

**Tell a story**  
**Haftara Metzora**  
**by Julie Zhuk on 2024-04-20**

This week's Haftara can be found in the second book of Kings, which is just a continuation of the book of Kings. It discusses four men who got sick from the disease of leprosy. Back in those biblical days this was a skin disease that was a skin ailment that was caused because of sins people did. There was a king named Ben-Hadad besieged Samaria which was known as the Northern Kingdom of Israel. This resulted in a famine for a lot of people, and it led to cannibalism. At the same time, King Jehoram of Israel wanted to have Elisha the prophet executed. The reason for this is Elisha's prayers could have prevented this entire tragedy from happening in the first place. Elisha reassured the king, "So G-d said at this time, there will be a certain amount of flour that will for a shekel and two shekels. The barley will sell for one shekel in the gate of Samaria." One of the king's officer laughed when hearing this bit of news of how all of this would sell the following day. He didn't believe what Elisha was saying what G-d told Elisha how it would sell. The officer made a joke and asked, "Behold if G-d makes windows in the sky, will this thing come about it?" To that Elisha responded, "Behold you will see with your own eyes that you will not eat from it."

There are four men that were suffering from the leprosy disease and they were sitting outside the city. They were in quarantine and going hungry and victims of the famine. They tried to approach the enemy camp to beg for some food. They arrived there and found out there was no one there. The reason for this was G-d had caused the "Aramean camp to hear the sound of chariots, and the sound of horses, and the sound of a great army as well. These people said to one another, Behold the king of Israel has hired us against the king of the Hittites and the kings of Egyptians to come after us. It was because of this that the entire army ran away and they left all of their belongings behind. These four men who were suffering from leprosy went to the city and reported what they had found to the gatekeepers. They told King Jehoram, originally they thought it was going to be an ambush that was planned by the enemy the king sent messengers.

Instead, it was a miracle, the people started swarming out of the city and were looting the enemy camp. They were breaking the famine and fulfilling Elisha's prophecy. The last thing that the Haftara focuses on is what happened to that King's officer. Well, he was placed in charge of the city's gates, and he ended up being trampled to death by the rampaging crowds of people. This happened after seeing the fulfillment of the prophet's words.