

## ~GEHAZI (267)

(Ge-ha'zi)

.. An Attendant Of The Prophet Elisha

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- When Elisha wondered what could be done for a hospitable Shunammite woman, it was **Gehazi** who called to his masters attention that she was childless and that her husband was old.

- Accordingly, Elisha told her that she would be rewarded with a son. Years later the miraculously given boy became ill and died. The Shunammite thereupon came riding to see Elisha at Mount Carmel and took hold of his feet.

- On seeing this, **Gehazi** tried to push her away but was admonished to let her alone. After she finished speaking, Elisha at once sent **Gehazi** ahead to the boy, while Elisha and the woman followed.

- On their way there **Gehazi** met them, bringing back the report that, although he had placed Elisha's staff on the boys face, the boy did not wake up. However, shortly after arriving, Elisha resurrected the Shunammite son.

- So he said to **Gehazi** his attendant; Call this Shunammite woman. At that he called her that she might stand before him. (2 Kings 4:12)

- Then he said to him; Please, say to her; Here you have restricted yourself for us with all this restriction. What is there to be done for you? Is there anything to speak to the king or to the chief of the army for you? To this she said; In among my own people I am dwelling. (2 Kings 4:13)

- And he went on to say; What, then, is there to be done for her? **Gehazi** now said; For a fact, a son she does not have, and her husband is old. (2 Kings 4:14)

- Immediately he said; Call her. So he called her, and she kept standing at the entrance. (2 Kings 4:15)

- Then he said; At this appointed time next year you will be embracing a son. But she said; No, my master, O man of the true God! Do not tell lies in connection with your maidservant. (2 Kings 4:16)
- However, the woman became pregnant and gave birth to a son at this appointed time the next year, just as Elisha had spoken to her. (2 Kings 4:17)
- And the child kept on growing up, and it came about one day that he went out as usual to his father with the reapers. (2 Kings 4:18)
- And he kept saying to his father; My head, O my head! At last he said to the attendant; Carry him to his mother. (2 Kings 4:19)
- Accordingly he carried him and brought him to his mother. And he kept sitting upon her knees until noon, and gradually he died. (2 Kings 4:20)
- Then she went up and laid him upon the couch of the man of the true God and closed the door upon him and went out. (2 Kings 4:21)
- She now called her husband and said; Do send me, please, one of the attendants and one of the she-asses, and let me run as far as the man of the true God and return. (2 Kings 4:22)
- But he said; Why are you going to him today? It is not a new moon nor a Sabbath. However, she said; It is all right. (2 Kings 4:23)
- So she saddled up the she-ass and said to her attendant; Drive and go ahead. Do not hold back for my sake from riding unless I shall have said so to you. (2 Kings 4:24)
- And she proceeded to go and come to the man of the true God at Mount Carmel. And it came about that, as soon as the man of the true God saw her out ahead, he immediately said to Gehazi his attendant; Look! The Shunammite woman over there. (2 Kings 4:25)
- Now run, please, to meet her and say to her, Is it all right with you? Is it all right with your husband? Is it all right with the

child? To this she said; It is all right. (2 Kings 4:26)

- When she came to the man of the true God at the mountain, she at once took hold of him by his feet. At this **Gehazi** came near to push her away, but the man of the true God said; Let her alone, for her soul is bitter within her, and Yehowah himself has hidden it from me and not told me. (2 Kings 4:27)
- She now said; Did I ask for a son through my lord? Did I not say; You must not lead me to a false hope? (2 Kings 4:28)
- Immediately he said to **Gehazi**; Gird up your loins and take my staff in your hand and go. In case you encounter anyone, you must not greet him, and in case anyone should greet you, you must not answer him. And you must place my staff upon the face of the boy. (2 Kings 4:29)
- At this the mother of the boy said; As Yehowah is living and as your soul is living, I will not leave you. Therefore he got up and went with her. (2 Kings 4:30)
- And **Gehazi** himself passed along before them and then put the staff upon the boys face, but there was no voice nor paying of attention. So he went back to meet him and told him, saying; The boy did not wake up. (2 Kings 4:31)
- At last Elisha came into the house, and there the boy was dead, being laid upon his couch. (2 Kings 4:32)
- Then he came in and closed the door behind them both and began to pray to Yehowah. (2 Kings 4:33)
- Finally he went up and lay down upon the child and put his own mouth upon his mouth and his own eyes upon his eyes and his own palms upon his palms and kept bent over him, and gradually the child's flesh grew warm. (2 Kings 4:34)
- Then he began walking again in the house, once this way and once that way, after which he went up and bent over him. And the boy began to sneeze as many as seven times, after which the boy opened his eyes. (2 Kings 4:35)
- He now called **Gehazi** and said; Call this Shunammite woman. So he called her and she came in to him. Then he said; Lift up

your son. (2 Kings 4:36)

- And she proceeded to come in and fall at his feet and bow down to him to the earth, after which she lifted up her son and went out. (2 Kings 4:37)
- Later, because a seven-year famine was due to come, Elisha recommended that the Shunammite and her household take up alien residence wherever possible.
- After the famine, she returned from Philistia to Israel and approached the king with a plea to have her house and field restored to her. It so happened that at this time **Gehazi** was relating to the king how Elisha had resurrected this woman's son.
- On hearing the Shunammite's own account of this, the king instructed that everything be returned to her, including all that her field had produced during her absence.
- And Elisha himself had spoken to the woman whose son he had revived, saying; Rise up and go, you with your household, and reside as an alien wherever you can reside as an alien, for Yehowah has called for a famine, and, besides, it must come upon the land for seven years. (2 Kings 8:1)
- So the woman got up and did according to the word of the man of the true God and went, she with her household, and took up residence as an alien in the land of the Philistines for seven years. (2 Kings 8:2)
- And it came about at the end of seven years that the woman proceeded to return from the land of the Philistines and go forth to cry out to the king for her house and for her field. (2 Kings 8:3)
- Now the king was speaking to **Gehazi** the attendant of the man of the true God, saying; Do relate to me, please, all the great things that Elisha has done. (2 Kings 8:4)
- And it came about that as he was relating to the king how he had revived the dead one, why, here the woman whose son he had revived was crying out to the king for her house and for her field. At once **Gehazi** said; My lord the king, this is the woman, and this is her son whom Elisha revived. (2 Kings 8:5)

- At that the king asked the woman, and she went on to relate to him the story. Then the king gave her a court official, saying; Return all that belongs to her and all the products of the field from the day of her leaving the land until now. (2 Kings 8:6)
- Greed for selfish gain proved to be the downfall of **Gehazi**. This was in connection with the healing of Naaman the Syrian. Though Elisha had refused to accept a gift from Naaman for the healing of his leprosy
- At that he went down and began to plunge into the Jordan seven times according to the word of the man of the true God, after which his flesh came back like the flesh of a little boy and he became clean. (2 Kings 5:14)
- Then he went back to the man of the true God, he with all his camp, and came and stood before him and said; Here, now, I certainly know that there is no God anywhere in the earth but in Israel. And now accept, please, a blessing gift from your servant. (2 Kings 5:15)
- However, he said; As Yehowah before whom I do stand is living, I will not accept it. And he began to urge him to accept it, but he kept refusing. (2 Kings 5:16)
- **Gehazi** coveted a gift and reasoned that it was only proper to receive this. Therefore, he ran after Naaman and, in the name of Elisha, asked for a talent of silver (worth \$6,606) and two changes of garments, on the pretense that this was for two young men of the sons of the prophets who had just arrived from the mountainous region of Ephraim.
- Naaman gladly gave him not just one but two talents of silver, as well as the two changes of garments, and had two of his attendants carry the gift for **Gehazi**.
- At Ophel, **Gehazi** took the gift from the hands of the attendants, dismissed them, deposited the gift in his house, and then presented himself empty-handed before Elisha, even denying that he had gone anywhere when asked:
- Where did you come from, **Gehazi**? As a result, **Gehazi** was stricken with leprosy. So his greed, coupled with his deceptiveness,

**cost Gehazi his privilege of continuing to serve as Elisha's attendant, besides bringing leprosy on himself and his offspring.**

- **Then **Gehazi** the attendant of Elisha the man of the true God said; Here my master has spared Naaman this Syrian by not accepting from his hand what he brought. As Yehowah is living, I will run after him and take something from him. (2 Kings 5:20)**
- **And **Gehazi** went chasing after Naaman. When Naaman saw someone running after him, he at once got down from his chariot to meet him and then said; Is all well? (2 Kings 5:21)**
- **To this he said; All is well. My master himself has sent me, saying; Look! Just now there have come to me two young men from the mountainous region of Ephraim from the sons of the prophets. Do give them, please, a talent of silver and two changes of garments. (2 Kings 5:22)**
- **At that Naaman said; Go on, take two talents. And he kept urging him and finally bound up two talents of silver in two bags, with two changes of garments, and gave them to two of his attendants, that they might carry them before him. (2 Kings 5:23)**
- **When he came to Ophel, he immediately took them from their hand and deposited them in the house and sent the men away. So off they went. (2 Kings 5:24)**
- **And he himself came in and then stood by his master. Elisha now said to him; Where did you come from, **Gehazi**? But he said; Your servant did not go anywhere at all. (2 Kings 5:25)**
- **At that he said to him; Did not my heart itself go along just as the man turned to get down off his chariot to meet you? Is it a time to accept silver or to accept garments or olive groves or vineyards or sheep or cattle or menservants or maidservants? (2 Kings 5:26)**
- **So the leprosy of Naaman will stick to you and your offspring to time indefinite. Immediately he went out from before him, a leper white as snow. (2 Kings 5:27)**