria (24).
	2. The attack caused a great famine in Samaria (25-30)
	3. The King wanted the prophet's head by sending his unbelieving messenger (31–7:2)
	4. The promise and faithfulness of God to Israel was through Elisha and his prophetical judgment to the unbelieving messenger (7:1-2).
3. **II. The way God demonstrated his divine provision and power to Israel was by causing a disturbance to their enemy (2 Kings 7:3-20)**
	1. God caused a great disturbance to the camp of Syrian that resulted in their camp's abandonment and provisions (3-7).
	2. The discovery of the abandoned camp was by the lepers (8).
	3. The lepers announced the good news to the people of Israel (9-16).
	4. The messenger died in a stampede as judgment to his unbelief to the prophecy (17-20).

**Purpose or Desired Listener Response (Step 4)**

The listeners will trust God during life’s difficulties.

**Sermon Outline** (Cyclical inductive form)—Steps 5-6

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### Subject: How does God reveal his power and provision in our lives?

### Background: The Israelites were being destroyed and captivated by Assyria, and they were going through the wrath of God because they sin by worshiping and serving the false God.

### Preview: Today's passage will show us How God shows us his power and provision.

### Text: 2 Kings 6:24-7:20

1. **I. God shows his power through our hardship (2 Kings 6:24–7:1-2).**
	1. God allows hardships caused by our enemies in our lives (24-31).
	2. God has promised to help us in our hardship.

(And then this is how God shows his provision …….)

1. **II. God gives provision during our hard times (2 Kings 7:3-20).**
	1. God can do things that seem impossible to us (3-16).
	2. God will judge when we fail to believe in Him (17-20).

(So, how does God reveal his power and provision in our lives? How do we see that he is stronger and more able to provide?)

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1. Wiseman, D. J. (1993). [*1 and 2 Kings: An Introduction and Commentary*](https://ref.ly/logosres/totc09kius?ref=Bible.2Ki6.24-7.20) (Vol. 9, pp. 223–225). Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

2 House, P. R. (1995). [*1, 2 Kings*](https://ref.ly/logosres/nac08?ref=Bible.2Ki6.24-33&off=9675) (Vol. 8, pp. 277–281). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

# 3 Barnes, W. H. (2012). [*1-2 Kings*](https://ref.ly/logosres/cstonecm11ki1?ref=Bible.2Ki6.24&off=0&ctx=NOTES%0a~6%3a24+Some+time+later%2c+however.+Thi). (P. W. Comfort, Ed.) (Vol. 4b, pp. 233–242). Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.

 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)