

# THE ERA OF ELISHA

- Israelite army tried to attack Moab from the south
- The expected watering holes were dry
- YHWH was consulted through Elisha by the 3 kings of the coalition army
- YHWH wanted Moab destroyed in a Holy War
- Israel is saved by a miracle of water
- Moab perceives the reddish water as blood from the Israelite army slaughtering itself





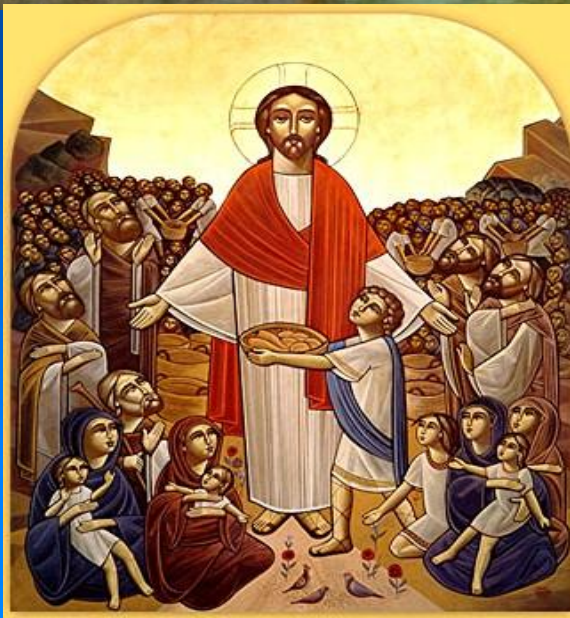
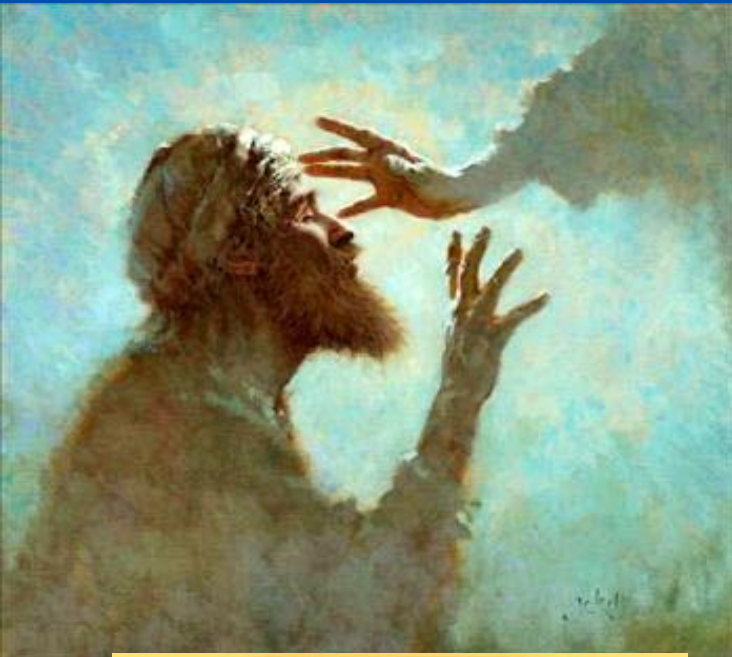
# ISRAEL REFUSES TO CLAIM GOD'S HOLY WAR VICTORY



- King Mesha of Moab sacrificed the King of Edom's son to Chemosh
- It emboldened the Moabites, demoralized the Edomites, and frightened the Israelites
- Israel was more fearful of the god of Moab than they trusted the God of Israel
- This was more than defeat, it was SIN



