

## SEQUEL TO SHUNAMMITE STORY

You will recall that we divided the life of Elisha into two different studies: pastor-prophet and political-prophet.

We are currently studying a series of 12 lessons on the pastor-prophet life of Elisha. Today' lesson is a Sequel to the Shunammite Story recorded in 2 Kings 4:8-37.

We will examine our lesson text by the following four homiletical points.

- |               |               |                    |
|---------------|---------------|--------------------|
| • Famine      | (2 Kg. 8:1-2) | Directive will     |
| • Foreclosure | (2 Kg. 8:3)   | Distress           |
| • Faithful    | (2 Kg. 8:4-5) | Divine timing      |
| • Finances    | (2 Kg. 8:6)   | Double restoration |

**We will study five aspects of the Sequel to the Shunammite Story as recorded in our lesson text.**

**1. We begin our study by reviewing some of the background of the first Shunammite story recorded in 2 Kings 4:8-37 by the following six points:**

- It began when Elisha was given a standing invitation to eat with this Shunammite family whenever he traveled through Shunem (2 Kg. 4:8).
- Then the Shunammite family built him a special guestroom to spend the night whenever he traveled through Shunem (2 Kg. 4:9-10).
- Elisha felt so grateful he requested that they ask for some favor he might suggest to the king (2 Kg. 4:11-13).
- Gehazi told him that the couple was childless. So Elisha promised they would have a son (2 Kg. 4:14-17).
- After the child was old enough to go with his father to work in the field, he became sick and died, but Elisha raised him from the dead (2 Kg. 4:18-20, 32-37).
- Reference to Elisha restoring this child to life is mentioned 4 times in the Sequel Story (2 Kg. 8:1, 5).

**2. During one of Elisha's visits, he mentioned to them of the coming of seven years (7 Yrs) of famine to the land (2 Kg. 8:1-3).**

He told them that the famine was a decree from the Lord.

(2 Kg. 8:1c) "For the Lord has called (qara / kal pf) for a famine and it shall even come (bo / kal pf) on the land for seven years."

The decree of famine is a reference to the 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle of Divine Discipline upon the priest-nation of Israel (Lev.26:18-20).

Elisha gave them the Directive Will of God.

(2 Kg. 8:1b) "Arise (qum / kal impv) and go (halak / hiphil impv) with your household, and sojourn (gur / kal impv) wherever you can sojourn."

The **Directive Will of God** (3 kal imperatives / commands) must function under these three categories of the Will of God: (2 Kg. 8:1-2).

- Geographical      Land of Philistines
- Mental             Three Commands
- Operational      “Sojourn in the land of the Philistines seven years.”

**3. When they returned by the Directive Will of God, the government had foreclosed on their house and land (eminent domain) (2 Kg. 8:3).**

The Scripture explains that the woman went to the king to beg for their house and land.

(2 Kg. 8:3b) “And she went out to appeal (tsaq / kal impf) [a cry of distress] to the king for her house and for her field.”

Notice that she didn’t blame God or Elisha or the Word of God not even the government.

(Phil.4:6-7) “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

(Phil.4:19) “And my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.”

Notice also that she fought for her rights as a citizen and property owner. Please don’t confuse this doctrinal principle with 1 Cor.6:1-8 (spiritual disputes among believers).

**4. Pay special attention to God’s faithfulness at this point of this story (2 Kg. 8:4-5) [read].**

**Doctrinal principle:** God is faithful to those believers who are faithfully participating in the plan of God by the directive will of God.

(Eph.5:17) “So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.”

(2 Kg. 8:5) “**And it came about**, as he was relating to the king how he had restored to life the one who was dead, that behold, the woman whose son he had restored to life, appealed to the king for her house and field. And Gehazi said, ‘My lord, O king, this is the woman and this is her son, whom Elisha restored to life.’”

How do we evaluate what just happened? Coincidence, chance, dumb luck or perfect timing in the plan of God.

(Eccl.3:1) “There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven.”

(Ps.37:23) “The steps of a man are established by the Lord; and He delights in his way.”

**5. The Shunammite woman received a double financial restoration of the grace of God.**

(2 Kg. 8:5b) “Restored (shub / hiphil impv) all that was hers and all the produce of the field from the day that she left even until now.”

In the Sequel Story, the Shunammite woman received financial restoration to her life. God met her needs (house and land) and (mercy and grace)

(Heb.4:16) “Let us therefore draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need.” (1 John 5:14-15)

Notice that God gave her MORE GRACE than she asked for:

(2 Kg. 8:6b) “Restored all that was hers (house and land) and **all the produce of the field from the day that she left even until now.**”

(James 4:6) “But He gives a **greater grace**. Therefore it says, ‘God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.’ (1 Pet.5:5 and Prov.3:34)