

The Prophets Room

Elisha often travelled to visit the 'Schools of the Prophets' at Mount Carmel crossing the Valley of Jezreel. On the way he passed through the city of Shunem. The Name Shunem means 'Double Resting Place'

These frequent trips were noticed by a Rich woman who invited him for a meal. During one of these visits she realized he was 'A Holy Man of God.'... a Prophet. You know how it is when we have a visiting speaker... many people want to have a chat with them. Somehow its good to meet with Men of God.

This Shunamite woman asked her husband to build a room for the Prophet to stay in when he visited. When it was completed she did what every lady does.... Decorated!

- **Bed...** this room was not intended for a quick overnigher... the stay could be prolonged... it was a place of quietness & withdrawal... with time to think.
- **Table...** tables were about oblong dining table size.. and two thirds of the top would be covered in a thick cloth. This was the Study area... the cloth protected the scrolls & books used for study. The other third stored cups, plates & utensils... it was where meals were eaten.
- **Chair...** The word here means a 'Covered chair' with a cushion but also a canopy making it more like a throne... a place of judgments and pronouncements... this shows the Lady recognizes and honours the Prophet.
- **Candlestick...** or lamp... not just for light to see & study by... but possibly a Menorah.. Signifying a place of Worship.

From these things we can see it was a dual purpose room.. not just a place to rest... but also a place to spend time alone with God in prayer, worship, meditation & study.... A place to hear God. A place in His Presence.

Usually when Elisha visited, His servant, Gehazai was with him... Gehazai's name means 'Valley of Vision'. Even more Significant is Elisha's Name... it means '**God is Salvation**'

Grateful for the room Elisha asks to see his host... He asks if he can do something for The Woman... like use his influence to speak to the king on her behalf. ' *"No," she replied, "My family takes good care of me."* She thinks it's a simple question... but Elisha is testing her motives... was she inviting him to gain influence....or was it to Honour God & his servant.?

Gehazai... as servants do.... has meanwhile found out more... and tells Elisha of the tragedy behind her smile... Her husband is Old... and She has NO SON... Now, the Hebrew word for 'Son' here means '*House Builder*' ... There is Nobody to build the Family's Future.

Elisha calls the woman again... and rather than coming into the room she respectfully... or perhaps fearfully... stands in the doorway... on the Threshold... the place of entering in.

Elisha prophesies to her that in a year's time she WILL be holding a **BABY SON**.

Without realizing it... she was standing on the **Threshold of a Miracle.... The Doorway Of Her Future**. The place of God's Miraculous Provision... Continuity & Security.

When you look at your own life do you face some area where it seems there no hope...no future?

Maybe you've been praying for a loved one to come to Jesus for years... for a better Job or home... perhaps personally you live with some kind of sickness or infirmity... or you have people close to you that do... I don't know what your particular longing is...

But I do know this... Today... in this service you could be standing in your Doorway of Destiny.... The Threshold of your mitacle!

If you will build in your life... set aside in your mind and in your home a place for God to dwell and speak to you... where his Word is INVITED & WELCOMED to enter your house and be fed in faith...honoured & respected, where you study & allow His word illuminate your Spirit... He WILL abide with you. !

Where are you RIGHT NOW? Where do you stand? God is calling you right now to be honest with Him.... And tell him your need. I believe God has called us to this moment... Right now He's calling you to be prepared to come and stand before Him.

But the story doesn't end there.... One year later she is carrying her baby Boy... the promise has been faithfully fulfilled...

The Years passed & the boy grew & matured... Elisha continued his regular visits with Gehazai his servant.

One day... The Boy now maybe 5 to 10yrs old goes out to his father who's working in the field. The boy said to his father, *"My head hurts! It really hurts!" His father told a servant, "Carry him to his mother.".... The boy sat on her lap until noon. Then he died.*

Can you imagine what was going on in her mind right then? She's been sitting there for several hours.... As He boy's life slowly slipped away... destroyed in her arms... The Child she had longed for was DEAD.... It was like all her Joy... All her future... All her Security & hopes were DEAD.

Isn't that Just like Satan... just when everything's going all right... He throws a spanner in the works... again seeking Steal...Kill & Destroy.

