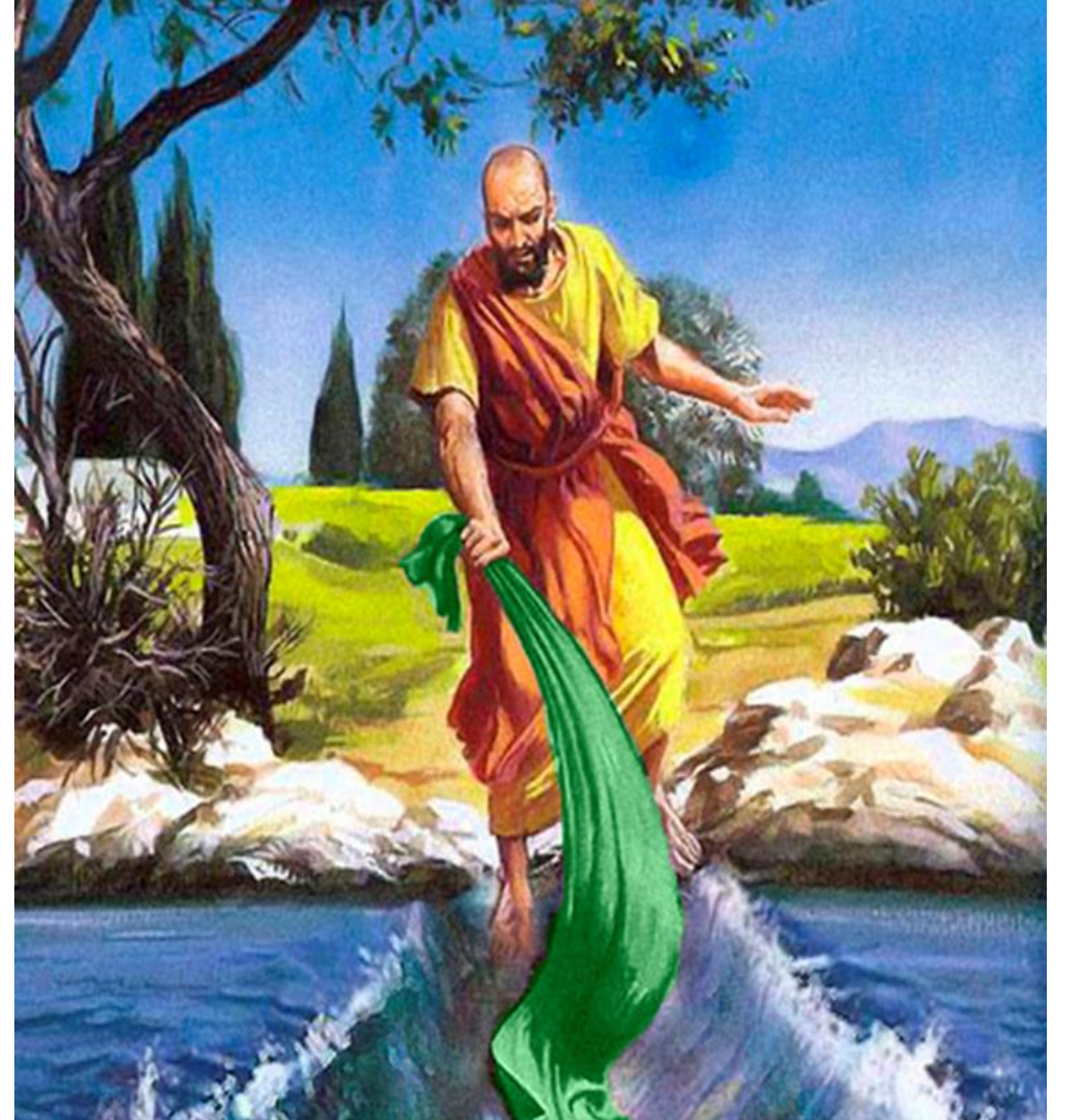


GOD CARES
ABOUT YOU

THE PROPHET'S MANTLE

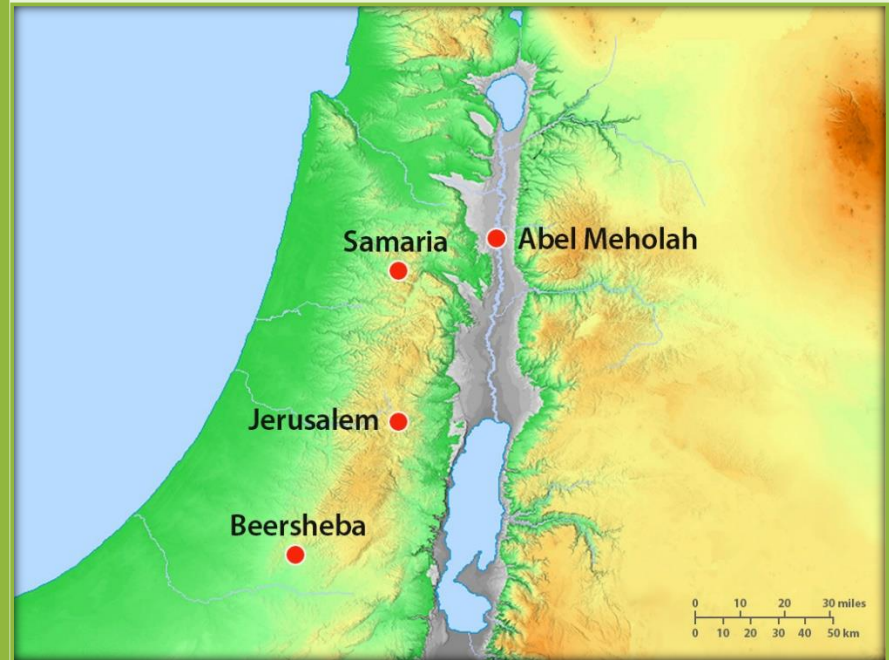


The Commission



"And the Lord said unto him, Go, return on thy way to the wilderness of Damascus: and when thou comest, anoint Hazael to be king over Syria: And Jehu the son of Nimshi shalt thou anoint to be king over Israel: and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abelmeholah shalt thou anoint to be prophet in thy room." (1 Kings 19:15-16)

God directly commissioned Elisha as Elijah's successor. Thus, Elisha would continue the work of prophet. Elisha was to be specially anointed to carry out this mission.



The Call



“So he departed thence, and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen before him, and he with the twelfth: and Elijah passed by him, and cast his mantle upon him. And he left the oxen, and ran after Elijah, and said, Let me, I pray thee, kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow thee. And he said unto him, Go back again: for what have I done to thee? And he returned back from him, and took a yoke of oxen, and slew them, and boiled their flesh with the instruments of the oxen, and gave unto the people, and they did eat. Then he arose, and went after Elijah, and ministered unto him.” (1 Kings 19:19-21)

Placing his cloak over Elisha, Elijah took him into his service. From that moment on, he was to be under his special protection. He was going to learn to serve, not only Elijah, but especially to serve God. Together, Elijah and Elisha reopened the schools of the prophets that Samuel had founded. For a time, they taught the people of Israel the worship of the true God. It was a time of revival and reformation.

“And Elijah took his mantle, and wrapped it together, and smote the waters, and they were divided hither and thither, so that they two went over on dry ground. And it came to pass, when they were gone over, that Elijah said unto Elisha, Ask what I shall do for thee, before I be taken away from thee. And Elisha said, I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me. And he said, Thou hast asked a hard thing: nevertheless, if thou see me when I am taken from thee, it shall be so unto thee; but if not, it shall not be so. And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. And Elisha saw it, and he cried, My father, my father, the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof. And he saw him no more: and he took hold of his own clothes, and rent them in two pieces. He took up also the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and went back, and stood by the bank of Jordan; And he took the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and smote the waters, and said, Where is the Lord God of Elijah? and when he also had smitten the waters, they parted hither and thither: and Elisha went over. And when the sons of the prophets which were to view at Jericho saw him, they said, The spirit of Elijah doth rest on Elisha. And they came to meet him, and bowed themselves to the ground before him.” (2 Kings 2:8-15)

For the second time, Elisha received the mantle of Elijah. This time, as a symbol of the power of the Holy Spirit with which he was being specially anointed. From that moment on, his life was marked by the miracles that God did through him. Today we will look at these miracles from the perspective of God's concern for us in every facet of our lives. This concern will be evident in each miracle of Elisha.

