

## A NEW DAWN - 3



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Syria laid siege against Israel and the effect was quite bad and devastating.

Last year (2020) was bad for many people but it was not this bad (like this story).

A poor woman cried to the king who was walking on the wall for help but what can any king or leader do without God; when the treasury (barn floor and wine press) is empty? - **2Kg.6: 27; Ps.127: 1.**

The king himself was wearing a sackcloth under his garment - a sign of great grief or mourning - **2Kg.6: 30.**

The best of men are helpless without God. We must learn to look beyond government or any leader at all when in trouble, for, they are mere mortal men like us and look up to God as our Ultimate Source of help - **Ps.20: 7; 60: 11-12 (108: 12-13); 121: 1-2; Heb.12: 12: 2a.**

This king once fed a great host (or battalion) of Syrian soldiers (2Kg.6: 8-23) but now, he could not feed a single soul. Sometimes, scarcity will follow surplus (e.g. Joseph in Egypt). So, we must all learn how to manage our resources during rainy days and save for dry days.

Though, this king could not help the woman, he was however willing to listen to her - **2Kg.6: 28a.**

We must be willing to listen to people share their burdens and problems (especially as leaders) even when we cannot help them in practical terms.

The famine was so bad that some women had started to kill and eat their children. This is totally against the word of God and nature - **Exod.20: 13; Isa.49: 15.**

Usually, there is a general breakdown of law and order during famine and people throw away all forms restraints. We should always pray against such punishment from God (war, famine or pestilence) - **Deut.28: 52-53 (e.g. 2Sam.24: 12-13).**

Money loses its value at such times also - **2Kg.6: 25.**

Things were so bad that an ass's head sold for 80 pieces of silver! Such an unclean and tasteless piece with only little flesh in it. That was extreme inflation!

Imagine the level of inflation in Nigeria right now **(16%)!** Compare this with other major countries or parts of the world:

**USA - 2.24%**

**China - 1.9%**

**UK - 0.8%**

**Europe - 0.3%.**

Instead of leading the nation in repentance before God, the king of Israel in his frustration and confusion blamed Elisha and threatened to kill him - **2Kg.6: 31.**

Ungodly people in their foolishness and frustration blame the Christians now too.

Thank God, Elisha was not moved by this threat - **2Kg.6: 32.**

We should not be moved by the threats of ungodly men around us also.

The king of Israel gave up on God completely. He could no longer wait and wanted to resort to self-help - **2Kg.6: 33.**

We must continue to wait and not give up on God or resort to self-help like this king or Sarah.

However, Elisha waded in and prophesied a New Dawn.

The Church must not give in to any cheap blackmail but rather pray to God and trust Him for a New Dawn - **2Chron.7: 13-14.**

Usually, God shows up when we have given up. His strength is always made perfect in our weakness - **2Cor.12: 9a.**

Elisha prophesied divine abundance within 24 hours at a time of the worst famine in Israel; at a time when such abundance seemed practically impossible! - **2Kg.7: 1.**

We all have our moments of doubts but it is always better to keep our doubts to ourselves at such times. Those are times when silence is golden!

However, a big man and a close friend of the king spoke in unbelief and disdain of Elisha's prophecy and was punished for it - **2Kg.7: 2.**

We must avoid such evil heart of unbelief by all means. It's a big challenge - **Heb.3: 12; Lk.18: 8b.**

This man was punished severely for His of extreme unbelief - **2Kg.7: 2b.**

Elisha said he would see the prophecy fulfilled but would not partake in it. We must avoid such fatal error.

Unbelief always rob men of the breakthroughs and blessings God intend for them. Such men, like the children of Israel would see their Promised Land from afar but would not enter into it. We must pray that this will not be our portion.

We must therefore be very careful how we react or respond at difficult times like this. We must not join unbelievers to sing their ungodly songs. There are all kinds of ungodly songs and reactions all over the place right now but we must not join or follow the Mixed Multitude to do evil (**Exod.23: 2**).

We must pay all attention to what God is saying!