

2nd Kings

7-24-22

5:15 Naaman went back to the Man of God ... and said, “Now I know that there is no God in all the world except in Israel.

So please accept a gift from your servant.”

✝ **2 Kings 5 – Elisha’s Enlightenment**

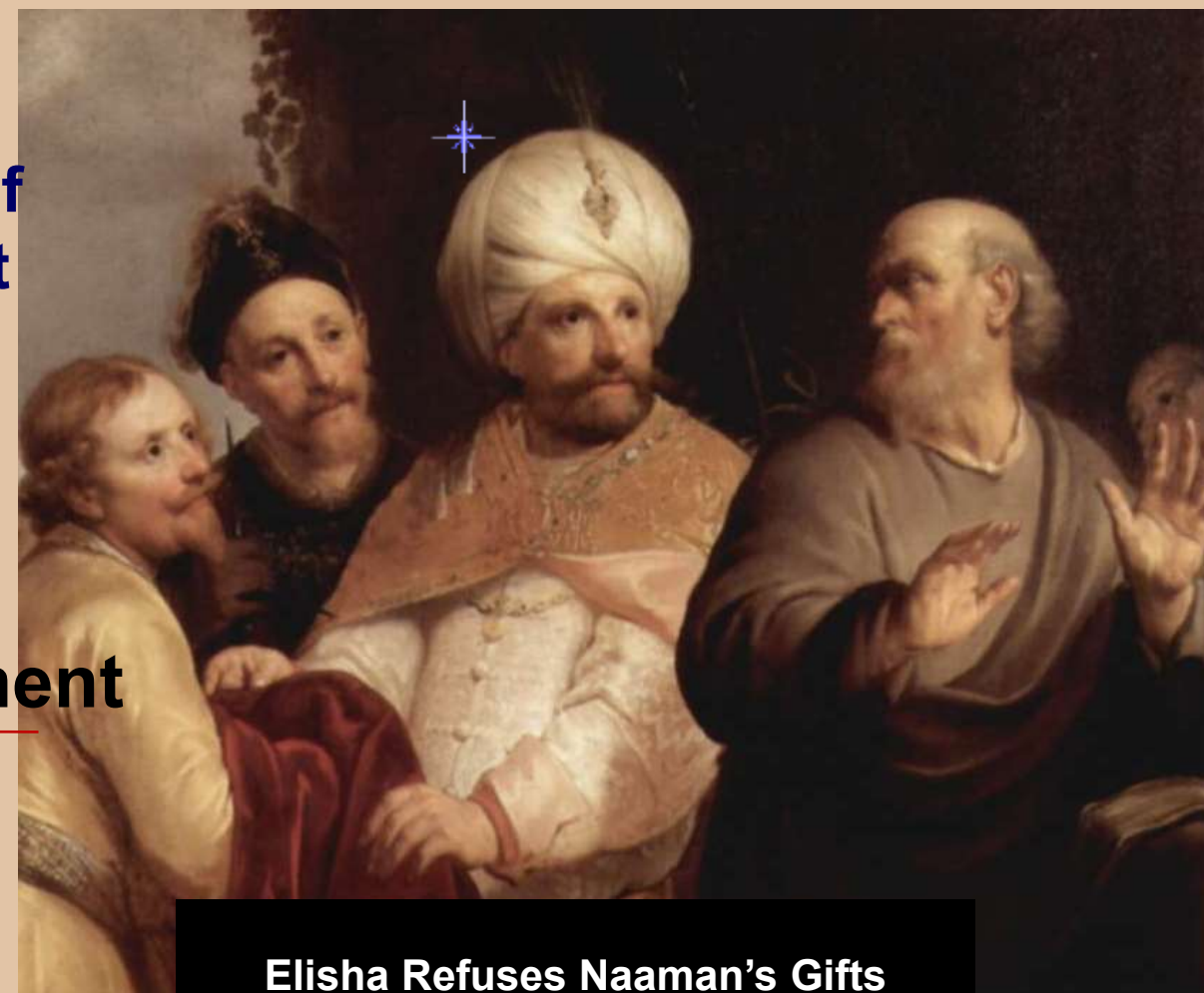
2 Kings 7 – God Provides

2 Kings 12 – God Honors

2 Kings 17 – God Judges

2 Kings 19 – God Hears

2 Kings 22 – God Moves



**Elisha Refuses Naaman's Gifts
by Pieter de Grebber (1600-1652)**

FBC Woodville
Sunday School Class

Michael G. Maness
PreciousHeart.net/SS
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2 Kings 5

Elisha's Healing of General Naaman ... one

Strange Affair

Imagine going to GREAT trouble to see a doctor

Only to *despise* the Doctor's remedy

GREATER still ... is how Elijah *Enlightens* Naaman

Manner in which this happens is just as odd or strange

First ... Elisha's Backstory



Alternate Title

**Elisha's
Enlightenment**

or

**How Elisha Enlightens
General Naaman**



2 Kings 2 – Elijah Rides Chariot of Fire

**Almost immediately, Elisha goes to work
Elisha got DOUBLE Elijah's Spirit
Seems like he does TWICE the Miracles too
RIGHT after Elijah rides the Chariot of Fire
Elisha takes Elijah's cloak ... tosses it on water**

