

[Tell a story](#)
Haftarah Metzarah
II Kings 7:3-7:20
By Julie Zhuk
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The story takes place in Samaria which was part of the Northern Kingdom of Israel.

There was a famine that was pretty horrific, the people were at the point of eating each other. King Ben-Hadad of Aram was surrounded there. For all the horrible things that were happening there, King Jehoram of Israel was ready to kill the prophet, Elijah.

King Jehoram believed that Elijah could have prayed to G-d that way there would have been no famine to begin with. Elijah strongly believed in G-d and said to King Jehoram that the next day there would be flour again. There was a catch though, this fine flour would cost one shekel and the barley that was coming would cost about two shekels.

There was an officer guarding the area of the king's palace who didn't believe that this could happen. They made a joke about G-d making windows in the sky and that is how the flour or barley would appear in front of the people again.

Elijah responded to this comment, that tomorrow when the flour would come, so they would see it with their own eyes. Again, there was a catch, they would not be able to eat it. At the time there were four men who were isolating outside of the city because they had the disease of leprosy. They were victims of the famine and had nowhere to turn for food.

They entered the encampment and tried begging for food. Where they were there wasn't any food, it was a deserted camp. All of the people living in that camp left thinking there was going to be another battle between the Aramean camp and the Hittites. G-d had caused the Aramean camp to hear the sounds of chariots, horses, and a great army.

These people said to one another, the King of Israel has hired against us the kings of the Hittites and the kings of the Egyptians to attack us. They left their tents, horses, donkeys, and provisions. These four men who were isolating themselves due to leprosy, went to the city thinking that an ambush had been planned by their enemy.

The king decided to send messengers of the miracle which happened. People started leaving the city and looted the enemy camp. This helped break the famine and it fulfilled Elijah's prophecy. That officer who didn't believe in G-d performing miracles, was in charge of the city gates. There were so many people coming and going that the officer got trampled to death only after he saw the fulfillment of Elijah's prophecy.