

2. We will study our lesson text by the following two outlines.

The first outline is to divide it into two simple parts.

- 2 Kg.4:8-17 Prologue to the story
- 2 Kg.4:18-37 The story

The second outline is to divide the story into three parts (2 Kg.4:18-37)

- 2 Kg.4:18-25 The woman's unwillingness to accept the reality of the death of her only son.
- 2 Kg.4:26-31 Gehazi's willingness to accept the reality of the death of her only son.
- 2 Kg.4:32-37 Elisha's unwillingness to accept the reality of the death of her only son.

3. The Shunammite woman was unwilling to accept the reality of the death of her only son is seen in her use of the word shalom.

Let's take a closer look at the details that led her to declare shalom about the death of her son.

- 2 Kg.4:18-20 Son gets sick and dies at noon.
- 2 Kg.4:21 Son is placed in prophet's bed as if asleep.
- 2 Kg.4:22 She doesn't tell her husband the son is dead but wants to go to Elisha.
- 2 Kg.4:23 She tells her husband shalom (everything will be well).

For this mother, shalom means: "It is well with my faith until I'm told differently by the man of God." or "It isn't over until the prophet tells me it is over!" or "I will be at peace in my soul until I am told by the prophet that there is no longer any hope."

4. Elisha recognized that this woman was very upset.

He sent Gehazi to ask, "Is it well with you (shalom)? Is it well with your husband (shalom)? Is it well with your child (**shalom**)?" (2 Kg.4:25-26)

He saw that her soul (nephesh) was troubled (marar / kal pf) [experiencing bitter distress] (2 Kg.4:27).

Elisha also realized that the Lord had kept this from him: "And the Lord has hidden (alam / hiphil pf) it from me and has not told (nagad / hiphil pf) me." (2 Kg.4:27b)

She expressed what was holding her faith together: "Then she said (amar / kal impf), 'Did I ask (shaal / kal pf) [rhetorical for NO] for a son from my lord? Did I not say (amar / kal pf), 'do not deceive (shalah / hiphil impf) me?'" (2 Kg.4:28)

She was of the opinion that her son was a grace gift from the Lord God of Israel. "He has made His wonders to be remembered; The Lord is gracious and compassionate." (Ps.11:4)

"Behold, children are a gift of the Lord; the fruit of the womb is a reward." (Ps.127:3)

5. Elisha sent Gehazi ahead with his staff and instruction for restoring the dead son to life (2 Kg.4:29-31).

But it didn't work. "When Elisha came into the house, behold the lad was dead (muth / kal ptc) and laid (shalkab / kal ptc) on his bed." (2 Kg.4:32)

- Private (2 Kg.4:33a) Intervention
- Prayed (2 Kg.4:33b) Intercession
- Posture (2 Kg.4:34-36) Interesting
- Praise (2 Kg.4:37) Inspiration (shachath) [bowed] (hishtaphel is Aramaic of hithpael impf)

"Now may the God of peace be with you all. Amen." (Rom.15:33) - SHALOM!