**“Where now is the Lord,
the God of Elijah?”**

Water PARTS ... Right & Left

Company of Prophets say Elijah's Spirit now on Elisha



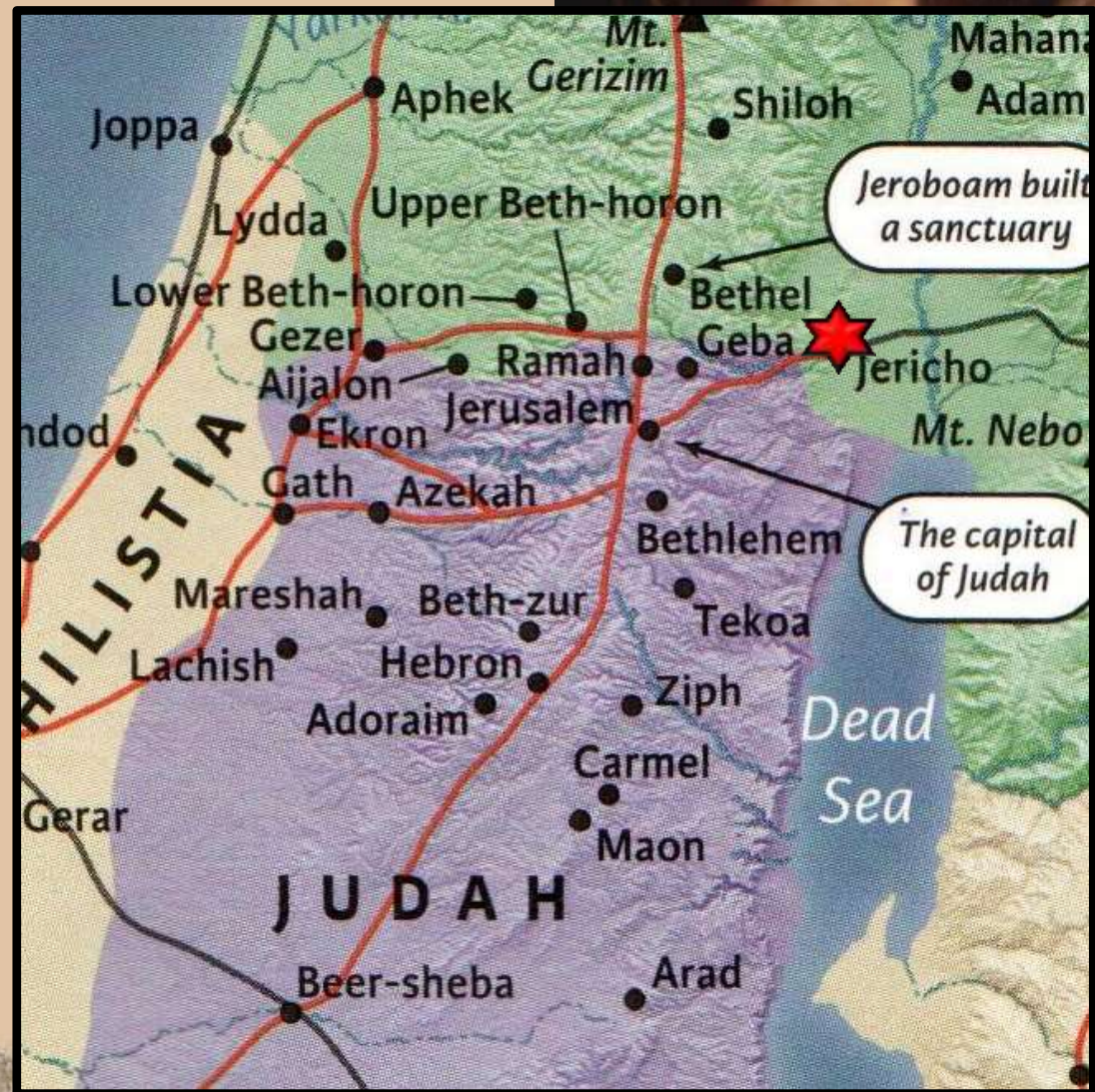
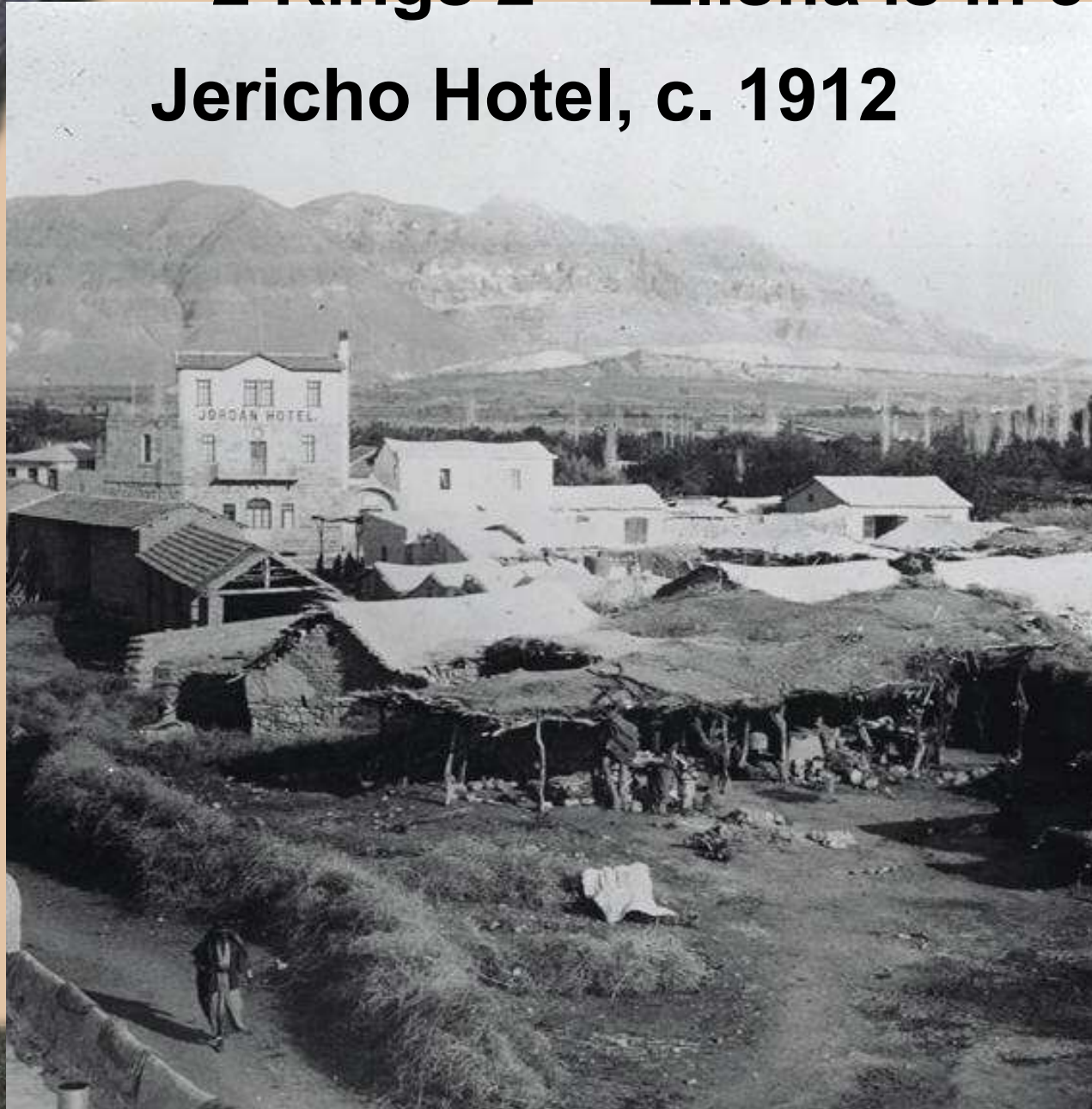
Apparently the “Company of Prophets”
Did not SEE the Chariot of Fire
Want to send 50 men to SEARCH for Elijah
Elijah is “too embarrassed to refuse.”
Company of Prophets say,



