

BLESSING IN SHUNEM. 2 KN. 4:8-17. 08/13/23. #07.

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\*Now it happened one day that Elisha went to Shunem, where there was a notable woman, and she persuaded him to eat some food. So it was, as often as he passed by, he would turn in there to eat some food. <sup>9</sup>And she said to her husband, "Look now, I know that this is a holy man of God, who passes by us regularly. <sup>10</sup>Please, let us make a small upper room on the wall; and let us put a bed for him there, and a table and a chair and a lampstand; so it will be, whenever he comes to us, he can turn in there." <sup>11</sup>And it happened one day that he came there, and he turned in to the upper room and lay down there. <sup>12</sup>Then he said to Gehazi his servant, "Call this Shunammite woman." When he had called her, she stood before him. <sup>13</sup>And he said to him, "Say now to her, 'Look, you have been concerned for us with all this care. What can I do for you? Do you want me to speak on your behalf to the king or to the commander of the army?'" She answered, "I dwell among my own people." <sup>14</sup>So he said, "What then is to be done for her?" And Gehazi answered, "Actually, she has no son, and her husband is old." <sup>15</sup>So he said, "Call her." When he had called her, she stood in the doorway. <sup>16</sup>Then he said, "About this time next year you shall embrace a son." And she said, "No, my lord. Man of God, do not lie to your maidservant!" <sup>17</sup>But the woman conceived, and bore a son when the appointed time had come, of which Elisha had told her.  
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1. A notable woman

- a. Elisha made his home in Mt. Carmel
 - a1. He traveled throughout Israel, serving God
 - a2. Elisha lived by grace with those people whom he helped giving him donations
- b. A godly Shunammite woman noted the passing of Elisha through her village
 - a1. She convinced Elisha to enter her house to eat & then invited him to do so whenever he came by her house
 - a2. So, every time Elisha came through Shunem, he would stop by her house for a meal
- c. The Sunammite woman showed many godly traits:
 - a1. She cared about the care of God's servant
 - a2. She observed the ministry of Elisha
 - a3. She wanted to contribute to the ministry
 - a4. She sought to ease the prophet's load
 - a5. She thought of ways to help Elisha
 - a6. She sought nothing for herself
 - a7. She counted it a privilege to help Elisha
 - a8. She sought ways to expand her aid
 - a9. She wanted to be used of God for His glory

2. A room for a prophet

- a. The Sh. was not content with feeding the prophet
 - a1. She wanted him to have a place of his own to stop on his journey to rest & refresh
 - a2. She convinced her husband to build a room on the wall of the roof for Elisha to stay when he was traveling through Shunem
- b. At their own cost they maintained a room for the prophet to ease his burden (a private inn for him)
- c. While the prophet stayed there, she fed him as well

3. The prophet's gift

- a. Elisha called the Sh. to him
 - a1. He wanted to know what he could do for her as a thank you for her kindness to him
 - a2. Elisha offers to talk to the king or general of the army on her behalf
- b. The Shun. woman said that she didn't need anything
 - a1. She served Elisha to honor the Lord
 - a2. She did not expect Elisha to do anything for her, nor did she seek any payment
- c. Elisha was determined to repay her kindness
 - a1. This was not a matter of need, but of gratefulness & blessing the one who blessed him
 - a2. El. asked his servant, Gehazi, what could be done for the woman
 - b1. Geh. mentioned that she had no son & that her husband was old
 - b2. So El. calls the woman to him
- d. El. has been given power to grant a repayment
 - a1. As with Sarah & Hannah, the woman is told that she will embrace a son within a year
 - a2. The woman rebukes El.
 - b1. "Don't lie to your maidservant"
 - b2. She knew that her husband was old & they had no children after years of marriage (she had given up hope)
 - a3. She was no Sarah with a covenant blessing
- e. The Shun. did have a son, but would soon be tested
- f. God will in one way or another bless those blessing