

The Rich Shunammite's Son Miraculously Restored to Life: God's Power to Give Life and to Raise the Dead 2 Kings 04:08–37

<p>1. <i>The rich woman's hospitality</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. She entertained Elisha when he passed by b. She encouraged her husband to add a room to their house where Elisha could stay <p>2. <i>The woman's wonderful reward: A child</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Elisha wanted to do something for the kind and generous woman • He sent his servant Gehazi to summon the woman so he could ask what he could do to repay her: Could he request a special political or legal favour for her or a military guard to protect her? • The woman replied that she had no special needs b. Elisha asked his servant for a gift suggestion for the woman: Discovered she was childless 	<p>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.</p> <p>9 She said to her husband, "I know that this man who often comes our way is a holy man of God.</p> <p>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."</p> <p>11 One day when Elisha came, he went up to his room and lay down there.</p> <p>12 He said to his servant Gehazi, "Call the Shunammite." So he called her, and she stood before him.</p> <p>13 Elisha said to him, "Tell her, 'You have gone to all this trouble for us. Now what can be done for you? Can we speak on your behalf to the king or the commander of the army?'" She replied, "I have a home among my own people."</p> <p>14 "What can be done for her?" Elisha asked. Gehazi said, "She has no son, and her husband is old."</p>
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<p>c. Elisha summoned the childless woman: Promised that God would give her a child within one year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She objected: Feared disappointment, a broken heart • She soon became pregnant and bore a son — just as Elisha promised <p>3. <i>The woman's broken heart and overwhelming sorrow</i></p> <p>a. The child suffered a violent headache one day</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Was with his father in the fields • Was sent home to his mother in the arms of a servant <p>b. The mother tenderly held the child on her lap until noon: He then died</p> <p>c. The mother kept the child's death a secret</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She laid him on Elisha's bed • She asked her husband for a servant and donkey so she could make a quick visit to Elisha • She was questioned why, since it was not a religious holiday • She assured her husband 	<p>15 Then Elisha said, "Call her." So he called her, and she stood in the doorway.</p> <p>16 "About this time next year," Elisha said, "you will hold a son in your arms." "No, my lord!" she objected. "Please, man of God, don't mislead your servant!"</p> <p>17 But the woman became pregnant, and the next year about that same time she gave birth to a son, just as Elisha had told her.</p> <p>18 The child grew, and one day he went out to his father, who was with the reapers.</p> <p>19 He said to his father, "My head! My head!" His father told a servant, "Carry him to his mother."</p> <p>20 After the servant had lifted him up and carried him to his mother, the boy sat on her lap until noon, and then he died.</p> <p>21 She went up and laid him on the bed of the man of God, then shut the door and went out.</p> <p>22 She called her husband and said, "Please send me one of the servants and a donkey so I can go to the man of God quickly and return."</p> <p>23 "Why go to him today?" he asked. "It's not the New Moon or the Sabbath." "That's all right," she said.</p>
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<p>d. The mother rushed to Elisha</p> <p>4. <i>The woman's faith in God and in His prophet Elisha</i></p> <p>a. The mother rushed to Mt. Carmel where Elisha lived</p> <p>b. Elisha saw her coming in the distance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He sent his servant to meet and greet her • She refused to be delayed by conversation with the servant <p>c. The mother rushed up to Elisha and knelt to the ground, grabbing his feet</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gehazi went over to push her away • Elisha stopped him, sensing the mother's bitter grief and sorrow <p>d. The mother poured out her soul to Elisha: Her pain was worse than having no child at all</p> <p>e. Elisha instructed his servant Gehazi to rush to the boy and to lay Elisha's staff on the dead child's face: A symbol of God's power</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The mother refused to leave unless Elisha went back with her: A picture of persistent faith in God • Elisha returned with her 	<p>24 She saddled the donkey and said to her servant, "Lead on; don't slow down for me unless I tell you."</p> <p>25 So she set out and came to the man of God at Mount Carmel. When he saw her in the distance, the man of God said to his servant Gehazi, "Look! There's the Shunammite!"</p> <p>26 Run to meet her and ask her, 'Are you all right? Is your husband all right? Is your child all right?' "</p> <p>"Everything is all right," she said.</p> <p>27 When she reached the man of God at the mountain, she took hold of his feet. Gehazi came over to push her away, but the man of God said, "Leave her alone! She is in bitter distress, but the LORD has hidden it from me and has not told me why."</p> <p>28 "Did I ask you for a son, my lord?" she said. "Didn't I tell you, 'Don't raise my hopes'?"</p> <p>29 Elisha said to Gehazi, "Tuck your cloak into your belt, take my staff in your hand and run. Don't greet anyone you meet, and if anyone greets you, do not answer. Lay my staff on the boy's face."</p> <p>30 But the child's mother said, "As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you." So he got up and followed her.</p>
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- Gehazi rushed on ahead and laid the staff on the boy's face, but there was no response
- Gehazi went back to meet Elisha to report what had happened

5. *The woman's persistent faith rewarded*

- a. Elisha found the boy lying dead on his bed
- b. Elisha shut the door and prayed to the LORD
- c. Elisha stretched his body out upon the boy, face-to-face: The dead child's body began to grow warm
- d. Elisha got up and paced the floor, continuing to pray
- e. Elisha again stretched his body out upon the boy, and the boy sneezed seven times: God revived the dead child
- f. Elisha sent his servant to summon the woman
 - He instructed her to take her son
 - She fell at his feet in gratitude and bowed in worship before the LORD

31 Gehazi went on ahead and laid the staff on the boy's face, but there was no sound or response. So Gehazi went back to meet Elisha and told him, "The boy has not awakened."

32 When Elisha reached the house, there was the boy lying dead on his couch.

33 He went in, shut the door on the two of them and prayed to the LORD.

34 Then he got on the bed and lay on the boy, mouth to mouth, eyes to eyes, hands to hands. As he stretched himself out on him, the boy's body grew warm.

35 Elisha turned away and walked back and forth in the room and then got on the bed and stretched out on him once more. The boy sneezed seven times and opened his eyes.

36 Elisha summoned Gehazi and said, "Call the Shunammite." And he did. When she came, he said, "Take your son."

37 She came in, fell at his feet and bowed to the ground. Then she took her son and went out.