

**Theme:** Godlessness leads to wickedness. Ultimately, only the grace of God in Christ can deliver us from its consequences.

### **Background and Introduction**

#### **I. The Fruit of Godlessness (6:24-33)**

##### A. Durance (a new word for us) = Confinement/Captivity

1. Syria is back – Samaria is under siege
2. Judgment for continued unbelief

##### B. Desperation

- Starving them into submission

##### C. Depravity

1. A woman seeking “justice?” (26)
2. Unthinkable horror – cannibalism
3. Covenant curses (Leviticus 26:27; Deuteronomy 28:52-57)

##### D. Denial

1. The king’s repentance (30)
  - In sackcloth under his clothes?
2. It’s Elisha’s fault – Shoot the messenger! (31)
3. It’s the LORD’s fault (Yhwh) (6:33b)
  - Blaming the God he doesn’t worship for his suffering

APPLICATION: Is our hope in “kings” and governments – or is it ultimately in the LORD? (Psalm 124:8)

#### **II. The Power of God (7:1-20)**

##### A. The word of promise

1. God provides – Prepare for an abundance of food (1)
2. God remembers his covenant promise
  - A mother may forget her baby but the Lord can’t forget his people
  - Isaiah 49:15,16

##### B. The LORD’s impossible deliverance

1. The sound of an army (6)
  - Horses and chariots of fire?!
2. Syria flees in terror
3. Leaving everything behind! (7,8,15)

##### C. An array of responses

1. Rejection (2,16-20)
  - By the king’s right-hand man
  - The word of the prophet is *fulfilled!*

2. Resignation (2,3)
  - a. The lepers' dilemma
  - b. Their discovery (8)
  - c. Bearing good news! (9)

NOTE: I love God's choice of messengers to carry his good news.

3. Reservation
  - a. The strategist? (12)
    - It's a trap
  - b. A "servant" advice (13)

4. Rejoicing? Thanksgiving?
  - None.

Chapters 6-7 give us a *physical* manifestation of a *spiritual* reality!

### III. A Terrible Warning

#### A. Rejecting the Word of God

NOTE: Godlessness will lead to wickedness. Wickedness is experienced in...

1. Durance/captivity (Romans 1:21,22)
2. Desperation/starvation spiritually (Proverbs 13:25; Isaiah 55:2)
3. Depravity/abomination
  - Doing things you never dreamed you would do
4. Denial
  - I don't deserve this; I am a victim
  - I must blame someone

#### B. Rejecting the supernatural power of God

1. Consigning ourselves to death
2. By denying the only hope of life
  - In the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ

### IV. A Glorious Hope

#### A. The ministry of Elisha

1. Declaring the truth
2. Proclaiming God's deliverance

#### B. The ministry of Jesus (Messiah)

1. Like Elisha
  - The same message
  - The same fate – Kill the messenger
2. Proclaiming salvation and victory over death
  - Giving life to all who trust in him

#### C. Our God is mighty to save! (Isaiah 63:1)