“Perhaps the Spirit of the Lord has ... set him down
on some mountain or in some valley”
After three days, they cannot find Elijah ...
Elisha says, “*Told Yah So*”
Elisha means “God is Salvation”

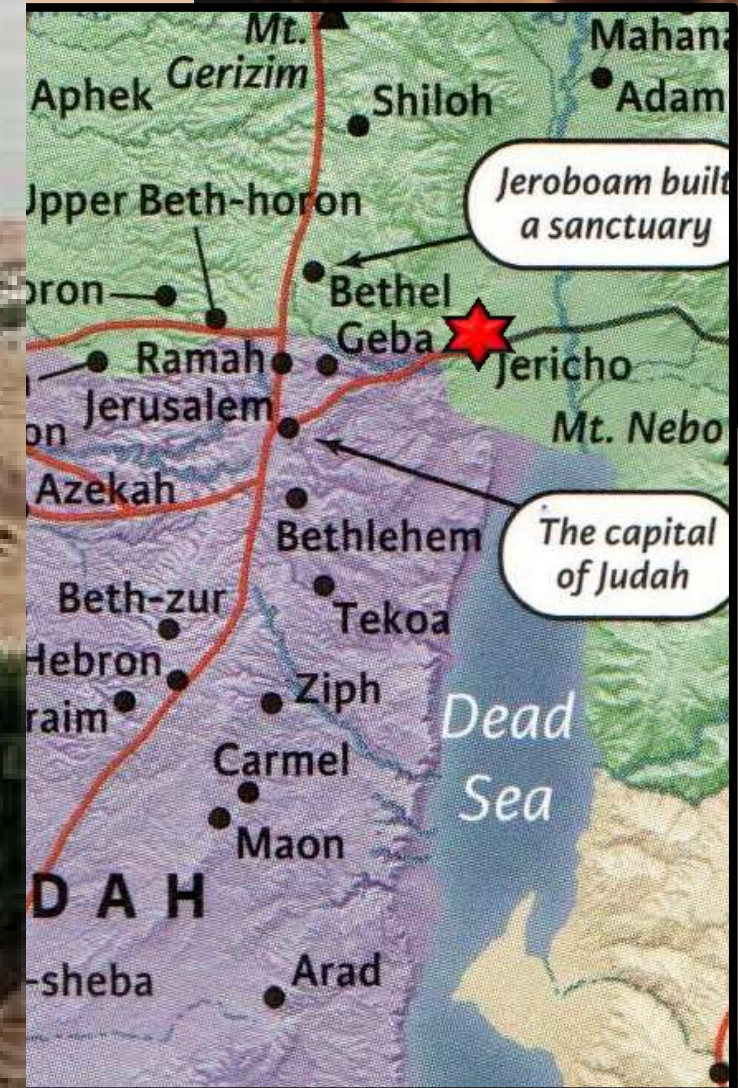
2 Kings 2 – Elisha is in Jericho ...

Jericho Hotel, c. 1912



2 Kings 2 – Elisha is in Jericho ...

Ancient Tel Jericho, “Hill” of Jericho



Jericho Complains About Water

Elisha asks for a bowl of salt ...



Another inscrutable request ...

Jericho is OFF GRID ... north of DEAD Sea

Jericho people's Spring is SICK ...

Elisha sprinkles SALT into the Spring ...



Water healed ... “to this day”



Elisha goes from Jericho to Bethel

Desolate road ...

Meets a group of young “boys”

Boys mock and jeer Elisha

Call Elisha “**Baldy ... Baldy!**”

Elisha curses them ...

