

Elijah and Elisha

#22, the Shunammite woman, II Kings II Ki 8:1-

II Kings 8:1-6, The chronological question of when the events recounted in these verses took place in Elisha's ministry has been much debated. Interpreters hold to one of 3 positions. 1) The encounter between the Shunammite woman, the king of Israel, and Gehazi took place toward the end of the reign of Jehoram in Israel. However, this would mean Gehazi was in the presence of the king (vv.4,5) although afflicted with leprosy (5:27) and king Jehoram was asking what great things Elisha had done after personally witnessing the events recorded in 6:8-7:19. 2). Because the king of Israel did not know Elisha's exploits, some interpreters place the final encounter during the early reign of Jehu. However, there are still the issues of Gehazi's leprosy and Jehu's being well acquainted with the prophecy of Elijah (9:36,37; 10:17) that predicted Elisha's ministry (I Ki 19:15-18). The best explanation is that the record is out of chronological sequence, being thematically tied to the subject of famine (6:24-7:20) but having occurred earlier during the reign of king Jehoram of Israel, before the events recorded in 51-7:20.

MacArthur study Bible

II Kings 8:1 Now Elisha spoke to the woman whose son he had restored to life, saying, "Arise and go with your household, and sojourn wherever you can sojourn; for the Lord has called for a famine, and it will even come on the land for seven years."

[1.] v:1, the woman, What was the information, in this verse, that allowed you to identify this person?

[2.] v:1 again, Arise and go, Our "tomorrows". fill all our minds, sometimes with dread. From this verse, what is going to happen in Israel and how long will it last?

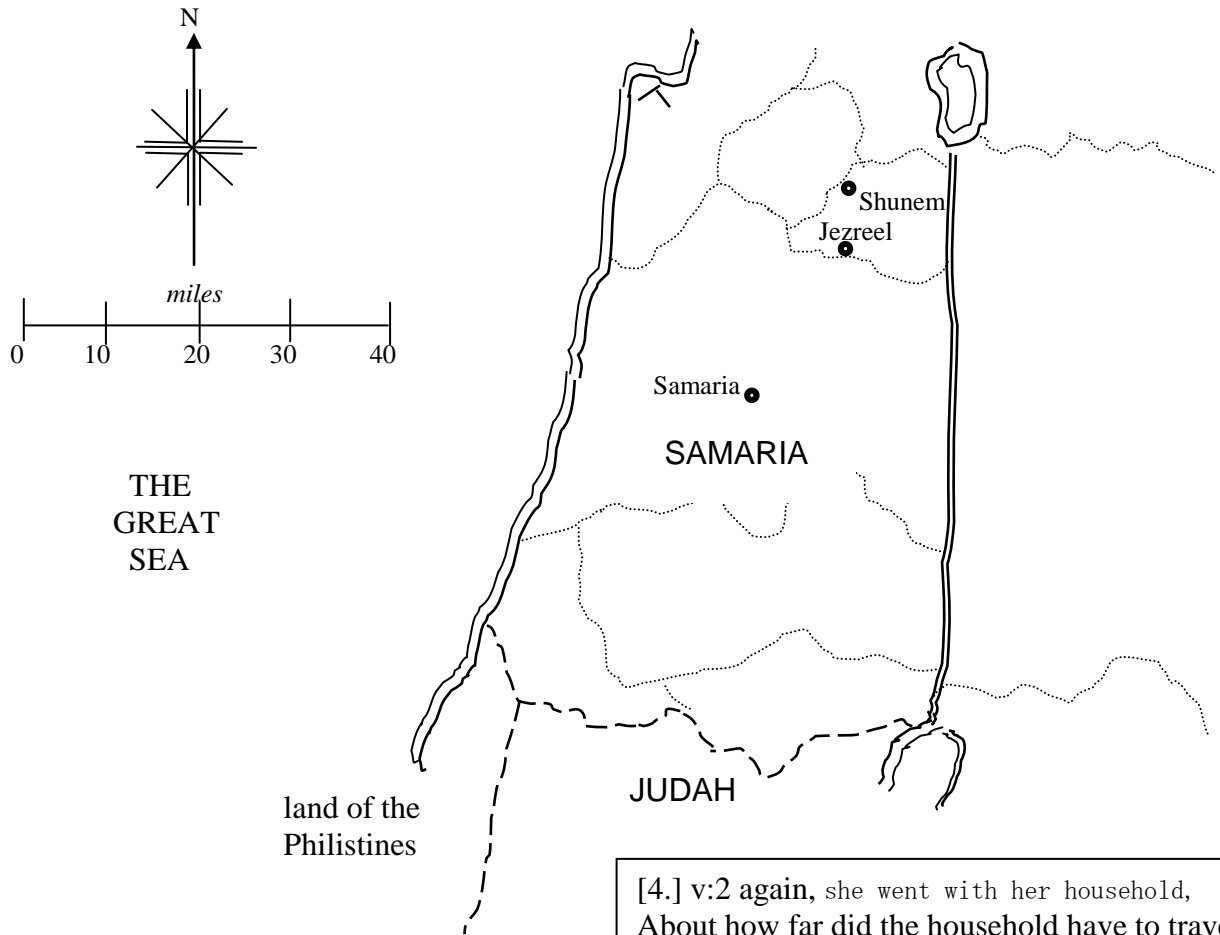
Heb. definition, **sojourn**, OT:1481 (*goor*); a primitive root; properly, to turn aside from the road (for a lodging or any other purpose), i.e. sojourn (as a guest); also to shrink, fear (as in a strange place); also to gather for hostility (as afraid): KJV - abide, assemble, be afraid, dwell, fear, gather (together), inhabitant, remain, sojourn, stand in awe, (be) stranger, surely. Strong's Numbers and Concordance

