

## *Elijah and Elisha*

#16, the Shunammite's son – II Kings 4:18-37

Shunam was the place where the couple had a son in their old age. We remember the joy in the village as everyone participated in the banquets and other celebrations. That's been quite a few years ago! That boy must be pretty well grown up by now.

18 When the child was grown, the day came that he went out to his father to the reapers. 19 He said to his father, "My head, my head." And he said to his servant, "Carry him to his mother."

20 When he had taken him and brought him to his mother, he sat on her lap until noon, and then died.

21 She went up and laid him on the bed of the man of God, and shut the door behind him and went out. 22 Then she called to her husband and said, "Please send me one of the servants and one of the donkeys, that I may run to the man of God and return."

23 He said, "Why will you go to him today? It is neither new moon nor sabbath." And she said, "It will be well."

[1.] v:18-19, my head, The father had considered the situation and then gave instruction. What did he order?

[2.] v:20, brought him, What might have gone through the Shunammite's mind as she saw her son brought to her?

[3.] v:20, and then died, How long did the son survive?

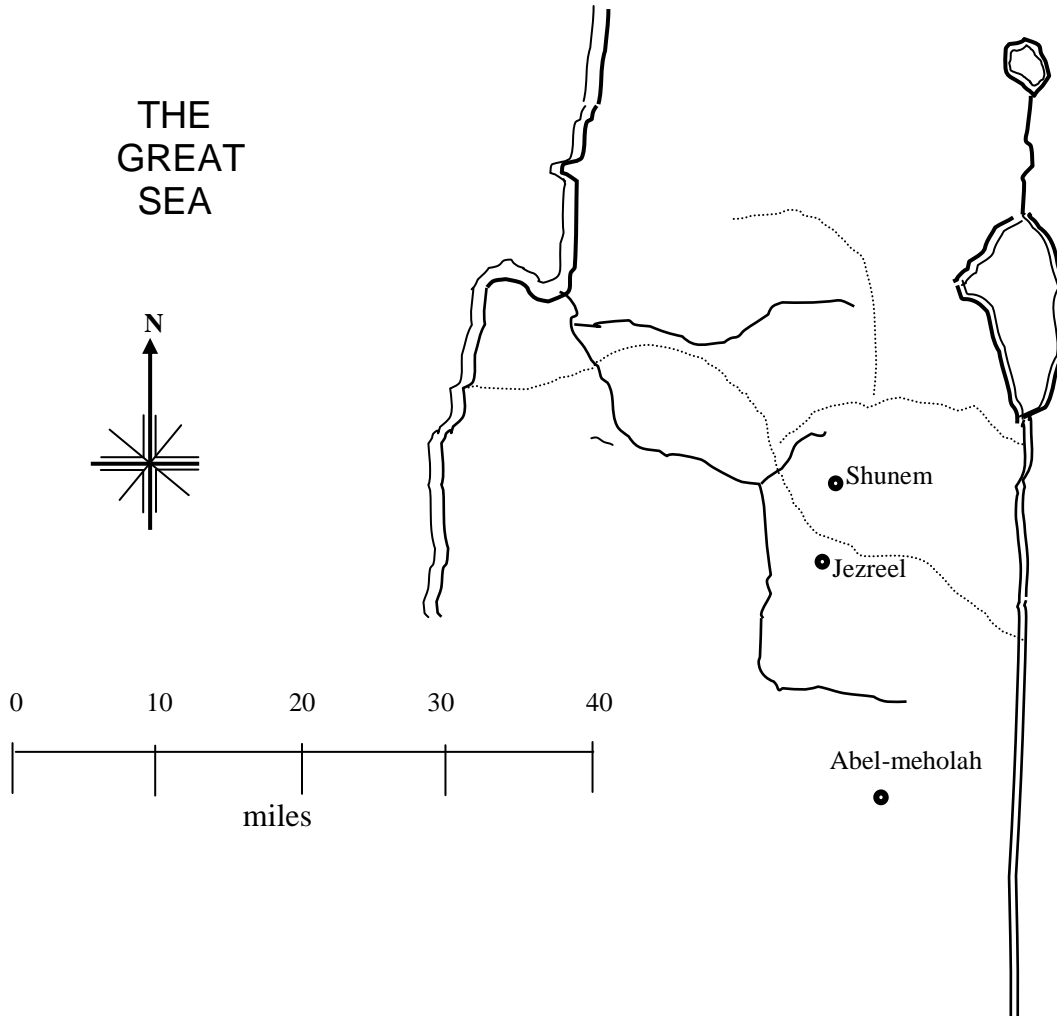
[4.] v:21-22, she called to her husband, What request did she make to her husband?

[5.] v:23, go to him today, By the question, what might the father have assumed?

[6.] v:23 again, And she said, How did the woman's answer display trust in the Lord?

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24 Then she saddled a donkey and said to her servant, "Drive and go forward; do not slow down the pace for me unless I tell you."

[7.] v:24, Drive, How far did the Shunammite had to travel to see Elisha. (See v:25)

[8.] Something to think about. For the horse, the *average speed* of a canter is 10–17 mph. Estimate how long it would take the Shunammite on a donkey, to arrive at where Elisha was staying.

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25 So she went and came to the man of God to Mount Carmel. When the man of God saw her at a distance, he said to Gehazi his servant, "Behold, there is the Shunammite. 26 "Please run now to meet her and say to her, 'Is it well with you? Is it well with your husband? Is it well with the child?' " And she answered, "It is well."

27 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; but the man of God said, "Let her alone, for her soul is troubled within her; and the Lord has hidden it from me and has not told me."

28 Then she said, "Did I ask for a son from my lord? Did I not say, 'Do not deceive me'?"

[9.] v25-26, Behold, there is the Shunammite, Even at a distance, Elisha knew something wasn't right. The reason's for his thinking were:

a) She wasn't home at Shunam.

b) Her donkey was running fast.

c) She was alone.

[10.] v:26 , meet her and say to her, What questions did Elisha instruct the servant to ask?

[11.] v:26 again, It is well, In answering the servant's questions, which question did she not answer correctly?

[12.] v:27, caught hold of his feet, Misinterpreting her action, what did Gehazi do?

[13.] v:27 again, her soul is troubled, What reason did Elisha give for his own confusion?

[14.] v:28, Did I ask, Speaking in grief and pain, write down what you think she was saying.

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29 Then he said to Gehazi, "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."

30 The mother of the lad said, "As the Lord lives and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." And he arose and followed her. 31 Then Gehazi passed on before them and laid the staff on the lad's face, but there was no sound or response. So he returned to meet him and told him, "The lad has not awakened."

32 When Elisha came into the house, behold the lad was dead and laid on his bed. 33 So he entered and shut the door behind them both and prayed to the Lord.

34 And 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. 35 Then 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.

36 He called Gehazi and said, "Call this Shunammite." So he called her. And when she came in to him, he said, "Take up your son." 37 Then she went in and fell at his feet and bowed herself to the ground, and she took up her son and went out.

[15.] v:29, he said to Gehazi, **What was the important factor in Elisha's instructions?**

[16.] v:30-31, laid the staff, **After being obedient to Elisha's instructions, what was Gehazi's report, when he went back?**

[17.] v:32-33, prayed to the Lord, **If you were Elisha, what might be the words of your prayer?**

[18.] v:34-35, opened his eyes, **From the lessons on Elijah, recall and write down the events of another boy raised from the dead**

[19.] v:36-37, fell at his feet, **In your opinion, was the woman giving glory to God or to Elisha?**

[20.] **From this lesson, what have you learned about grief, prayer and God's timing?**

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### **NOTES**