Bear comes out ... **KILLS 42**

DO NOT MESS with Elisha



2 Kings 3 – Joram King in Israel

Like Ahab his father, Joram does EVIL
NOT *exactly* like his Father & Mother ...

Joram gets rid of the stones of Baal

YET continues “sins of Jeroboam” that
drive Israel from the God of David

King Mesha of Moab owes tribute to Ahab > son Joram

100,000 lambs & wool of a 100,000 rams – NO!

Joram asks King of Judah & King of Edom for help



2 Kings 3 – King Joram Seeks Alliance

King Jehoshaphat asks for a **PROPHET**

Elisha does not like Joram,

but Elisha respects Jehoshaphat

Elisha asks for a **HARPIST** to play music

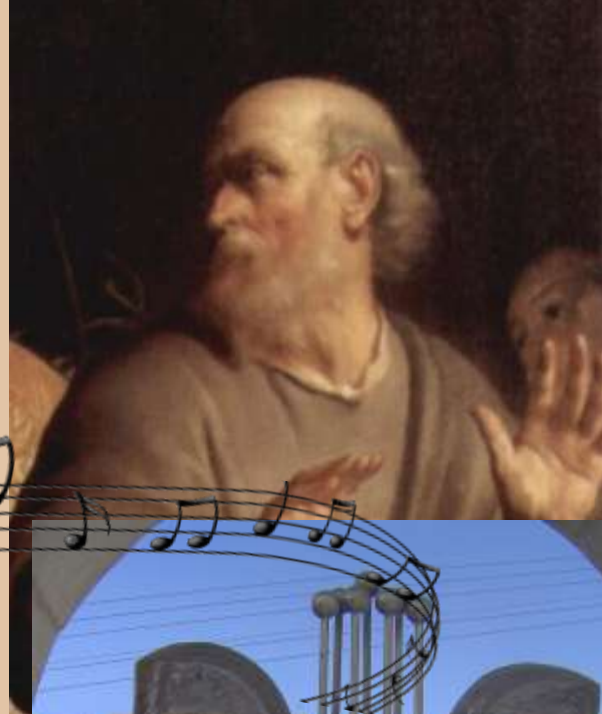
As harp plays, Elisha says water will appear

Moab soldiers see blood instead of water

Israel **BATTLES** Moab ... begins to **WIN**

King of Moab kills his own son,

then retreats



Harp of David
in Jerusalem

2 Kings 4 – Miracle of Olive Oil

Widow of man from Company of Prophets

Man died & CREDITOR wants her two sons

Wants to ENSLAVE her Two Sons

All she has is a small jar of Olive Oil

Elisha has her get neighbors to bring JARS

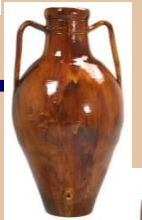
4:3 Don't ask for just a FEW, says Elisha.

4:4 Then go inside and shut the door behind you...

**Pour oil into all the jars, and as each is filled,
put it to one side."**



Italian Olive Jar
eBay for \$4,250



When ALL neighbor's jars were FULL
Elisha tells her to sell them, pay debt
4:7 You & your sons live on what is left.



4:8 Elisha went to Shunem
north of Jezreel

4:8 well-to-do woman there

She knows Elisha comes this
way often ... is a Holy Man



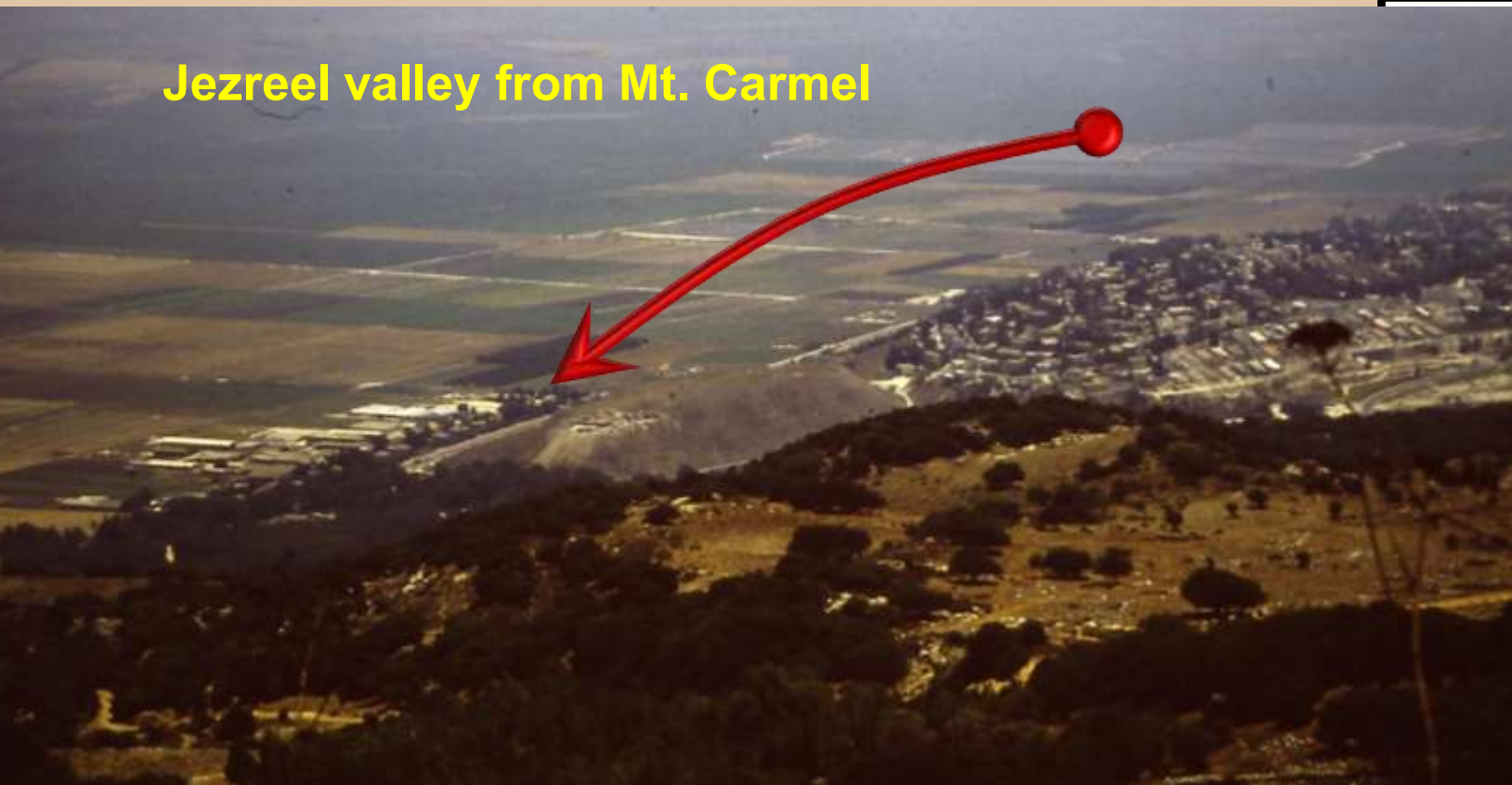
Well-to-do woman tells husband fix up
a room in the roof so that Elisha
4:10 he can stay there whenever he comes
Apparently, Elisha does often stay
Elisha asks what HE can do
She said her husband is OLD
She has NO SON
Elisha promises her a SON
this time next YEAR