The Power



2 Kings
2:19-22

SALT AT THE SPRING

GOD CARES ABOUT OUR
SPIRITUAL LIFE



“And the men of the city said unto Elisha, Behold, I pray thee, the situation of this city is pleasant, as my lord seeth: but the water is naught, and the ground barren. And he said, Bring me a new cruse, and put salt therein. And they brought it to him. And he went forth unto the spring of the waters, and cast the salt in there, and said, Thus saith the Lord, I have healed these waters; there shall not be from thence any more death or barren land. So the waters were healed unto this day, according to the saying of Elisha which he spake.”



The waters of Jericho, once so healthy and refreshing, had become polluted, and the valley, which had once been very good, was becoming barren.

The salt Elisha asked for was a symbol of the purifying and restorative power that comes from God.

The polluted spring of Jericho, on the other hand, is a symbol of our deteriorated spiritual life.

“The Spirit of God produces a new life in the soul, bringing the thoughts and desires into obedience to the will of Christ; and the inward man is renewed in the image of God. Weak and erring men and women show to the world that the redeeming power of grace can cause the faulty character to develop into symmetry and abundant fruitfulness.” (Prophets and Kings, 233)

God cares about our spiritual life. Just as He was willing to heal the spring of Jericho, He is also pleased today to give us His Holy Spirit to heal our souls and help us grow spiritually through prayer and the study of His Word.

REMEMBER THAT GOD CARES ABOUT....



