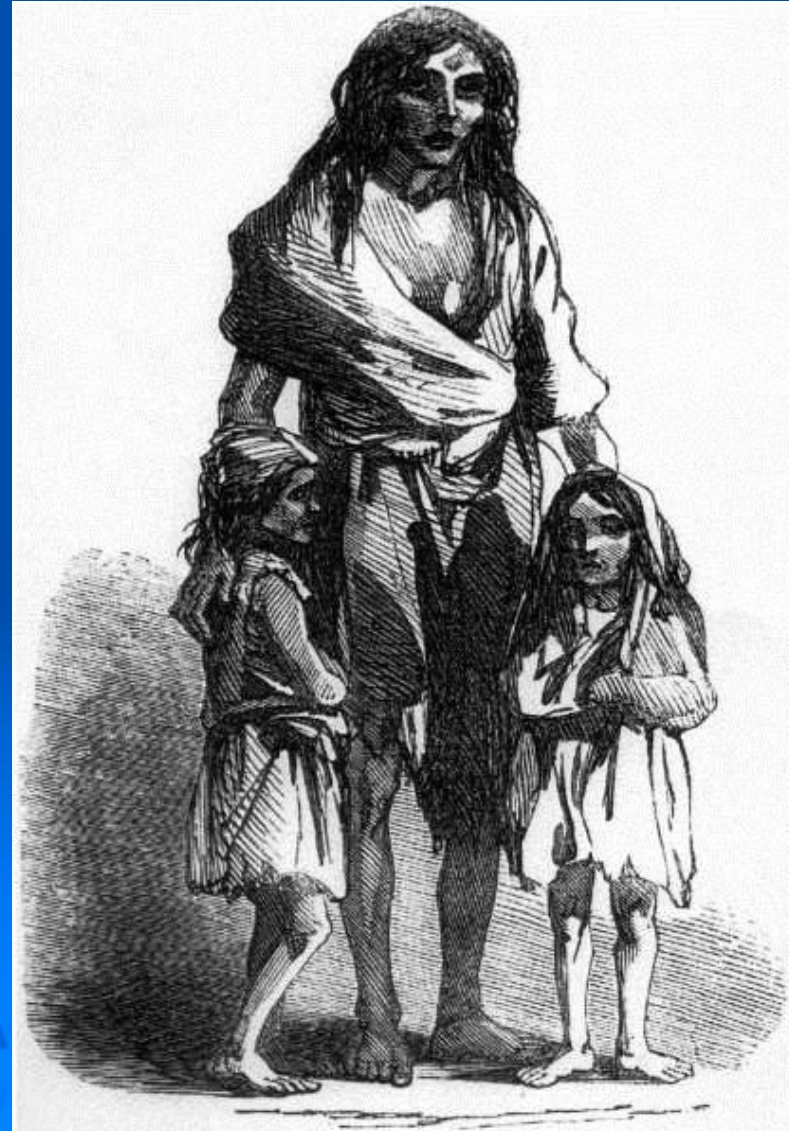


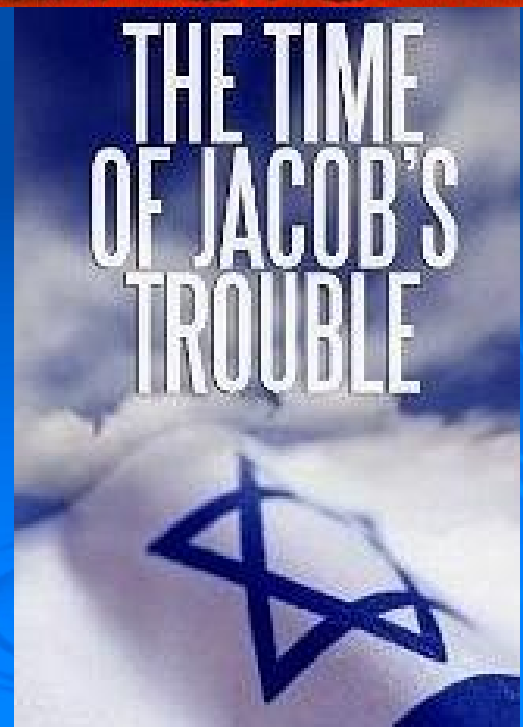
FAMINE IN SAMARIA

- Samaria in northern Israel
- People reduced to eating unclean animals and using non-nutritional food stretchers called “dove’s dung”
- The story of Hebrew mothers killing and eating their own children is true
- The Northern Kingdom has reached the point of abomination in God’s eyes
- The slide will continue until God ejects them from their land

