

# THE WOMAN FROM SHUNEM



- Woman rushes to Mt. Carmel to urge Elisha to return to Shunem with her
- The Lord miraculously gave her a son from her dead womb
- But now this 11-12 year old boy has died
- Rather than fall into panic and despair, she seeks the same God who first gave her this son



# A SUBSTITUTE DOESN'T WORK



- Geichazi places Elisha's staff at the child's head, but he remains dead
- Many Bible scholars claim that the boy was not dead, merely in a coma
- Mother and Elisha both seem to believe that the situation can be remedied
- 1Sam. 2: 5 - 6



# A PRIVATE MIRACLE

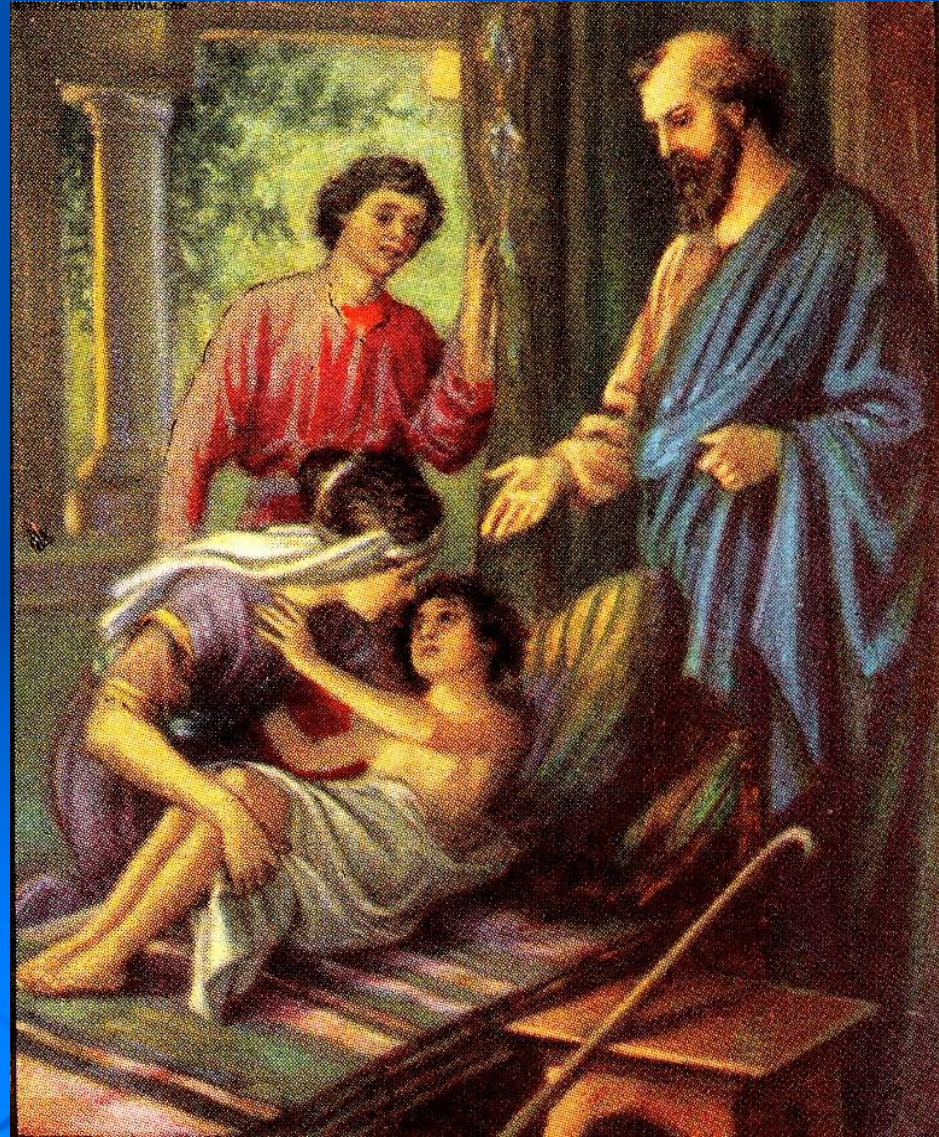
- Elisha begins with prayer and then follows the pattern of his former master Elijah
- 1Kings 17: 17 – 22
- YHWH wants us to realize that the answers to most of our questions are in His established patterns and principles
- Not necessary to have a direct oracle from God every time we face a fresh challenge





# GOD-PATTERNS MUST BE USED IN FAITH AND IN CONTEXT

- The boy is raised from the dead !
- Context: God's greatest prophets Elijah and Elisha did it
- Boy did NOT sneeze 7 times, Elisha performed the process 7 times
- Sneezing indicates that the breath of life has re-entered the boy





# ELISHA AND THE POISONED SOUP



- Located at the Gilgal that is north, near Mt. Ebal
- A famine in the area, and the guild prophets have run out of food
- They gather wild plants to throw into a communal soup pot
- The gourd was toxic and poisoned the soup
- Elisha pours in flour and the soup is made edible
- What FAITH the prophets had to believe that God, through Elisha, could heal that soup!



# THE ISSUE OF FOOD

- *“We are what we eat”*.....sort of
- From the Biblical perspective food contains a spiritual quality
- God defines what is, and what is NOT, food
- Edible and digestible are human standards
- Biblically kosher food is not about inherent food qualities
- God makes food NOT just a preference but a moral choice





# FEAST OF FIRSTFRUITS

- Barley is the 1<sup>st</sup> grain harvest of the year
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Biblical Feast
- ***Bikkurim*** = Firstfruits
- Citizens of Israel not allowed to go to the Temple
- But they tried to obey as far as circumstances would allow them
- Pious man brought his Firstfruits offerings to the only “Man of God” in Israel: Elisha
- Not 100 men, but 100 families



# PARALLELS BETWEEN ELISHA AND YESHUA FEEDING THE PEOPLE

- John 6:1 – 14      versus      2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 4:42 -44
- 1) Both took place in the north of Israel
- 2) Took place at the Passover feasts
- 3) Barley bread, not wheat bread
- 4) Though disciples and prophets are the central issue, their families are who gets fed
- 5) Bread multiplied not only enough for everyone to eat, but there was some left over



# 2<sup>ND</sup> KINGS 5: THE STORY OF *NA'AMAN*



- *Na'aman* a revered chief of the Aramean (Syrian) army
- Passage says that YHWH caused *Na'aman* to be victorious over Israel
- Aram and Israel had constant skirmishes and raided each others territory
- A Hebrew slave girl taken in a raid, suggested to *Na'aman's* wife that only the Great Prophet of Israel could cure *Na'aman*



# TZARA'AT: A SPIRITUAL CONDITION

- Is NOT leprosy
- *Tzara'at* is not about the TYPE of skin disease, it's about the CAUSE of it
- It is God's way of making our hidden inner spiritual condition exposed for the world to see
- Since God caused it, only a prophet of God could heal it
- Kings had their gods, and gods had their prophets
- King of Aram sent a letter of instruction and a huge gift to *Y'horam*, telling him to heal *Na'aman*

