

God's Power at WORK in Elisha ~ 2 Kings 4:1-44

→ Scripture Reading - 2 Kings 2:8-9, 13-15

INTRODUCTION

Elijah- My God IS YAHWEH - served as a prophet from 875 - 850 BC

Elisha- My God IS SALVATION - served as a prophet from 850- 800 BC

¹³ Elisha picked up Elijah's cloak, which had fallen when he was taken up. Then Elisha returned to the bank of the Jordan River.

God PROTECTS and PROVIDES for a Widow ~ 2 Kings 4:1-7

¹ One day the widow of a member of the group of prophets came to Elisha and cried out, "My husband who served you is dead, and you know how he feared the LORD. But now a creditor has come, threatening to take my two sons as slaves." ² "What can I do to help you?" Elisha asked. "Tell me, what do you have in the house?" "Nothing at all, except a flask of OLIVE OIL," she replied. ³ And Elisha said, "Borrow as many empty jars as you can from your friends and neighbors." ⁴ Then go into your house with your sons and shut the door behind you. Pour olive oil from your flask into the jars, setting each one aside when it is filled. ⁵ So she DID as she was told. Her sons kept bringing jars to her, and she filled one after another. ⁶ Soon every container was full to the brim! "Bring me another jar," she said to one of her sons. "There aren't any more!" he told her. And then the olive oil stopped flowing. ⁷ When she told the man of God what had happened, he said to her, "Now sell the olive oil and pay your debts, and you and your sons can live on what is left over."

IMPLICATION

² What can I do to help you? Elisha asked. Tell me, what do you HAVE in the house?

Exodus 4:1-3 (NLT) ¹ But Moses protested again, "What if they won't believe me or listen to me? What if they say, 'The LORD never appeared to you'?" ² Then the LORD asked him, "What is that in your hand?" "A shepherd's staff," Moses replied. ³ "Throw it down on the ground," the LORD told him. So Moses threw down the staff, and it turned into a snake! Moses jumped back.

Elisha and the Woman from Shunem ~ 2 Kings 4:8-37

⁸ One day Elisha went to the town of Shunem. A wealthy woman lived there, and she urged him to come to her home for a meal. After that, whenever he passed that way, he would stop there for something to eat. ⁹ She said to her husband, "I am sure this man who stops in from time to time is a holy man of God." ¹⁰ Let's build a small room for him on the roof and furnish it with a bed, a table, a chair, and a lamp. Then he will have a place to stay whenever he comes by."

→ MAP

¹⁴ Later Elisha asked Gehazi, What can we do for her? Gehazi replied, She doesn't have a son, and her husband is an old man...

¹⁸ One day when her child was older, he went out to help his father, who was working with the harvesters. ¹⁹ Suddenly he cried out, My head hurts! My head hurts! His father said to one of the servants, Carry him home to his mother. ²⁰ So the servant took him home, and his mother held him on her lap. But around noontime he died...

³⁰ But the boy's mother said, "As surely as the LORD lives and you yourself live, I won't go home unless you go with me." So Elisha returned with her. ³¹ Gehazi hurried on ahead and laid the staff on the child's face, but nothing happened. There was no sign of life. He returned to meet Elisha and told him, "The child is still dead."

→MAP

³² When Elisha arrived, the child was indeed dead, lying there on the prophet's bed. ³³ He went in alone and shut the door behind him and prayed to the LORD... ³⁶ Then Elisha summoned Gehazi. "Call the child's mother!" he said. And when she came in, Elisha said, "Here, take your son!" ³⁷ She fell at his feet and bowed before him, overwhelmed with gratitude. Then she took her son in her arms and carried him downstairs. (NLT)

IMPLICATION

¹⁶ Next year at this time you will be holding a son in your arms! No, my lord! she cried. **O man of God, don't deceive me and get my HOPES UP like that.**

Hebrews 11:32-35 (NIV) And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel and the PROPHETS, ³³ who THROUGH FAITH conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴ quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies. ³⁵ Women received back their dead, raised to life again...

Miracles of FOOD ~ 2 Kings 4:38-44

³⁸ Elisha now returned to Gilgal, and there was a famine in the land. One day as the group of prophets was seated before him, he said to his servant, "Put a large pot on the fire, and make some stew for the rest of the group." ³⁹ One of the young men went out into the field to gather herbs and came back with a pocketful of wild gourds. He shredded them and put them into the pot without realizing they were poisonous. ⁴⁰ Some of the stew was served to the men. But after they had eaten a bite or two they cried out, "Man of God, there's poison in this stew!" So they would not eat it. ⁴¹ Elisha said, "Bring me some flour." Then he threw it into the pot and said, "Now it's all right; go ahead and eat." And then it did not harm them. (NLT)

⁴² One day a man from Baal-shalishah brought the man of God a sack of fresh grain and twenty loaves of barley bread made from the first grain of his harvest. Elisha said, "Give it to the people so they can eat." ⁴³ "What?" his servant exclaimed. "Feed a hundred people with only this?" But Elisha repeated, "Give it to the people so they can eat, for this is what the LORD says: Everyone will eat, and there will even be some left over!" ⁴⁴ And when they gave it to the people, there was plenty for all and some left over, just as the LORD had promised. (NLT)

TAKE AWAY ??

Because God is ALL Knowing - He Knows ALL things

Because God is ALL Powerful - He has to POWER to Act

Because God is Sovereign - He Controls ALL Things

Because God does NOT Change - He is able to show His Mercy and Grace ALWAYS