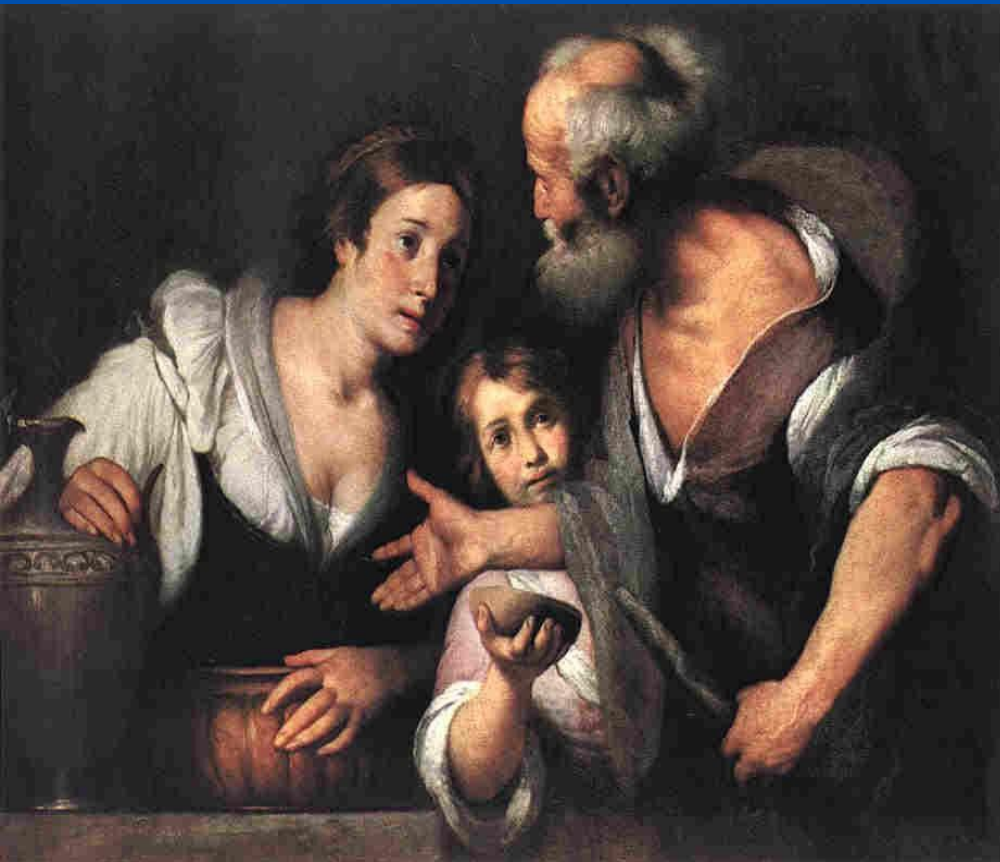
# 2<sup>ND</sup> KINGS CHAPTER 4



- Up to now Elisha seemed as harsh and severe as Elijah
- Here we see several stories of Elisha's softer side
- Aids the destitute, rewards kindness, resurrects the dead, feeds the hungry
- Prefigures the NT Gospel stories of Christ
- Chapters 4 – 8 are taken from a lost document that reports the works of the prophets
- Elisha ministered for 55 years



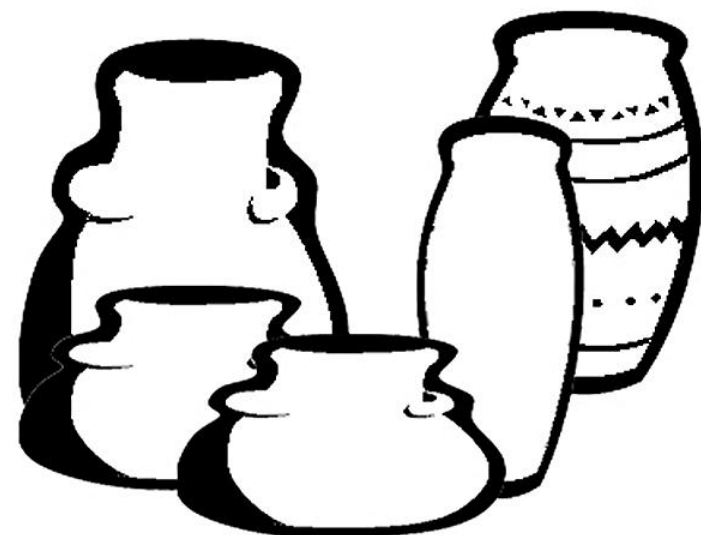
# THE STORY OF THE POOR WIDOW



- Wife of one of the guild prophets
- Rabbis say her husband had been Obadiah
- She is poor and in debt, her 2 sons about to be taken as bond-slaves
- Bond-servants are NOT slaves, and are not OWNED
- Lev. 25:39 - 43