YEARS pass ... son grows up
One day in field, son's head hurts ... **DIES**
She places Son in Elisha's room ...
She saddles donkey & heads to Mt. Carmel



Jezreel valley from Mt. Carmel



At Mt. Carmel

She informs Elisha of her son's death

Elisha sends Gehazi w his STAFF

4:29 RUN ... don't greet anyone

25 miles – another marathon

place STAFF on son's face

NOTHING HAPPENS



**Elisha & Shunammite
Woman, c. 1649**

**by Gerbrand
van den Eeckhout**



Woman stays ... so Elisha follows
25 miles ... Gehazi puts staff on Son's face

Son does NOTHING ... **STAYS DEAD**

4:32-36 *very interesting drama*

Behind closed doors, Elisha lays on son

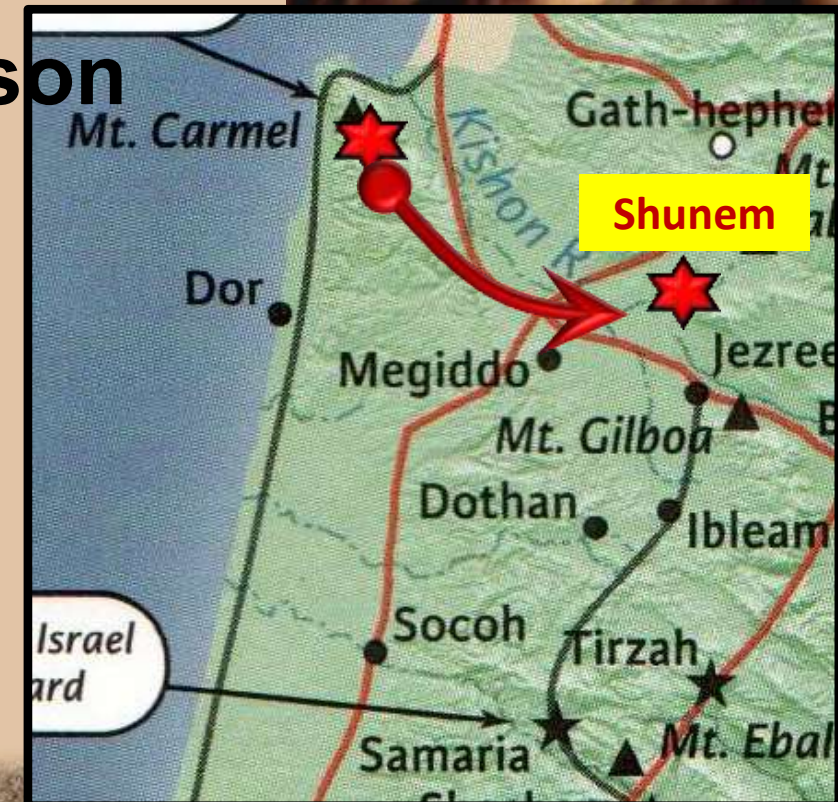
face to face, mouth to mouth ...

hands to hands ... son warm ...

Elisha does it AGAIN

Then the Son Sneezes ... 😊

Woman BOWS thankfully



2 Kings 4:38-44 – Two More Miracles

1. Famine & Company of Hungry Prophets

Elisha to Gilgal & asks for a pot of stew

Man gleans for herbs, wild vines – **YUCK**

Elisha says to add FLOUR – **Tada > good**

2. 20 Loaves ... for 100

Man's 20 loaves ... what is THAT to 100?

Elisha tells him to SHARE – **Tada**

Feeds 100 ... Look at Leftovers



**2 Kings 5 – Syrian General Naaman
Valiant Commander to King of Aram
Syrian raiders capture young girl
who then serves Naaman's wife ... saying**

**5:2 “If only my master would see the
prophet who is in Samaria!**

He would cure him of his leprosy.”

