

# 2 Kings 7:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the king arose in the night, and said unto his servants, I will now shew you what the Syrians have done to us. They know that we be hungry; therefore are they gone out of the camp to hide themselves in the field, saying, When they come out of the city, we shall catch them alive, and get into the city.

## Analysis

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**And the king arose in the night, and said unto his servants, I will now shew you what the Syrians have done to us. They know that we be hungry; therefore are they gone out of the camp to hide themselves in the field, saying, When they come out of the city, we shall catch them alive, and get into the city.**

This verse contributes to the overall theme of chapter 7: God's supernatural deliverance and human unbelief judged. The reference to kingship reminds readers that all human authority is subordinate to God's ultimate kingship. The prophetic ministry served as God's primary means of covenant enforcement, calling both kings and people to faithfulness. During this period, Israel and Judah struggled with persistent idolatry, particularly Baal worship introduced under Ahab and Jezebel.

The narrative demonstrates God's justice in judging covenant unfaithfulness while maintaining His ultimate purposes for redemption.

## Historical Context

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**Historical Setting:** 2 Kings 7 takes place during the Elisha prophetic ministry, approximately 850-800 BCE. The chapter's theme (Deliverance from Famine) reflects the historical reality of God's compassionate provision through prophetic miracles while both kingdoms struggled with persistent idolatry. Archaeological evidence from this period includes royal inscriptions, administrative documents, and material culture that corroborate the biblical account while providing additional context for understanding the political and social dynamics at work.

## Related Passages

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**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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1. How does this verse contribute to understanding the theological message of 2 Kings 7 regarding God's supernatural deliverance and human unbelief?
2. What does this passage reveal about God's character, particularly His justice, mercy, and faithfulness to covenant promises?
3. In what practical ways should this text shape contemporary Christian thinking about faithfulness, worship, and obedience to God?

## Interlinear Text

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וַיָּקָם      הַמֶּלֶךְ      לַיְלָה      וַיֹּאמֶר      אֵל      עֲבָדָיו  
arose      And the king      in the night      and said      H413      unto his servants  
H6965      H4428      H3915      H559           H5650

לִּנְוֵם      עָשׂוּ      אֲשֶׁר      יָאֵת      לְכֶם      בְּאֵינִי  
I will now shew      H4994      H0      H853      H834      have done      H0  
H5046                     H6213

אֲכֹמ      יָדְעוּ      כִּי      רָעֵב יִמְנוּ      אֲנִי  
you what the Syrians      to us They know      H3588      that we be hungry      H587  
H758      H3045           H7457

וַיֵּצְאוּ      מִן      הַמַּחֲנֶה      לְהִסְתֵּר      בַּהֲשָׁדָה  
When they come out      H4480      of the camp      to hide      themselves in the field  
H3318           H4264      H2247      H7704

וַיֹּאמֶר      כִּי      יֵצְאוּ      מִן      הָעִיר      וְנִתְפָּשׁוּ      חַיִּים  
and said      H3588      When they come out      H4480      into the city      we shall catch      them alive  
H559           H3318           H5892      H8610      H2416

וְאֵל      הָעִיר      וְנָבֵא:  
H413      into the city      and get  
H5892      H935