# THE MIRACLE OF THE OIL

- Elisha asks the widow what she has OF VALUE
- ***Asuk shemem*** = anointing oil
- Abarbanel, 15<sup>th</sup> cent. Hebrew scholar
- Says Prophets worked miracles using the nature that God created, they weren't conjurers who created new things
- Widow's neighbors are asked to donate their empty flasks

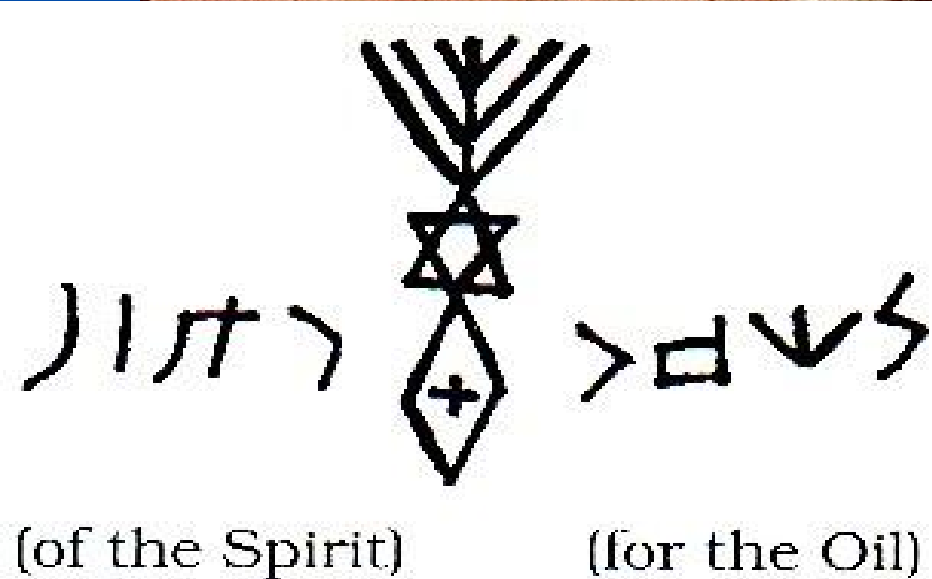




# OIL SYMBOLIZES THE HOLY SPIRIT



- The oil kept coming until she was out of flasks, then it stopped
- Oil represents the Holy Spirit
- There is no limit of God's Holy Spirit
- As long as there are willing vessels (human beings), God will keep supplying



# BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES ABOUT DEBT, DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

