II Kings 7 (From the Messianic Hour Radio Series)

By Charles Feinberg

Charles Feinberg:

The messianic Hour is on the air. Oh Israel, here the word of the Lord.

[Musical interlude 00:07-00:40]

A hearty welcome. Friends on the broadcast of the messianic hour under the direction of Dr. Charles Lee Feinberg professor of Old Testament at Talbot Theological Seminary. This program aims to foster love for God's ancient people Israel and to spread the truth of salvation in the Messiah for blessing and inspiration. Stay tuned for the next half hour.

[Musical interlude 01:15-02:12]

Friends we're told that a bird can go nine days without food a dog 20 days a turtle 500 Days a snake eight hundred days a fish 1000 days and some insects 12000 days for a man however two weeks is about the limit. Sooner or later nourishment is necessary for all of God's creatures. Dr. Robert G. Lee says there are some turtle Christians who go 500 days without much
real Bible meat. And even a few fish Christians who go 1000 days without eating much of the honey and spiritual bread of the Bible. Have you ever noticed that we're not asked to read the Word of God? Rather we are urged to study it meditate upon it and compare spiritual things with spiritual. In other words, the Bible is too holy it's too sacred to toy with. God wants us to put in some real consecrated effort when we approach the scriptures for in this way we will more readily assimilate its sweet nourishment and good doctrine.

[Musical interlude 03:28-05:21]

The most common article of food in the world known to every people tribe and nation is bread it's called the staff of life so essential is bread that the word is often used to denote all kinds of necessary food. It's one of the articles of nourishment, which knows no geographic or national limitation. People in the north eat different food from that of Southerners and vice versa. Europeans eat differently than Americans. The Chinese diet differs greatly from that partaken by African tribes but they all eat bread. While it may be made of different ingredients, it's all called by the same name. Bread is made of wheat corn rye soy oats potatoes rice acorns peas certain roots beans grass and even the bark of trees. But it is all bread. Jesus said I am the Bread of Life. In other words, he is the universal spiritual nourishment for all men. The staff of eternal life how bread is made of various materials. It's always the result of a death and resurrection. Our Lord Jesus said except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die it abideth alone. Bread is made from the fruit of seed, which die to produce the needed materials. These ingredients too must be
ground and then pass through a baking process. Our Lord Jesus the bread of life had to die in order to become our savior. And he had to arise to give us life.

[Music interlude 07:07-08:15]

Friends it is not important what I say or what you say but what saith the scripture. Here the Old Testament prophecy in Isaiah 53:1. Who hath believed our report and to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed. Now here's the New Testament fulfillment in the Messiah in John's Gospel the twelfth chapter verse 37 and 38. But though he had done so many miracles before them, yet they believed not on him. But the saying of Ahijah the prophet might be fulfilled which he spake Lord who hath believed our report to whom hath the arm of the Lord been revealed.

[Music interlude 08:58-09:14]

Our Gracious God and our father thou God of Abraham and of Isaac and of Jacob. How we thank thee that in thy precious word Thou hast told us that in proportion to faith shall be the mighty working and the manifestation of thy power in our lives. If there be little faith. There will be little of thy working. If there is more faith. There will be more of the operation of thy power. If there is much faith there is much of the demonstration of the spirit and the power and oh how we pray that we may not be as those. Spoken of by Isaiah. Who believe not the report who turned away who were indifferent who were opposed who were unbelieving. Who could not be
Feinberg: II Kings 7 (From the Messianic Hour Radio Series)

convinced. Lord may we not be of obdurate heart may we allow the message to come and speak its own word and be received through the testimony and the conviction and persuasion of the Spirit of God. Bless Jewish hearts who listen in this hour. To that end we pray in Jesus’ name amen.

[Musical interlude 10:30-10:45]

Wise indeed is that Christian who avails himself of those warming influences provided by God himself specifically Bible study prayer and the assembling together with those of like precious faith. What a blessing is afforded to those who meet regularly with other believers for fellowship and worship. Much of the spiritual coldness we see around about us today is because folk neglect this sacred duty, which has been especially ordained by God himself for the benefit of those who are chilled in their soul by the adverse winds of this hostile world throughout the week. The author of Hebrews admonishes us not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together as the manner of some is but rather to exhort one another more and more as we see the day of Christ's return. Approaching.

[Musical interlude 11:44-12:41]

Friends I want to think with you today on the theme telling the good news as we have it in second King's verse throughout the seventh chapter the verses found in the seventh chapter of
Second Kings telling the good news the historical books of the Old Testament are often neglected as just so much dry uninteresting and unimportant History. This shows a failure to discern the hand of God in the history of his people and shows a lack of insight into the deeper realms of the word of God. The Gospel of God's grace is seen by way of picture symbol and prediction. There is an account in Second Kings where we have the gospel of God's grace told forth and our duty toward it when once we know it. The narrative begins in second King 6 where we learn that Ben-Hadad King of Syria gathered a great army and besiege the capitol city of Samarian. A great famine befell Samaria so that the vilest food was sold for exorbitant prices. Worse yet mothers driven mad by hunger were boiling their children and eating them. Finally, the king Jehoram of Israel in desperation decided to take vengeance on Elisha the Prophet. For the distress of his people as the messenger reached Elisha, he foretold that there would be an abundance of provisions for all.

