

The Prophet Elisha



Background on Elisha

Elisha means “God is my savior”.

Elisha was a farmer when God told the prophet Elijah to call on Elisha to become his successor and a prophet for God.

He faithfully served Elijah and witnessed Elijah’s ascension to heaven in a chariot of fire.

Before Elijah was taken, Elisha asked for a double portion of Elijah's spirit, which Elijah recognized as a sign of his readiness to lead after him.

Elijah and Elisha



Elijah met Elisha after God instructed Elijah to anoint a successor, leading Elijah to find Elisha plowing a field. Elijah threw his cloak over Elisha, and Elisha immediately understood it was a divine call.

2 Kings 2

¹¹ As they were walking along and talking together, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated the two of them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind. ¹² Elisha saw this and cried out, “My father! My father! The chariots and horsemen of Israel!” And Elisha saw him no more.



The Shunammite Woman

⁸ One day Elisha went to Shunem. And a well-to-do woman was there, who urged him to stay for a meal. So whenever he came by, he stopped there to eat. ⁹ She said to her husband, “I know that this man who often comes our way is a holy man of God. ¹⁰ Let’s make a small room on the roof and put in it a bed and a table, a chair and a lamp for him. Then he can stay there whenever he comes to us.”

How would this generous offer have helped Elisha?



The Jars of Oil

4 -1 The wife of a man from the company of the prophets cried out to Elisha, “Your servant my husband is dead, and you know that he revered the Lord. But now his creditor is coming to take my two boys as his slaves.”

2 Elisha replied to her, “How can I help you? Tell me, what do you have in your house?” “Your servant has nothing there at all,” she said, “except a small jar of olive oil.”

3 Elisha said, “Go around and ask all your neighbors for empty jars. Don’t ask for just a few. 4 Then go inside and shut the door behind you and your sons. Pour oil into all the jars, and as each is filled, put it to one side.”

5 She left him and shut the door behind her and her sons. They brought the jars to her and she kept pouring. 6 When all the jars were full, she said to her son, “Bring me another one.” But he replied, “There is not a jar left.” Then the oil stopped flowing. 7 She went and told the man of God, and he said, “Go, sell the oil and pay your debts. You and your sons can live on what is left.”



Elisha heals Naaman



Wrapping it up

- What lesson can we learn from the Shunammite woman?
- What can we learn from the woman with the oil?
- Naaman was doubtful and did not believe what Elisha said would help him. How are we sometimes like this? What can we learn from this?