2 So the woman arose and did according to the word of the man of God, and she went with her household and sojourned in the land of the Philistines seven years.

[3.] v:2, sojourned, Where had the Lord not sent famine?

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3 At the end of seven years, the woman returned from the land of the Philistines; and she went out to appeal to the king for her house and for her field.

[4.] v:2 again, she went with her household, About how far did the household have to travel?

[5.] v:2 again, On your map, pg 2, draw a circle around the new home.

[6.] v:3, appeal to the king, What seems to have happened in her absence?

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4 Now the king was talking with Gehazi, the servant of the man of God, saying, "Please relate to me all the great things that Elisha has done.

5 As he was relating to the king how he had restored to life the one who was dead, behold, the woman whose son he had restored to life appealed to the king for her house and for her field. And Gehazi said, "My lord, O king, this is the woman and this is her son, whom Elisha restored to life."

6 When the king asked the woman, she related it to him. So the king appointed for her a certain officer, saying, "Restore all that was hers and all the produce of the field from the day that she left the land even until now."

7 Then Elisha came to Damascus. Now Ben-hadad king of Aram was sick, and it was told him, saying, "The man of God has come here."

[7.] v:4, Gehazi, **What did the king want to know?**

[8.] v:5, behold, the woman, **How is this an example of God's sovereignty.**

[9.] v:5 again, appealed to the king, **You were the king and your subjects reported an abandoned tract of land. In this case, why should you know why the owners were gone and when they would probably return?**

[10.] v:6, a certain officer, **Along with the land, what else was restored?**

[11.] v:7, Elisha came to Damascus, **This is enemy territory! Why wouldn't Elisha stay in Israel where everyone was friendly?**

[12.] v:7 again, sick, **It's probable that Elisha already knew this but, how would he have found it out ahead of time?**

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8 The king said to Hazael (*ha'-za-el*), " Take a gift in your hand and go to meet the man of God, and inquire of the Lord by him, saying, 'Will I recover from this sickness?'"

9 So Hazael went to meet him and took a gift in his hand, even every kind of good thing of Damascus, forty camels' loads; and he came and stood before him and said, " Your son Ben-hadad king of Aram has sent me to you, saying, 'Will I recover from this sickness?'"

10 Then Elisha said to him, " Go, say to him, 'You will surely recover,' but the Lord has shown me that he will certainly die."

11 He fixed his gaze steadily on him (**Hazael**) until he (**Hazael**) was ashamed, and the man of God wept.

12 Hazael said, "Why does my lord weep?" Then he answered, "Because I know the evil that you will do to the sons of Israel: their strongholds you will set on fire, and their young men you will kill with the sword, and their little ones you will dash in pieces, and their women with child you will rip up."

13 Then Hazael said, "But what is your servant, who is but a dog, that he should do this great thing?" And Elisha answered, " The Lord has shown me that you will be king over Aram."

[13.] v:8, The king said, **Ben-hadad**, just like everyone, wanted to know one thing. What was it?

[14.] v:9, forty camels' loads, Why does it seem that **Ben-hadad** really didn't know the Lord or Elisha?

[15.] v:10, say to him, So Why might Elisha tell **Ben-hadad** what he really wanted to hear?

[16. v:11-12, fixed his gaze, What did Elisha predict concerning **Hazael**?

[17.] v:13, is but a dog, **Hazael** reminded Elisha that he was a servant and did not have the authority to do all those things. What did Elisha say next?

[18.] Something to think about. If **Hazael** believed Elisha regarding being king and slaughter in Israel, do you also think he believed **Ben-hadad** was going to die (v:10)?

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14 So he departed from Elisha and returned to his master, who said to him, "What did Elisha say to you?" And he answered, "He told me that you would surely recover."

15 On the following day, he took the cover and dipped it in water and spread it on his face, so that he died. And Hazael became king in his place.

[19.] v:14, you would surely recover. What information did Hazael leave out?

[20.] v:15, the following day, Why do you think Hazael did this, since he really didn't need to?

NOTES