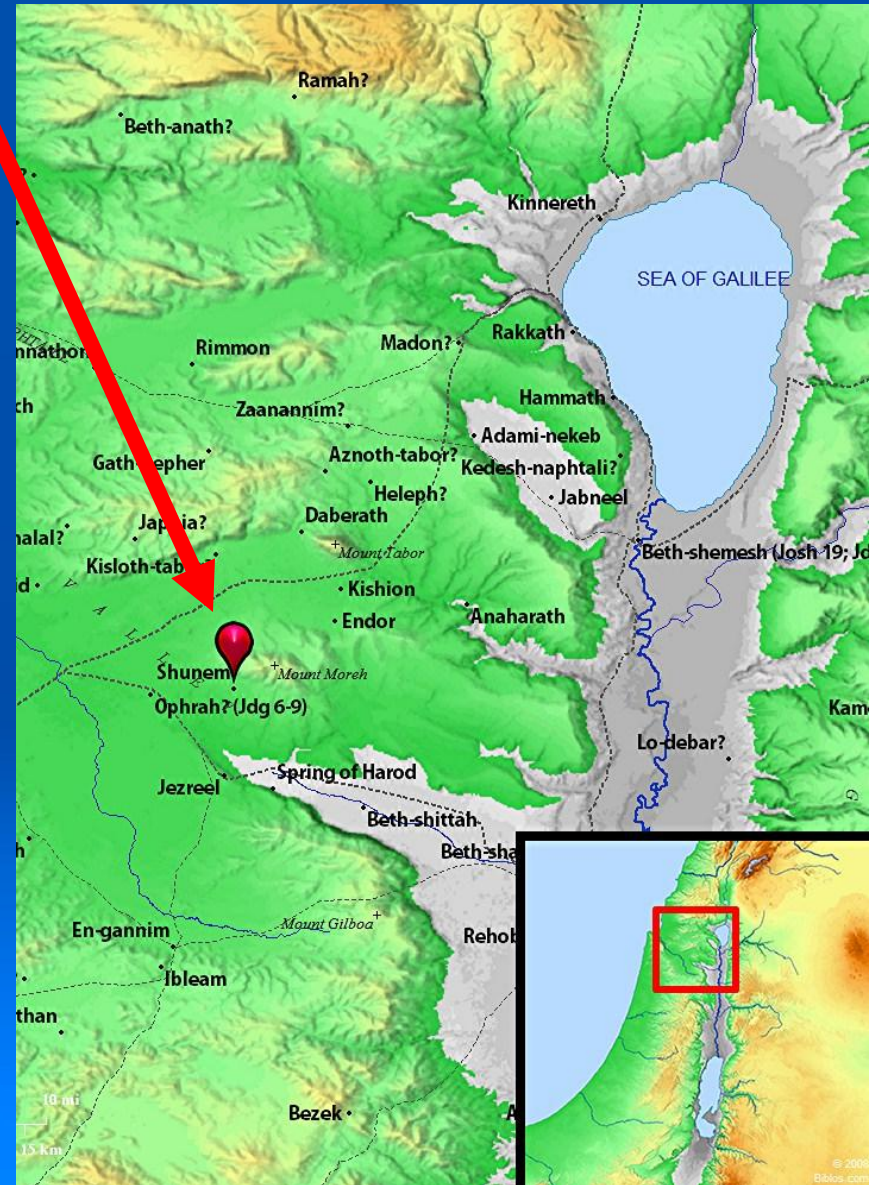


- Widow was to 1) sell the oil, 2) pay off creditors, 3) keep what was left over
- There is **NOTHING WRONG** with having some debt
- However it can be enslaving
- Our personal financial difficulties and discomfort do not excuse non-payment of our debts
- Bankruptcy for debtors generally follows the same Biblical principles
- Mercy is called for, but it cannot be forced onto the creditor



# THE RICH WOMAN OF SHUNEM

- Shunem, in Issachar
- Elisha regularly visited this town
- Rich woman built an apartment on the roof for Elisha
- Elisha called for the woman and spoke through his servant ***Geichazi***
- Elisha wants to repay her for her kindness
- She refuses Elisha's offer to find favor with the King of Israel
- ***Geichazi*** tells Elisha that she is barren, and her husband is too old to sire children





