

Fact Sheet for **“God’s Word, Inerrant and Infallible”**
2 Kings 6:24-7:20

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Everything we buy that is the least little bit complicated comes with an owner’s manual. Have you ever bought something, set the owner’s manual aside unread, then tried to wing-it? There were times when I put something together incorrectly, had trouble installing it, or was stumbling around trying to figure out how it worked. So... I went back to the owner’s manual, like I should have done at first. The Bible is, in a sense, God’s owner’s manual for our lives.

It doesn’t just speak to our worship, ministry, and theology. It touches our values, ethics, morality, and relationships. It tempers our goals and aspirations. It reaches into our employment, families, recreation time, what we watch or listen to, and even our physical health. And it’s value as God’s owner’s manual for our lives hinges on two things. Is it true? And second, am I willing to follow it?

We’ve been building a base for our proper response to the LGBTQ push in our society. We began with the Character of God: He is light, and in Him is no darkness at all. Then we considered the character of people. We all have been profoundly corrupted by the sin nature. Last week we looked at God’s moment by moment help for the Christian, the indwelling Holy Spirit. Today we’re going to be focusing on the reliability of God’s owner’s manual, the Bible. It is inerrant and infallible.

The word “inerrant” means that God’s complete thought towards man was recorded without error in the words of the Bible. The word “infallible” means that the Bible is incapable of teaching what is false. Now, I could appeal to passages like Matthew 5:18 or 2 Peter 1:19-21, but I’m going to go somewhere else.

In the past two days I have been the Bible teacher at the Annual Convention for the Gideons of Oregon and Southwest Idaho. We reviewed five wonderful prophetic passages, all of which have come true exactly as they were given. I began with something that was fulfilled in 24 hours, when Samaria was surrounded by the Syrian army. Then I went to Jeremiah’s prophecy that the Babylonian Captivity would last 70 years. The third prophecy was Isaiah’s prediction that Cyrus would command the rebuilding of the temple some 200 years in the future. The fourth prophecy was given with Jeroboam about King Josiah who would live over 300 years in the future. We finished with Joshua’s curse on the one who would rebuild Jericho. This was exactly fulfilled 540 years later. I asked this question for each of these five. **If** God was **not** the author of this prophecy... **if** the person was just guessing on the basis of his own human intuition, what is the probability that he would get it exactly right? I let them suggest the probability for each of these five, then calculated from their figures the probability that all five would have come true. I’ll give you the result later.

This morning we are only going to look at the first of these, one that was exactly fulfilled in 24 hours (2 Kings 6:24-7:20). Can you imagine how our lives would change if we knew specifically what would happen 24 hours in the future? It would shut down the Oregon lottery. But of course, knowing the specifics of the future is humanly impossible.

The king of Syria brought his entire army and besieged Samaria. The Syrians surrounded the city and let no one leave or enter.

Read 2 Kings 6:25

A donkey was off the Jewish dinner menu (Leviticus 11:3; Deuteronomy 14:6). But a donkey’s head was sold for about two pounds of silver. Dove’s dung is not what it sounds like. They are seed pods that are normally considered animal fodder. A kab is about a quart. So a fourth of a kab is about a cup. This was sold for about two ounces of silver. Given a day’s wage at this time these amounts were absolutely huge.

Now Joram, the king of Israel, was passing by on the wall and a woman cried out to him

Read 2 Kings 6:28

Joram was horrified. But rather than accepting the real cause of God's discipline, his own apostasy, Joram blamed Elisha. The king quickly dispatched a messenger to seize and behead Elisha.

Read 2 Kings 6:32-7:1

Elisha predicted that 24 hours later a seah of flour, about seven quarts, would be sold for a single shekel. About 3½ gallons of barley would also go for the same price. The famine would be over!

Read the captain's response in 2 Kings 7:2. Here Elisha predicted several very specific things. First, that food would be plentiful in just 24 hours. Second, the exact cost of both the flour and the barley. And third, that the captain would see it but not eat any of it. These would have seemed ridiculous to the captain, but God was in charge!

Now there were four lepers at the gate, and they began reasoning. If we go into Samaria we will die of famine. If we just sit here we will die. If we go over to the Syrians they can only kill us... *but they may not.* Pretty good reasoning!

Read 2 Kings 7:5-7

These four fellows had a feast. Besides that they carried off gold, silver, and clothing. Then their wits chimed in.

Read 2 Kings 7:9

They came back and told the gatekeepers of Samaria about what they had found. The gatekeepers informed Joram. The king thought, "It's a trap!" So a scouting party was sent out.

Read 2 Kings 7:15

You can imagine the mad rush of the starving people going out of the city gate when that scouting party returned with the news!

Read 2 Kings 7:16-17

This is one of the many passages which speak loudly that the Word of God is both inerrant and infallible.

***If God was **not** the author of this prophecy...
if Elisha was just guessing on the basis of his own human intuition,
what is the probability that he would get it exactly right?***

The Gideons suggested a probability for this prophecy, as well as the other four. Here is a number that is **smaller** than what they came up with... 2 raised to the 100th power... one in... **1,267,650,600,228,229,401,496,703,205,376.**

Take a sheet of typewriter paper (0.1mm.). Cut the sheet in half, and stack the pieces together. Turn the pile 90 degrees, cut it in half again, and stack the cut pieces again. Keep doing this until you've cut and stacked the sheet 100 times.

How high will the stack be? 13.4 billion light-years! Then mark one piece and have a blind man choose the right piece on the first try. This is less of a probability that these five prophecies all were fulfilled exactly if it were only by chance.

The Bible is the inerrant and infallible manual for our lives!