Gen. Naaman gets leave from king

He's OFF - with Silver, Gold, 10 sets of Clothes

10 Talents Silver = 750 lbs - 6,000 shekels Gold, 150 lbs



**Imagine a GREAT General coming to YOU
In Dallas in the 1980s, guest speaker told us
in our chapel in College downtown ...
That President Carter would be here**

NEXT WEEK

**He elaborated on what he GUESSED ...
Secret Service - Check Points EVERYWHERE
Men on Rooftops with RIFLES**

I brought my camera ☺ ... I thought he was truthful



Israel's King Does NOT LIKE Aram King's Letter
King of Israel reads letter ... **TEARS** his **CLOTHES**

King of Israel declares,
5:7 "Am I God?"

Aram wants war?!??

Elisha **HEARS** & sends word
Have Naaman go to MY house
wherever that is?
Naaman, chariots, entourage
go to Elisha's House



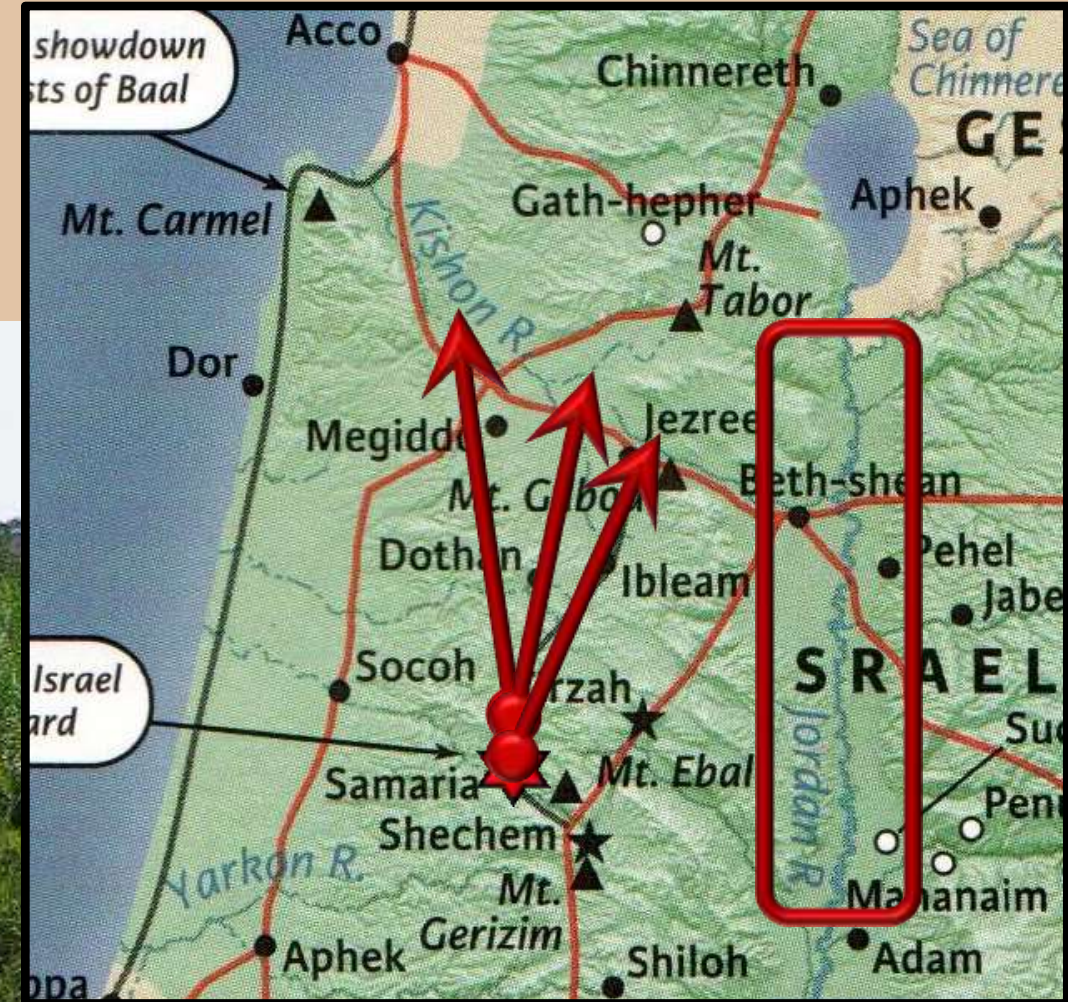
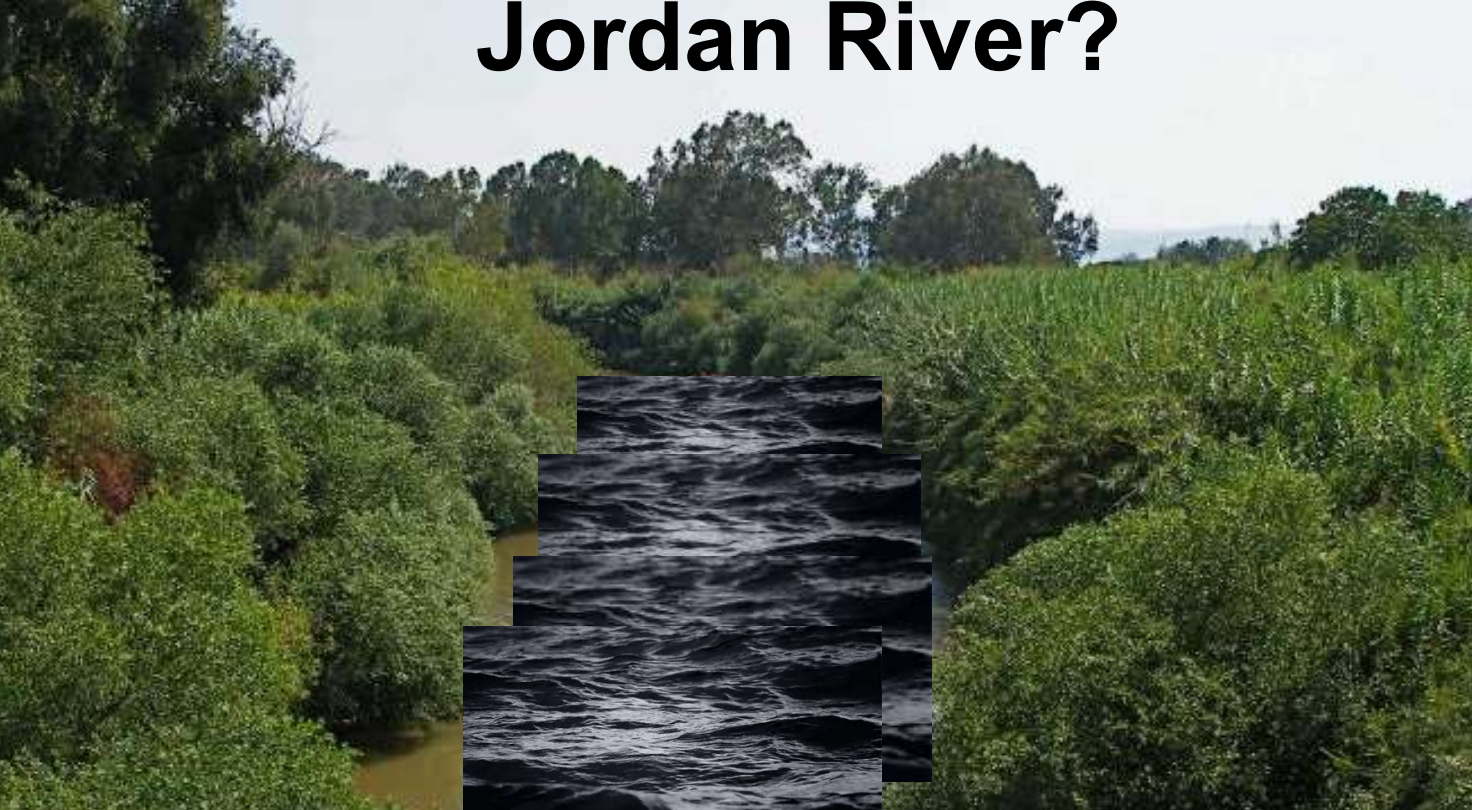
General Naaman travels to Elisha's HOUSE