# THE BARREN WOMAN GIVES BIRTH TO A SON

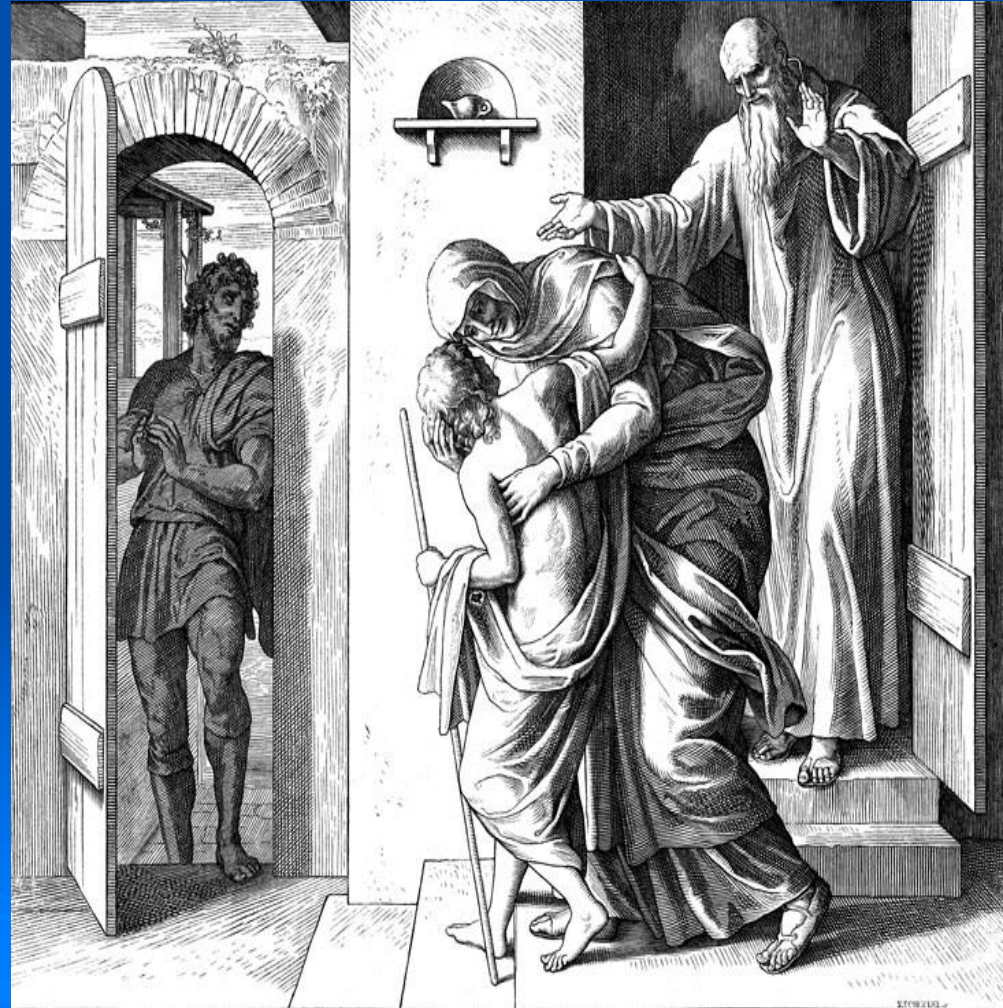


- Elisha blesses her and promises she will have a son
- Woman denies it is possible
- **Yeled** = infant
- **Yonek** = still nursing
- **Olel** = not weaned, but eating solid food
- **Gamel** = fully weaned (about 5 years)
- **Taph** = 6 – 10, still under mother's supervision
- **Elem** = 11+, now under father's supervision
- This boy was an **elem**



# THE TRAGIC DEATH OF THE BOY

- Out in the field the boy has a bad headache
- The boy dies in his mother's arms
- She puts him in Elisha's bed
- Woman tells her husband she is going to Elisha
- He doesn't understand since it's not Shabbat or Rosh Hodesh





# A DESPERATE JOURNEY TO MT. CARMEL

- Woman instructs her personal attendant not to slow her down
- Elisha sees her coming and sends *Geichazi* to meet her
- She rushes past him and grabs the ankles of Elisha
- God has not told Elisha what the matter was or what to do about it





# ELISHA GOES WITH THE WOMAN



- Elisha sends *Geichazi* instead, with his staff
- The woman will accept not substitutes !!
- What are we to do as Believers when action is needed but we have no clear direction from God?
- God's written Word is the source of most of God's will for our lives
- *Geichazi* went ahead of Elisha, placed the staff by the boy, but it didn't have any effect