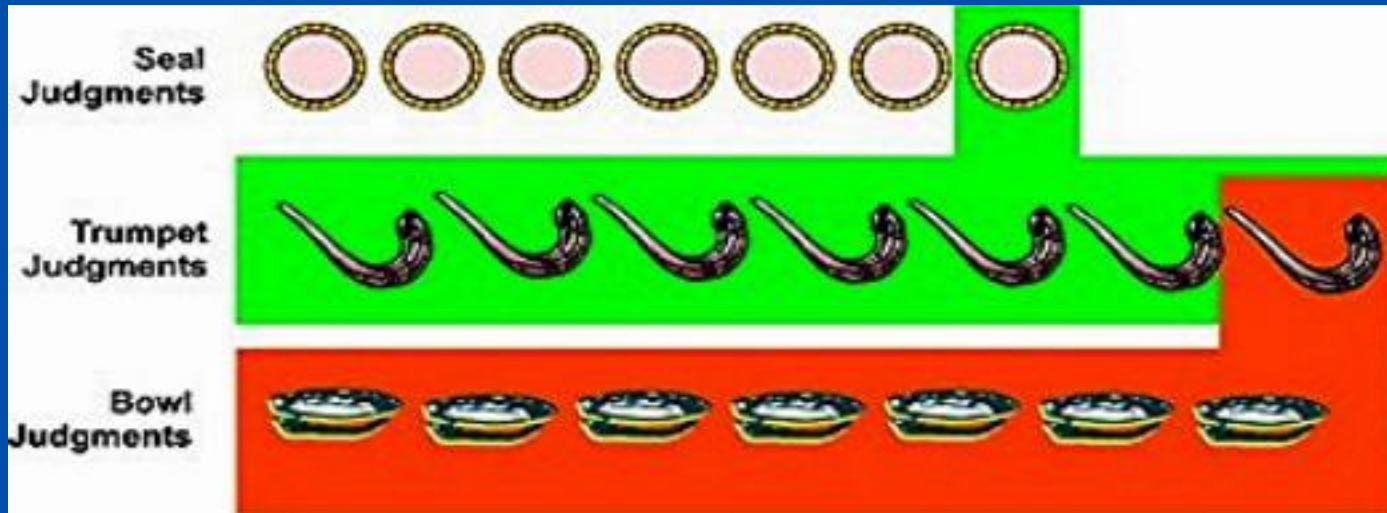


SAMARIA SIEGE LIKE TRIBULATION

- God did not CAUSE the siege of Samaria, but He lifted His hand of protection & blessing
- Great Tribulation = The Time of Jacob's Trouble
- The Time of Jacob's Trouble = The Time of Israel's Trouble
- *Thlipsis* = Greek for pressure or oppression "tribulation"
- NOT supernatural, but the solution will be supernatural



HEAVEN-SENT WRATH



- 21 specific acts of divine supernatural judgment
- Tribulation is humanly caused
- God's wrath is supernaturally caused
- Believers become a target
- Men's evil runs rampant throughout the world
- Satan and God still influencing the Tribulation Period

THE DEVIL'S BARGAIN



- King *Y'horam* confronted by woman seeking justice
- Made a bargain with another Hebrew mother to kill and cook their children
- Jehoram fell into despair but also anger and sought to blame Elisha
- Sent an assassin to kill Elisha

THE KING CHANGES HIS MIND



- Elisha inside Samaria with elders
- Elisha had the gift of second sight so he knew of the plot
- Jehoram stops the assassin and speaks to Elisha
- King says it is useless to pray because God has cursed him and his people, so there is no hope

2ND KINGS CHAPTER 7: THE SIEGE IS LIFTED

- Unfortunate place for Bible scholars to choose to end chapter 6 and begin chapter 7
- Conversation between Jehoram and Elisha is merely continuing
- ***Shema dabbar YHWH***
- ***Shema*** = hear and obey
- Elisha said food would be plentiful within 24 hours!
- King's servant scoffed at the Word of God and Elisha cursed him for blasphemy
- Elisha said the servant would see the blessing but not live to enjoy it