But the faith that Held on to Gods promised and faithful word. Rises up.... And again she brings her problem to God... by carrying the boy and laying him on the PROPHET's bed. It's as if she is saying to God... 'You gave me this child.... Now... This is YOUR problem.!!

She lays him in the Prophets bed...She lays him in the place of Prophecy.... The Place of Promise. In effect what she's saying is 'God You Promised me a future.. & I'm not going to let go of it... I'm not going to let it die... I REFUSE to BURY my dream and my destiny.. This is FAITH at work. Fighting Faith!

Notice that she didn't cover the Boy... for covering a body was a symbol of and acceptance of Death.

This is something new... a few years earlier she'd been incredulous at what Elisha said to her. But then she had been pregnant with the promise... she carried it for 9 months.... And finally gave birth to the Promise... she had seen it Develop... she had seen God bring the promise to REALITY... so real that it played in the yard.

She had a fighting Faith that God would bring the promise to completion... and for that the Boy had to LIVE.

Again she speaks to her husband.... Isn't that just a lovely picture of submission & respect for him.... A servant accompanies her to find Elisha as quickly as possible. Even so its several hours journey.

Elisha sees her in the distance and tells Gehazai *'Run out there to meet her. Ask her, 'Are you all right? Is your husband all right? Is your child all right?''* "Everything is all right," she said'.

I looks like a lie... but in reality its FAITH speaking !

When she came to the man of God at the mountain, she fell to the ground before him and caught hold of his feet. Gehazai began to push her away, but the man of God said, "Leave her alone. She is deeply troubled, but the LORD has not told me what it is."

Speaking to her Elisha quickly realised what's wrong.... *And said to Gehazai, "Tuck your coat into your belt. Take my wooden staff and run to Shunem. Don't say hello to anyone you see. If anyone says hello to you, don't answer. Lay my staff on the boy's face."*

This Rod or staff was the symbol of Gods Authority... so placing on the boys face is a declaration of Gods authority over the situation... Satan might seek To Kill...Steal & destroy... but this is a line he cannot cross. Gehazai doesn't see any change... and tells Elisha *'The Boy didn't wake up'*

Elisha went into the room. He shut the door. He was alone with the boy. He prayed to the LORD.... Then he lay down on the child's body, placing his mouth on the child's mouth, his eyes on the child's eyes, and his hands on the child's hands. And as he stretched out on him, the child's body began to grow warm again!

Elisha's ministry & reputation are on the line.... There's no other sign of waking... You can sense this was a struggle... It's Like a Spiritual Cage-Fight..!

Elisha turned away. He walked back and forth in the room. Then he got on the bed again. He lay down on the boy once more. The boy sneezed seven times. After that, he opened his eyes.

Seven in the Bible is the Number of Perfect Completion.... But think about this... Have you ever tried to stop a sneeze..... You Cant! So these seven sneezes are a demonstration of Gods completely unstoppable power of life. The Miracle was Complete... The victory over death was Complete... because the Dead don't Sneeze!

Elisha called out to Gehazai, "Have the boy's mother come here." Gehazi did, and when she was at the door, Elisha said, " "Embrace your son!"

Embrace your Miracle... Embrace Gods Authority... Embrace the Builder of your House... Embrace your future....

But what about the Shunamite's Destiny & future? What happened to them?

Elisha warned them of a famine... So, abandoning their land they lived with the Philistines for seven years & then returned home to reclaim her land. Gehazai was telling the king what had happened those years before... then in they walked!

Here's the boy... he says.

You know there's nothing like meeting a walking miracle to get your attention.!

The king assigned an officer to take care of her, saying, *"Make sure she gets everything back that's hers, plus all the profits from the farm from the time she left until now."*

Again God proved faithful... by securing their future & provision abundantly.

Here... Today I believe The Lord has been Speaking to a number of you.... It feels like your dream has had a headache & died! Bring it to God! Lay it in the Prophets bed... the place that you have been preparing. He wants to Secure your future & destiny. He wants to bring your House-Builder to Life.

If are going to get to the place where it starts 'Sneezing' you've got to MOVE & make that Journey of faith.

If that's you.... I want you to MOVE.... NOW... Don't hesitate... Don't miss what God has for you.... We want to pray with you.... And For you.

Amen!

Ministry time & Close.