

Elisha ~ Part 20

In my last post, we continued to explore the ministry of **Elisha** by looking at **2 Kings 7:1-16** where we hear some **Good News**. In this post, we will pick up the story of **Elisha** in **2 Kings 8:1-6** where we learn three aspects of the **Greatness of Our God**.

¹ Now Elisha had said to the woman whose son he had restored to life, 'Move away, you and your household, and stay wherever you can; because Adonai has called for a famine; and it will be on the land for seven years.' ² The woman acted at once and did as the man of God had said—she went with her household and stayed in the land of the P'lishtim for seven years. ³ At the end of seven years, the woman returned from the land of the P'lishtim and sought an audience with the king to claim her house and land. ⁴ The king was talking with Geichazi, the servant of the man of God. 'Tell me,' he said, 'all the great things Elisha has done.' ⁵ Just as he was telling the king how he had restored a dead person to life, at that very moment the woman whose son he had restored to life came to the king with her claim for her house and land. Geichazi said, 'My lord, king, this is the woman; and this is her son, the one Elisha restored to life.' ⁶ On being asked by the king, the woman verified it. At this, the king appointed a special officer and charged him, 'Restore everything that belongs to her, including the income her fields have produced from the day she left them until now.' " ~ 2 Kings 8:1-6 (CJB)

This event must have occurred before the healing of **Na'aman** (2 Kings 5) since the king wasn't likely to welcome a leper into the palace, and **Geichazi** was a leper (5:27). The author of 2 Kings doesn't claim to follow a strict chronology, and we're not even sure which king **Geichazi** was entertaining with stories about his master. Perhaps this event occurred early in the reign of **King Yoram**.

God Controls Nature

We were introduced to the wealthy Shunemite woman and her family in 2 Kings 4:8-37. God often used famines to chasten His people when they were disobedient and needed to be reminded of their covenant obligations. This famine may have been the one mentioned in 4:38. The prophet warned the woman to escape the famine by going to the land of the **P'lishtim** and becoming a resident alien there. Knowing in advance that the famine was coming, she was able to secure a temporary home in **Philistia** ahead of the others who would flee **Israel**. This famine came because the Lord called for it, and He could command it because He is Lord of all. In these times of discipline and distress, if God's people would pray and confess their sins, God would have delivered them (2 Chronicles 7:14). When people ignore God's Word, the Lord may speak through His creation and remind them who is in charge.

God Controls Life and Death

The account of the miracles in the life of the Shunemite woman reveals the awesome power of God. She had no children, and her husband was now old, but as with Avraham and Sarai, the Lord gave them both new life and the woman conceived a son. But the son was struck with an illness and died, yet the Lord raised him from the dead thru **Elisha**. Famines remind us that God alone can make nature fruitful, and death reminds us that God alone gives life and has the power and authority to take it away.

God Providentially Controls the Events in Life

At the very moment, **Geichazi** was describing this wonderful resurrection miracle, the mother of the child walked into the throne room! She had returned home only to discover that strangers had taken over her estate and robbed her of seven years' produce. In those days, it was common for people to bring such problems directly to the king and he would decide how property should be divided. The fact that **Geichazi** stood there as a witness to her ownership of the land made it easy for the king to pass judgment. Years

before, when her son had died, little did the mother realize that one day that bitter experience would play an important part in the preservation of her property.

This happy episode in the king's palace reveals to us the character of God and prepares us for the tumultuous events that follow. Nevertheless, the Lord was on His throne, judging sin and fulfilling His Word., No matter what occurs in history, God is in control. He knows all things and can do all things. He is present everywhere, working out His will. He is a holy God who is longsuffering with sinners but eventually judges those who disobey Him. Our world may be shaking, but our God can be trusted to do what is right.

In my next post, we continue to explore the life of **Elisha**. In this post, we explore the **Wickedness of the Human Heart** in **2 Kings 8:7-15**.