On the morrow, the prophet Elisha foretold that. When the messenger heard the word, he scoffed at Elisha and expressed his unbelief. He heard the pronouncement that he would see it with his eyes but would not eat of the provision. The account continues. Now there were four leprous men at the entrance of the gate and they said one to another why sit we here until we die. If we say we will enter into the city then the famine is in the city and we shall die there. And if we sit still here, we die also. Now therefore come let us fall under the host of the Syrians. If they save us alive, we shall live and if they kill us, we shall die. And they rose up in the twilight to go into the camp of the Syrians and when they were come to the outermost part of the camp of the Syrians behold there was no man there for the Lord had made the host of the Syrians to hear a noise of chariots and the noise of horses. Even the noise of a great host. And they said one to another. Lo, the king of Israel had hard against us the kings of the Hittites and the kings of the
Egyptians to come upon us. Wherefore they arose and fled in the twilight and left their tents, their horses, and their asses. Even the camp as it was and fled for their life. And when these lepers came to the outermost part of the camp they went into one tent and did eat and drink and carried thence silver and gold and silver and went and hid it and they came back and entered into another tent and counting thence also and went and hid it. And they said one to another we do not well. This day is a day of good tidings and we hold our peace if we tarry until the morning light punishment will overtake us. Now therefore come let us go and tell the king's household the chapter before us vividly describes first of all the plight of the people.

The hour was most dark and perilous for God's people. The Syrians of the North had been able to muster a formidable host against Samaria. The country roundabout had been plundered you may be sure. The city had been blockaded for months. The provisions were gone. There seemed no earthly possibility of getting others. Jehoram the King knew of no ally no Confederate to whom he could turn for help in the hour of his desperation. As we saw parents were eating their children because of scarcity of food and the worst food cost more than its weight in silver. The morale of the people in the northern kingdom was low. It was at the breaking point. The King. King Jehoram was deeply distressed and most bitter in his spirit. He came to the place where he openly renounced the God of Israel. He as much has said this is of the Lord's doing God's done this. Why need we wait for the Lord he's brought us into this difficult place. It doesn't appear as if he's going to get us out of it. It's difficult to see friends how the situation on the physical plane could have been much worse. But such is a picture on the physical scale of the plight of the sinner on a spiritual plane. He's without life. He's dead. He's without strength. He's ungodly. He's alienated from the life of God. He's in unrest driven on and impelled by Satan far from the father's home of light and love and shelter hungry he's thirsty he's lost.
When will men get to the place where they realize and admit and acknowledge their full plight under the curse and under condemnation whether they realize it or not. It's tragically real and ever present Mark Guy Pearce a noted preacher of England once told of visiting the guild of brave poor things where he found a cheerful meeting of sufferers whose crutches against the wall told their own sad story and as he went outside he saw poor little girl weeping bitterly. What's the matter Mr. Pierce asked. Oh sobbed the little girl. I can't go in. I ain't got nothing the matter with me. Well that's certainly not true of any sinner. All of us have something basically wrong with us constitutionally unalterably wrong with us. Before we come to know and experience the grace of God. we've sinned and come short of the glory of God in the next place the record gives us clearly the provision of God not only the plight and predicament of the people but the provision of God. The people were in dire distressing need although they didn't deserve it. Because wasn't Samarian known for its idolatrous worship.

Though they didn't merit it God promised them relief and in abundant measure and the word of Elijah did you remember exactly met their need. It was supported by the power and the authority of God himself we grant you it didn't appear likely but God could fulfill his word to the very letter. You see God has more than one way of bringing about victory. He has a multiplicity of ways he can do the job he can bring about victory through a Jonathan and his armour bearer. On one occasion he can do it by smiling the host in the camp as it did with the Assyrians on another occasion. He can do it by causing one soldier to destroy a fellow soldier at his side. He can do it by causing the wicked to flee when no man pursues as here he can do it. But the important thing is he needs no help from us in planning and arranging and providing his provision. Deliverance in Elijah's day was wrought without any effort, exertion, or endeavor on their part and the salvation of the human soul. When will men learn it it was wrought out by
God, without the help of man at Calvary without the ultimate need of human works or endeavor. The provision issues from the heart of God.

He was right who said when speaking of our salvation God thought it Christ bought it the Holy Spirit wrought it and thank God I've got it. The people of Israel are not called upon to do a thing. They were but to partake of what was already provided. Finally, the scripture tells us of the proclamation of the news the plight of the people. Yes the provision of God. True but the proclamation of the news now this is often so difficult of accomplishment because it depends on the willing heart of the one who knows the news. But this is where the emphasis in the story lies on the proclamation of the news here. God used instruments that were seemingly the most unlikely lepers. What could you expect from them? They were even shut out of the regular congregation of Israel they were shunned from normal society. You mean God is going to use them. Paul tells the Corinthians that God uses the things that are not to confound the things that are. Let's remember that we have this treasure in earthen vessels that the excellency of the power may be of God and not of us. They were like those who first discover the unsearchable riches of Christ. Notice how they went into one tent and hid what they found and then another and then another another they couldn't get enough. They heaped up all they could.