Yet Elisha does not appear ... sends his servant

5:10 “Go wash 7x in Jordan”

Gen. Naaman is **OFFENDED**

Jordan River?



General Naaman knocks on Elisha's DOOR

Yet Elisha sent a *messenger*

5:11 **Gen.** Naaman went away angry & said,

“I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, wave his hand over the spot and cure me of my leprosy.”



5:12 “Are not Abana and Pharpar rivers of Damascus better than ALL the waters of Israel?

Couldn't I wash in them and be cleansed?”

So he turned and went off in a rage.

Abana and Pharpar rivers of Damascus

Abana River



WATER of the Land is LIFE

PAGAN Gen. Naaman is hurt to his CORE
COOLER heads prevail ...

Naaman's servants rightly ask him:

IF Elisha had asked
a GREAT DEED ...

He would DO IT ...

So ... Naaman goes

Washes 7x - **HEALED**



Naaman returns to Elisha ...

ENLIGHTENED ... *humble ... grateful*

5:15 “Now I know that there is no God
in all the world except in Israel.

So please accept a GIFT from your servant.”

THAT statement presumes a LOT ...

King of Syria's TOP General ... very valued ...

Comes to Israel with a BLANK Check ...

You know Naaman had ALREADY tried EVERYTHING

But HEALED w a *simple* Washing – True MIRACLE



Naaman wants to PAY ... DONATE
but Elisha ... *refuses*

5:16 “As surely as the Lord lives,
whom I serve, I will not accept a thing.”

Naaman INSISTS ... Elisha still *REFUSES*

General Colin Powell had a flat tire ... stranger helped

Don't remember the rest ...

We've ALL helped strangers ... but the HONOR of ...

An elderly couple once helped Trump ...

Later, Trump paid off their mortgage ...





**Elisha Refuses Naaman's Gifts
by Pieter de Grebber (1600-52)**

Dutch Golden Age Painter

Naaman INSISTS ...

Elisha still REFUSES

Money, Money, Money ... so confusing

“Follow the Money” of Watergate infamy

We must pay our Ministers ...

Do not muzzle the Mule while he's plowing ...

Yet at times ... some of the time ...

it's BEST to

REMOVE Money from whole Equation of God's Service



FAR from the end of the story

Elisha's servant Gehazi *ain't havin' it*

Gehazi thinks Elisha “too easy on Naaman”

Gehazi runs after Naaman .. LIES ...

Give a Talent of Silver to Two Servants ...

Naaman gives that & 2 sets of Clothes

Gehazi returns ... Elisha asks where he went

Gehazi LIES again to ELISHA ...

It's one thing to lie to Great General Naaman

Another to LIE to Mighty Miracle Working Prophet of God



Elisha's integrity **ENLIGHTENS** Gehazi

5:26 But Elisha said to Gehazi,

“Was not my spirit with you when the man got down from his chariot to meet you?

Is this the time to take money or to accept clothes—or olive groves ...

Then Elisha transfers ...

5:27 “Naaman's leprosy will cling to you & to your descendants forever.”