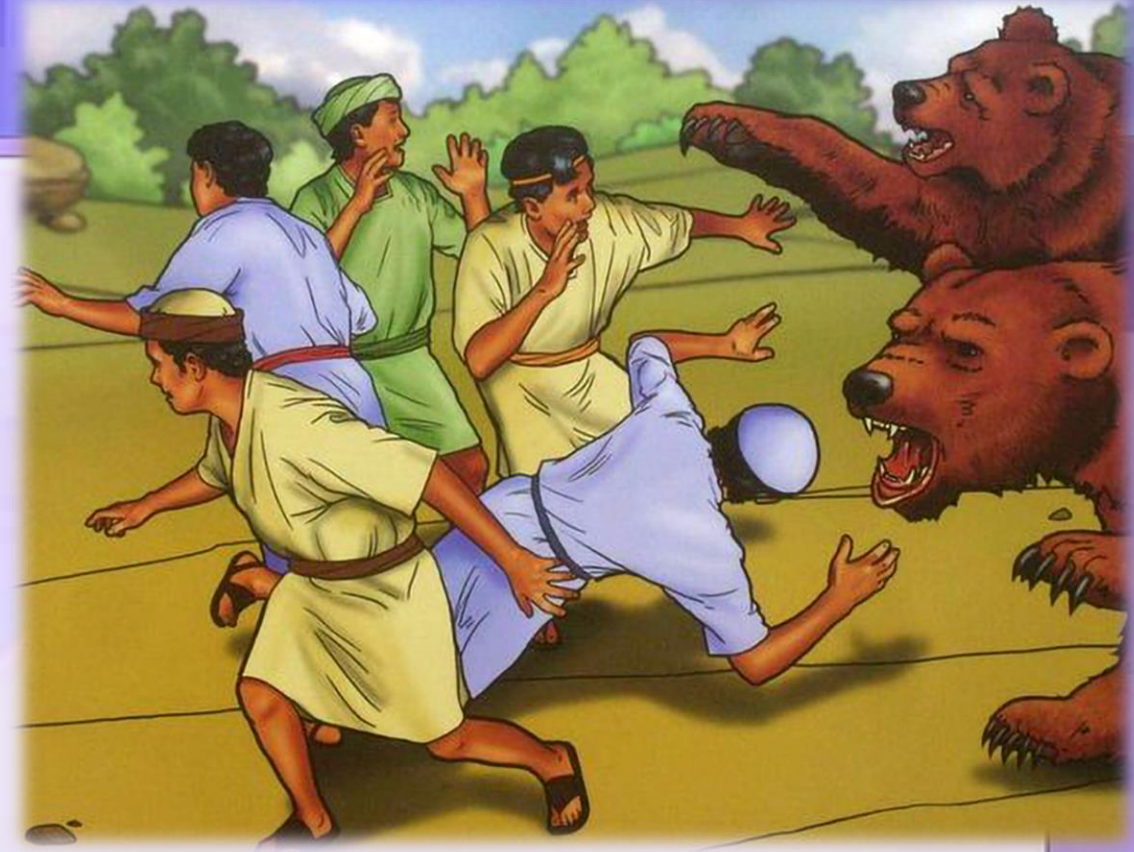
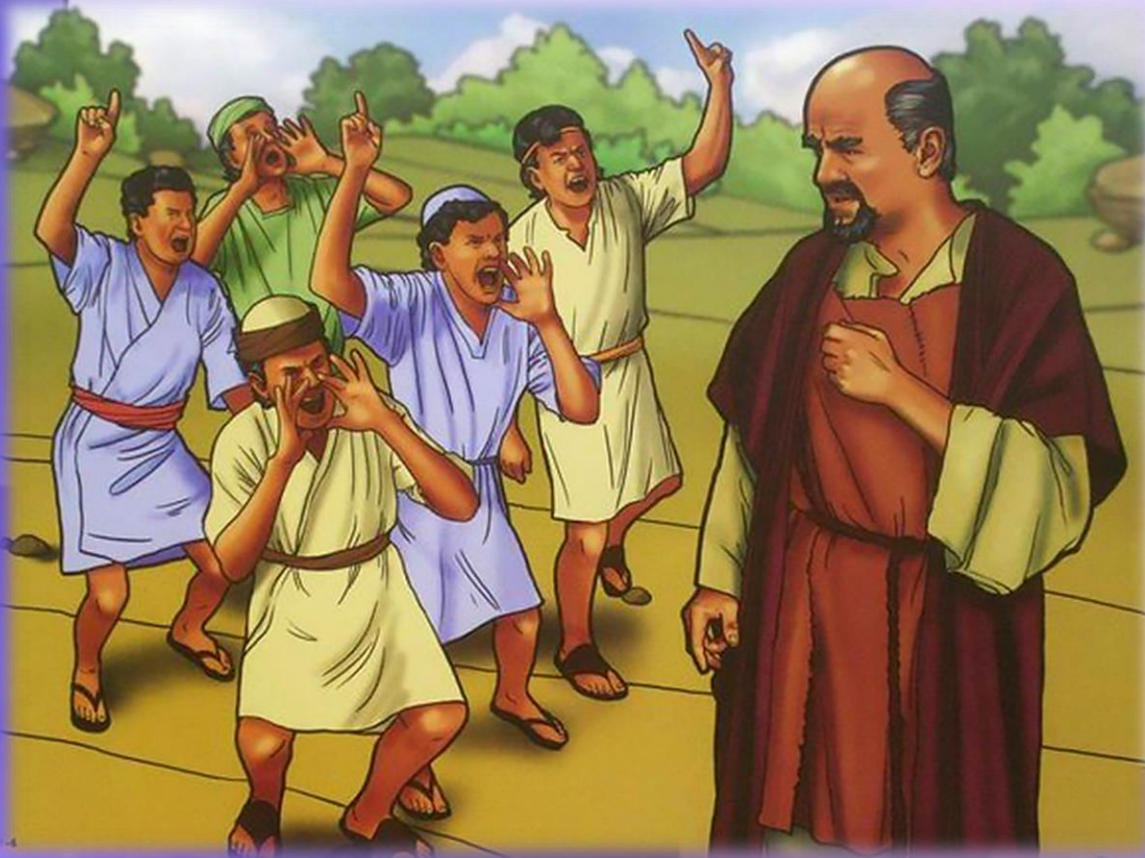
OUR SPIRITUAL LIFE

2 Kings
2:23-25

THE BEARS AND THE CHILDREN

GOD CARES ABOUT OUR REPUTATION

“And he went up from thence unto Bethel: and as he was going up by the way, there came forth little children out of the city, and mocked him, and said unto him, Go up, thou bald head; go up, thou bald head.