My dear friends though, there's no room for monopoly and good news good news has to be passed on. But we have so many excuses for keeping silent. We claim we're shy. Well that's not true in other matters. Nobody would suspect us of being shy. We plead we're too busy we're never too busy to do what we like. We vow we're not able to do it. Well if that's true it's because we never try to practice it. How many are there who have never told a lost soul in Israel or anywhere else about Christ. It all comes down to the basic reason laziness. There are some professing Christians who never do anything for their savior that great scientist Lord Rayleigh
discovered a new element. But although he made many experiments, he couldn't find that it served any useful purpose at all. So he called it by a vivid Greek name Argon. a r g o n which means doing nothing useless. I'm afraid friends there are too many argon Christians made such by their laziness. But that silence needs to be analyzed further. First of all it's cruelty of the worst sort. Think of those lepers feeding to the full gorging themselves having more than they needed and allowing those people in Samaria to go on eating their children and to go insane from hunger. We should say that with the most brutal unfeeling barbarous men what of us men are in desperate need of Christ. In Israel and round the world yet there's no word brought them of the deliverance provided. Many are perishing for lack of knowledge. Secondly, it is selfish beyond words. It's news that belongs to everyone as we've said. Yet we monopolize it without warrant or right or authority.

There was a great ocean liner struck and began to sink a mother with her two daughters was aboard in the confusion of the few moments before the final leap. She became separated from her children but she thought they were all right. She herself was rescued in a lifeboat but her two children she found were lost. When she reached Liverpool in England she cabled to her husband in America three sad words saved but alone too many believers are going to reach heaven save but alone how selfish it is when intentional. Thirdly, there is danger in not telling the news. If a man sees his brother in need and aids him not the scripture tells us how does the love of God dwell in such a person to continue in silence regarding the good news tends to make us calloused Hardened, less sensitive to the need of souls and the love of Christ for them. The lepers said and rightly so some punishment will find us if we keep silent. The Chastening hand of God will be upon us also if we resist his command to tell the news.
When Carey, William Carey the great missionary to India first presented the need of the heathen to a group of ministers mind you in Northampton. One minister sprang to his feet and said Young man sit down. When God pleases to convert the heathen, he'll do it without your help or mine. Oh how out of sympathy this is with a loving heart of Christ believing friend let's not monopolize the gospel. It belongs to every Jew and Gentile as well as to us. It's true that he withholdeth grain. The people shall curse him, proverbs 11 26. How much more true is this of the one withholding the Gospel. You remember the hymn shall we. Whose souls are lighted by wisdom from on high. Shall we the souls be knighted the lamp of life deny. listening friend out of Christ. Learn from that Captain of King Jehoram that it's folly and peril to disbelieve God. He expressed unbelief not only in the words of Elijah but in the power of God he spoke in contempt of the power of God. He said even if the Lord would open windows in Heaven is it at all likely that such a thing as this would or could happen

It's dangerous to limit the power of God. He probably was referring to the flood of Noah as well as the miracle of mana. He sneered at past miracles and predicted ones as well. His end is like that of all the ungodly to see the fulfillment of the promises of God for mercy but not to enjoy it because of unbelief. Believe friend be saved. Be safe. Our Father in heaven. We pray that through the message and music instrumental and vocal through the message of this great portion Second Kings seven Jewish hearts will be drawn on to see the way of prevision from the predicament and that they also must go forth and proclaim the news in the proper succession as do all who have responsibility through thy blessed words do it. We pray in Jesus name amen.

[musical interlude 25:58-26:46]
Friends since the beginning the inception of the messianic hour which is in its 20th year the dedicated purpose and the declared vision have been to reach our Jewish friends with a truth concerning God’s Son. The Lord Jesus Christ the purpose is the same as from the beginning. We found radio a most advantageous tool to reach those who would not otherwise attend any gospel service whatever. Radio is one of the most inexpensive means of touching large areas of any population in order to make possible these broadcasts specifically to maintain their outreach. Our staff members themselves have given generously to carry the heavy load they do need your help. Every gift received without deduction goes directly toward the specific ministry of reaching our Jewish people with the news of the Messiah our savior. We would greatly appreciate your daily remembrance of this work in your prayers. Then as the Lord speaks to your praying heart invest in reaching our Jewish people for Christ our mailing address is the messianic hour post office box 1102 Whittier California 90603. That address again you need only right bottom box 1102 Whittier California 90603. We trust we will hear from many of you would encourage every one of us. Our soloist today was Dave Efland, Tom Leonard at the organ. Now this is Charles Feinberg thanking you for listening for your faithful prayers for your zealous witness on behalf of the lost sheep of the House of Israel. Listen again with your Jewish friends and neighbors next week at the same time for the messianic hour.

[Musical end 28:20-29:47]