Bible says Gehazi leaves a LEPER



Elisha never falters ...

an *Elegant Phrase* is applied to Elisha

4:7 “She told the **MAN OF GOD**” little oil

4:9 “She told her husband, “I perceive this
is a Holy **MAN OF GOD**”

4:16 “**MAN OF GOD** do not lie to thy handmaid”

4:21 “She laid her son on the bed of the **MAN OF GOD**”

4:22 Saddle donkey “that I may run to the **MAN OF GOD**”

4:25 “She went ... to the **MAN OF GOD** on Mr. Carmel”

4:27 the **MAN OF GOD** said, “Let her go”



Elisha never falters ...

4:40 Oh, **MAN OF GOD**, there is death pot

4:42 a man brought the **MAN OF GOD** bread

5:8 Elisha the **MAN OF GOD** heard that the king had rent his clothes

5:14 By the word of the **MAN OF GOD** his flesh Naaman's ... was made like normal

5:15 Naaman returns to the **MAN OF GOD**

5:20 Servant of Elisha the **MAN OF GOD**

Again & Again ... Elisha is the MAN OF GOD



“Man of God” term not popular today

We have several **“Companies of Prophets”**

We have mighty **Generals** like Naaman

Lying, conniving **Servants** like Gehazi

We have poor wife of prophet who need oil

Wise well-to-do Shunammite women who
lost and regained her son

Yet ... often ... there is only one

MAN OF GOD



“Man of God” term not popular today

NOTICE in 1 & 2 Kings:

There is No Church ... No Tabernacle

NO Meetings ... NO Revival ... NO Preaching

There is NONE of the Law of Moses

There are NO Festivals ... NO Sacrifices ... Not One ...

There is only ... repeated ... the

MAN OF GOD



Elisha, a Man of God ...

NOTICE:

- ★ **Heals** the waters of Jericho with **SALT**
- ★ 40 boys mock “baldy” ... **killed** by Bear
- ★ King Joram needs help against Moab
Elisha listens to harp as he makes **water** appear
- ★ Widow of Company of Prophets has a creditor
wanting to enslave sons – Elisha fills Jars with **Oil**
- ★ Well-to-woman **gets** a son to old husband ...
then gets her **son raised** from the dead



- ★ Elisha cures Death Pot of Stew w flour
- ★ With 20 loaves of bread, Elisha feeds 100
- ★ Syrian Leper General Naaman shows up
Elisha asks him to wash 7x in Jordan
- ★ Gehazi LIES ... gets Naaman's Leprosy



These & the following are the Short Story – **did MORE**

Both Elijah & Elisha are Men of God with
NO Festivals, NO Burnt Offerings, NO Sermons

Miracle After Miracle

Now then ... clearly ...

All would LIKE to do these miracles

- ✦ **Love to heal water with dash of salt**
- ✦ **Yea—you'd be LYING if never wanted to have a Bear maul an abuser**
- ✦ **Sure, you too would help a Widow**
- ✦ **Absolutely love to help a well-to-do woman have a son and ... then raise that son from dead**
- ✦ **To heal a Great General of leprosy ... YEAH!**

there remains a great mystery



the mystery continues for more chapters
and we cannot solve it ...

Holy Man ... Man of God

Miracles ... sure ... but what is MISSING

What is TOTALLY absent

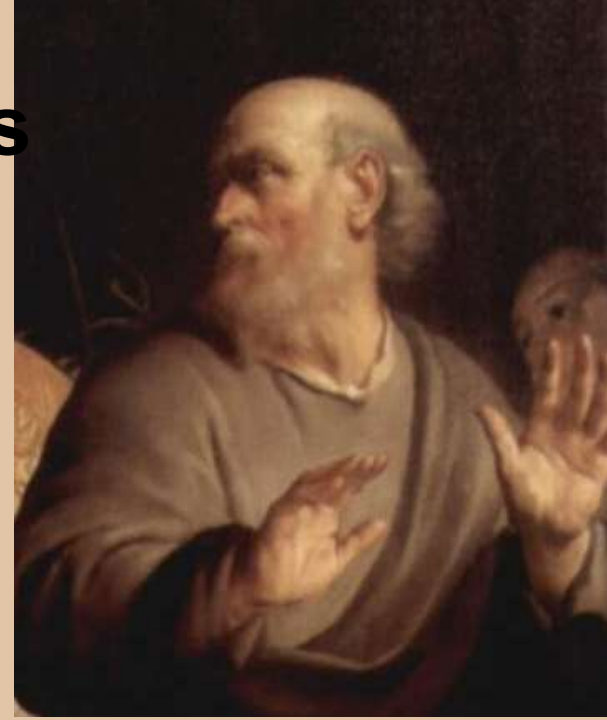
Where is the REST of the story ... ????

What made Elijah & Elisha HOLY? ... Men of God?

We have NOTHING ... NOT a thing on their LIVES

We have NOTHING on their LIVING ... just solitude

Just ONE Character Trait



How shall WE then LIVE?

Oh, much simpler than it appears

1 Sam 15:22 to obey is better than sacrifice

**Prov 21:3 To do what is right & just is more
acceptable to the LORD than sacrifice.**

Hosea 6:6 I desire mercy and not sacrifice

**Micah 6:6–8 shall I come before the Lord ...
with burnt offerings ... Shall I offer my firstborn ...
He has shown you, O mortal, what is good ...
To act justly and to love mercy
and to walk humbly with your God.**



What of Jesus in Matthew 9:13 & 12:7

I will have mercy, and not sacrifice

You & I will never be Elijah or Elisha

Never do MIRACLES like they did

But we CAN DO what they did in ***SPIRIT***

We can be Honest & Compassionate to the Weak

We can Listen to God ... Give Oil & Help Widows



Like Elijah & Elisha ... we must **SERVE** Others

We ***CAN Love*** Others as Ourselves