And he turned back, and looked on them, and cursed them in the name of the Lord. And there came forth two she bears out of the wood, and tare forty and two children of them. And he went from thence to mount Carmel, and from thence he returned to Samaria.”

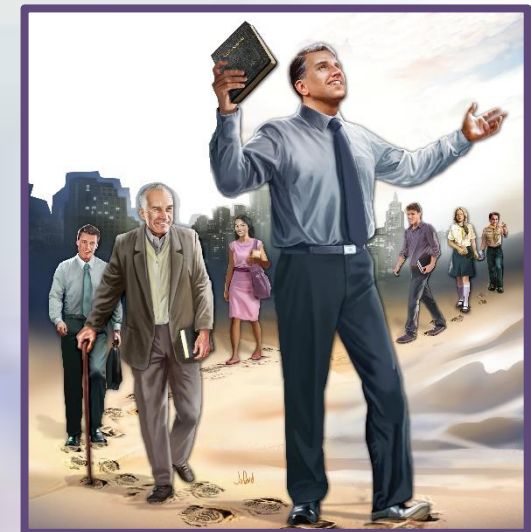
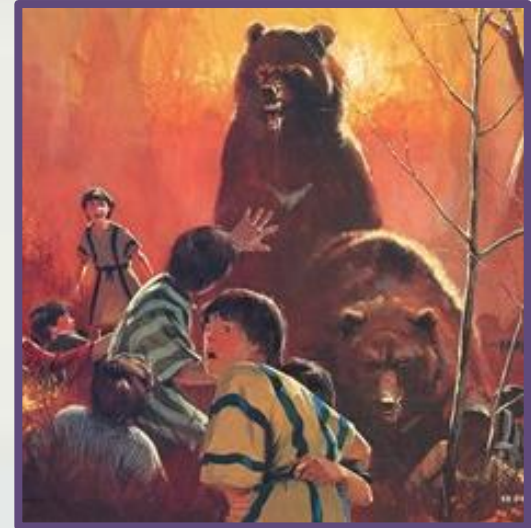
Elisha was a prophet of peace who preached a message of peace. His mission was to provide life and joy to the people of Israel. As he was beginning that important mission, some boys came out of the city of Bethel to mock him and ridicule his work as God's messenger.

Elijah was gone, and now they ridiculed Elisha, insisting that he also ascend and leave them alone. The young men were inspired by Satan, who sought to do everything in his power to counteract the effect of the solemn event which had taken place, and which had left a deep impression on the people of the land.

“Had Elisha allowed the mockery to pass unnoticed, he would have continued to be ridiculed and reviled by the rabble, and his mission to instruct and save in a time of grave national peril might have been defeated. This one instance of terrible severity was sufficient to command respect throughout his life.” (PK 236).

This was not an occasion to show weakness or indecision. Turning to these rough and scoffering young men, Elisha, by divine inspiration, pronounced God's curse upon them. The punishment that ensued came from God. The severity of the punishment matched the seriousness of what was at stake. A clear example was needed to restrain ungodliness and to show the people how terrible it is to mock the works of God or to despise His ministers.