WEAK FAITH = INDECISION



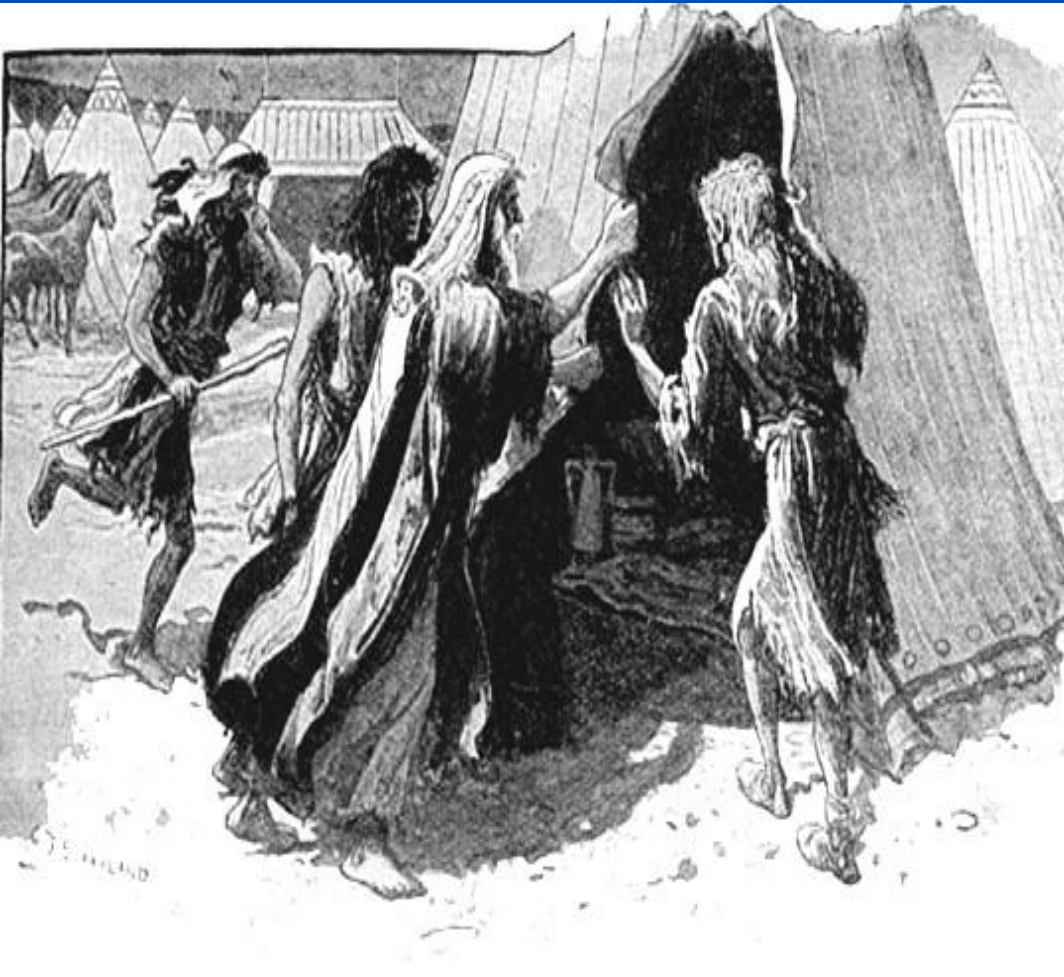
- We tend to rationalize or discount God's promises
- The greater the promise, the harder time we have believing God's Word
- God gave Jehoram and his servant a way back to him, but they refused
- Because so many don't believe in miracles, they may see them, but won't get to join in the Lord's bounty that comes from them

OUTSIDE THE CAMP

- ***Metsora*** = someone who has ***tzara'at***
- Hebrew sages say it was ***Geichazi*** and his 3 sons
- Lev.13:45 – 46
- ***Metsora*** had to stay outside the walls of a walled city
- The 4 ***metsorim*** decided that they would go to the Syrian encampment and ask mercy



SOLDIERS OF ARAM FLEE IN FEAR



- Aramean soldiers thought they heard the sound of horses and chariots
- Vs. 6 says that the Lord did this
- Elisha deceived the enemy, and now God does the same
- NT “Love your enemies” does not extend to giving away secrets and helping your enemy to victory in battle by being truthful

METSORIM REPORT THEIR FIND TO KING Y'HORAM

- *Metsorim* loot the camp
- This was not stealing
- But they felt guilty and reported it to King Jehoram
- The King didn't believe that Aram had actually left
- His heart was too hard to believe God's Word that he had been told only hours earlier



THE UNBELIEVING SERVANT DIES IN THE STAMPEDE FOR FOOD



- The starving people pushed and shoved to be first to get to the abandoned Syrian camp
- In the stampede the servant who scoffed at Elisha's oracle died exactly as foretold
- Irony: he was killed by the exact thing that he denied was possible