

# Elisha - Caring for the Faithful in Need

II Kings 4:1-44

# ELIJAH & ELISHA

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## Introduction:

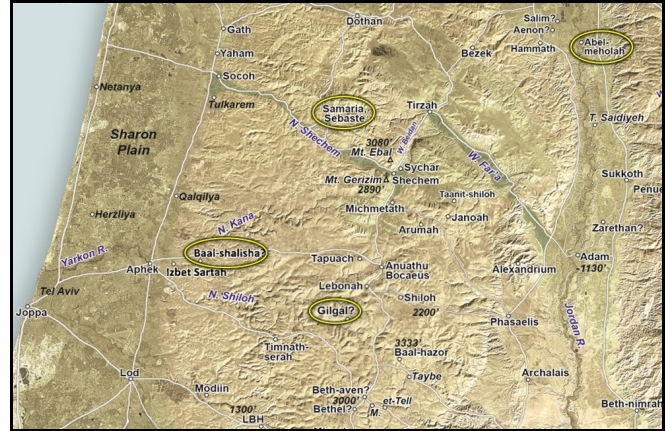
### I. A FAITHFUL BUT POOR MINISTER'S WIFE (vs. 1-7)

#### A. Her Poverty (vs. 1-2)

"a certain woman of the wives of the sons of the prophets cried out to Elisha"

"Your servant my husband is dead, and you know that your servant feared the LORD; and the creditor has come to take my two children to be his slaves."

"what do you have in the house? ...nothing in the house except a jar of oil."



#### B. Elisha's Role (vs. 3-4)

"Go, borrow vessels at large for yourself from all your neighbors, even empty vessels; do not get a few."

"And you shall go in and shut the door behind you and your sons, and pour out into all these vessels, and you shall set aside what is full."

#### C. Her Provision (vs. 5-7)

"So she went from him and shut the door behind her and her sons; they were bringing the vessels to her...."

"When the vessels were full, she said to her son, 'Bring me another vessel.' And he said to her, 'There is not one vessel more.' And the oil stopped."

"Then she came and told the man of God."

"Go, sell the oil and pay your debt, and you and your sons can live on the rest."

### II. A FAITHFUL BUT BARREN WOMAN FROM SHUNEM (vs. 8-37)

#### A. Her Hospitality (vs. 8-17)

"Elisha passed over to Shunem, where there was a prominent woman, and she persuaded him to eat food."

"I perceive that this is a holy man of God"

"a little walled upper chamber...a bed...a table...a chair...a lampstand"

"You have been careful for us with all this care; what can I do for you?"

"I live among my own people."

Gehazi: "She has no son and her husband is old." "At this season next year you will embrace a son.... the woman conceived and bore a son at that season the next year"

#### B. Her Heartache (vs. 18-28)

"When the child was grown, the day came that he went out to his father to the reapers."

“My head, my head.” “Carry him to his mother.”

“He sat on her lap until noon, and then died. She went up and laid him on the bed of the man of God.”

Wife: “Please send me one of the servants and one of the donkeys, that I may run to the man of God and return.”  
Husband: “Why will you go to him today? It is neither new moon nor sabbath.” Wife: “It will be well.”

“ ‘Drive and go forward; do not slow down the pace for me unless I tell you.’ So she went and came to the man of God to Mount Carmel.”

“When she came to the man of God to the hill, she caught hold of his feet. And Gehazi came near to push her away”

“Let her alone, for her soul is troubled within her; and the LORD has hidden it from me and has not told me.”

#### C. Elisha's Role (vs. 29-35)

“Gird up your loins and take my staff in your hand, and go your way; if you meet any man, do not salute him, and if anyone salutes you, do not answer him; and lay my staff on the lad's face.”

“As the LORD lives and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.”

“Gehazi passed on before them and laid the staff on the lad's face, but there was no sound or response.”

“When Elisha came into the house, behold the lad was dead and laid on his bed.... He entered and shut the door behind them both and prayed to the LORD”

“He went up and lay on the child, and put his mouth on his mouth and his eyes on his eyes and his hands on his hands, and he stretched himself on him; and the flesh of the child became warm.”

#### D. Her Happiness (vs. 36-37)

“He returned and walked in the house once back and forth, and went up and stretched himself on him; and the lad sneezed seven times and the lad opened his eyes.”

“ ‘Take up your son.’ Then she went in and fell at his feet and bowed herself to the ground....”

### III. SOME FAITHFUL BUT NEEDY STUDENTS (vs. 38-44)

#### A. A Poisonous Pot of Stew (vs. 38-41)

“Elisha returned to Gilgal, there was a famine in the land.”

“As the sons of the prophets were sitting before him, he said to his servant, ‘Put on the large pot and boil stew for the sons of the prophets.’ ”

“gather herbs...a wild vine...wild gourds...sliced them into the pot...they did not know what they were”

“ ‘O man of God, there is death in the pot.’ And they were unable to eat.”

“ ‘Now bring meal.’ He threw it into the pot...then there was no harm in the pot.”

#### B. A Plentiful Provision of Sustenance (vs. 42-44)

“a man came from Baal-shalishah, and brought the man of God bread of the first fruits”

“twenty loaves of barley and fresh ears of grain in his sack”

“Will I set this before a hundred men?”

“thus says the LORD, ‘They shall eat and have some left over.’ ”

“they ate and had some left over, according to the word of the LORD”

#### Conclusion: