

THE MIRACLES OF ELIJAH were eight in number, marking the Divine character of his mission:

1. The shutting up of heaven, 1 Kings 17:1; James 5:17; Luke 4:25.
2. Multiplying the widow's meal, 2 Kings 17:14-16.
3. Raising the widow's son, verses 17-23.
4. Causing fire to come down from heaven, 1 Kings 18:37, 38.
5. Causing rain to come down from heaven, verses 41-45.
6. Causing fire to come down from heaven, 2 Kings 1:10.
7. The same, verse 12.
8. Dividing the Jordan, 2 Kings 2:8.

THE MIRACLES OF ELISHA were double in number, viz. sixteen, for his request was, "Let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me," 2 Kings 2:9:

1. Dividing the Jordan, 2 Kings 2:14.
2. Healing the waters, verse 21.
3. Cursing the young men, verse 24.
4. Procuring water for the three kings, 2 Kings 3:16-20.
5. Multiplying the widow's oil, 2 Kings 4:1-7.
6. Raising the widow's son, 4:37.
7. Healing the deadly pottage, verse 38.
8. Feeding the hundred men, verses 42-44.
9. The healing of Naaman, 2 Kings 5:1-19.
10. The smiting of Gehazi, verses 20-27.
11. Causing the iron to swim, 2 Kings 6:1-7.
12. Opening the eyes of his servant, verse 17.
13. Smiting the Syrian army with blindness, verse 18.
14. Restoring their sight, verse 20.
15. Arresting the king's messenger, verses 30-33.
16. A dead man raised by touching his bones, 2 Kings 13:20, 21.

1. God Provides for a Widow – II Kings 4:1-7

2. God Gives Life to a Boy – II Kings 4:8-37

Death – happens to all people; Heb. 9:27 – great appointment all keep

Carl Jung – Death is “a period placed before the end of a sentence.”

“Death is a cruel thing when it strikes the young.” Boy in lesson text is thought to be young

Rev. 1:8 – when Jesus rose from the dead, He snatched the keys of Hades and Death from the hand of Satan. Death no longer has dominion over those in Christ. Hallelujah!

A. A Place to Call Home

God’s prophets often relied on the hospitality of others; Jesus had no earthly home – often stayed in Bethany with Mary, Martha, Lazarus

Hometown = Abel-Meholah

Went to Mt. Carmel to pray

Shunem – 20 miles away – halfway

8 In Shunem, met a noble woman

Apparently wealthy; Willing to use her means to help others

9 Realized Elisha and Gehazi passed by frequently on their travels

10 Built a room for Elisha to stay in – bed, table, stool, candlestick

Elisha's home away from home

B. Elisha repaid the Shunamite Woman's Kindness

12 Gehazi instructed to call the woman

13 Told to ask what he could do for her to repay her for her help

14 She was reluctant to give an answer

Gehazi noticed she had no children, and her husband is old – no chance

What better to give than a son? In that time, every man wanted a son to carry on his name and women were measured by whether they could have children or not.

15 Told to call the woman to his room

16 Elisha's unbelievable words – having a son next year; Did not seem possible

Similar to Abraham and Sarah in Gen. 18:10-14

V. 14 – "Is anything too hard for God?"

God does what He sees fit!

17 God kept His Word

C. The Greatest of Sorrows

18 Child has grown – Old enough to go visit his father

19 Said his head was hurting him

Servant instructed to carry the boy to his mother – Obviously still very young

20 Sat in his mother's lap until he died

21 Took him and laid him in Elisha's bed

22 Calls her husband to send one of the young men and a donkey to take her to Elisha

23 For whatever reason, she doesn't mention the boy

Asked what the occasion was – not a special day

Answer: NKJV “It is well”

Why no mention? Jews buried their dead the same day they died. May have been concerned if he knew, they would bury him then – not ready to give him up!

Obviously believed the man that promised a son could do something!

24 Gets on the donkey; Told to go until she says stop!

25 Elisha sees her and knows something is wrong

26 Servant to ask if all is well with her, her husband, and son; Answered: “It is well”

27 Gets to Elisha, falls at his feet and grabs on!

Gehazi tries to push her away; Elisha tells him to stop

Jesus used similar words when the Disciples urged Him to send the Canaanite woman away – MT 15:22-23

Also reprimanded the Disciples when they tried to turn away the children – MT 19:13-15

28 Woman is bitter – blames Elisha

Similar to Elijah and Sidonian woman – I Kings 17

29 Elisha’s response was not to condemn her but to send Gehazi with his staff and place it on the boy’s face

30 Woman not going to leave Elisha

31 Staff did nothing – Heartbreaking

32 Boy still on Elisha’s bed

33 Shut the door & Prayed to God

34 Literally lays on top of the boy

Like Sidonian woman except here covers eyes/mouth/hands with eyes/hands/mouths

Body is warm

35 Elisha gets up, probably praying as he leaves

Boy sneezes 7 times (Spirits cannot sneeze – like eating); Suggested that it forced out the toxins

36 Told to get the son

37 Fell down and bowed before leaving – God Was Not Finished With Her Yet

3. Horatio G. Spafford Gates

- 10/28/1828 – 10/16/1888
- Successful lawyer and businessman in Chicago
- Wife: Anna; 5 children. Young son died in 1871 with pneumonia.
- 1871: lost much of business in Great Chicago Fire
- 11/21/1873: French ocean liner Ville du Havre enroute to Europe from US. 313 passengers aboard, including Mrs. Spafford and four daughters (Annie, Margaret Lee, Bessie, Tanetta).
- Horatio planned to go; business kept him at home. Would journey in a few days.
- 4 days into trip, Ville du Havre collided with Scottish iron-hulled ship, the Loch Earn.
- Anna Spafford brought four children to deck and prayed for safety.
- 12 minutes later, Ville du Havre goes under water with 226 passengers, including Spafford children.
- Mrs. Spafford saved by a man in a rowboat.
- 9 days later, on land in Cardiff, Wales, sent Horatio a telegram: "Saved alone, what shall I do?"
- She was quoted as saying: "God gave me four daughters. Now they have been taken from me. Someday I will understand why."
- Horatio took next available ship. Captain informed him when they passed over the part of the Atlantic where his daughters were lost.
- According to Bertha Spafford Vester (a daughter born after the tragedy); he wrote *It Is Well* while on this journey passing over this spot.
- Three more children were born to the Spafford's; one was lost to pneumonia.

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Miracles: Number in Scripture: Its Supernatural Design and Spiritual Significance E. W. Bullinger (1895)

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