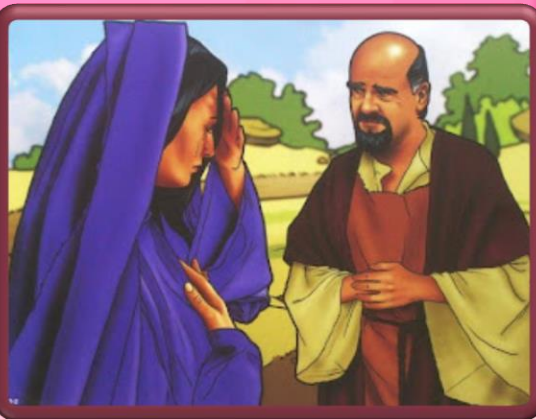
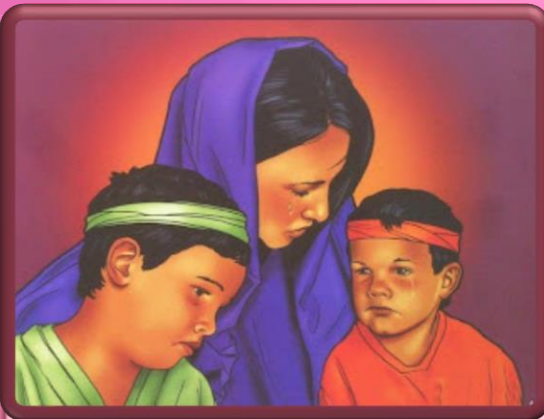
The terrible punishment that befell the mocking young men of Bethel teaches us that God cares about the reputation and honor of his servants.



REMEMBER THAT GOD CARES ABOUT...



OUR REPUTATION AND HONOR

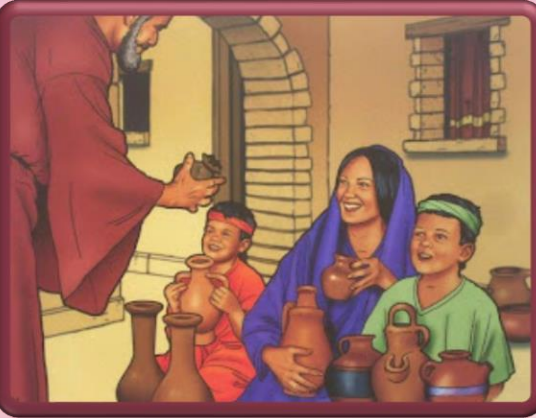
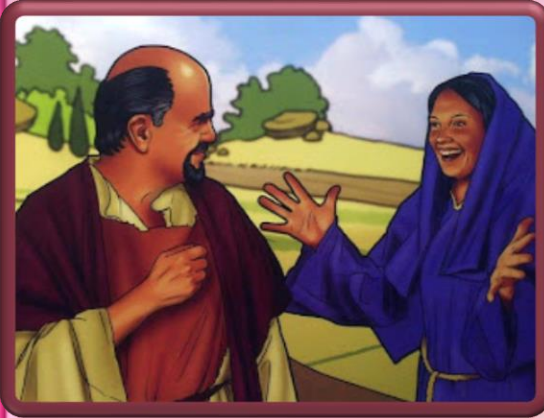
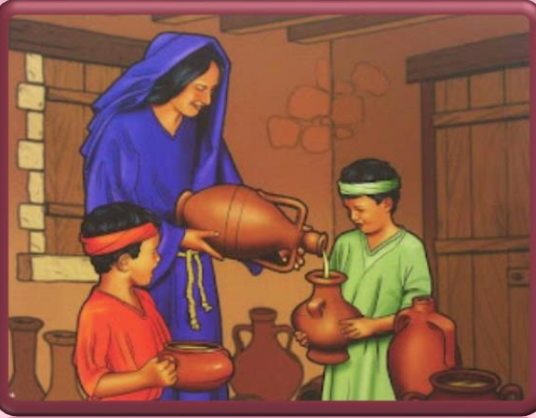
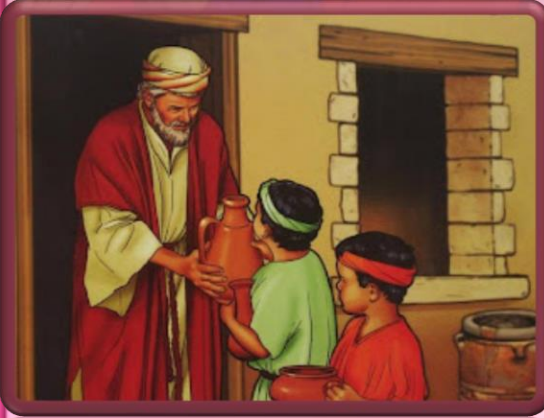


2^a Kings
4:1-7

WIDOW'S OIL

GOD CARES ABOUT OUR
ECONOMY

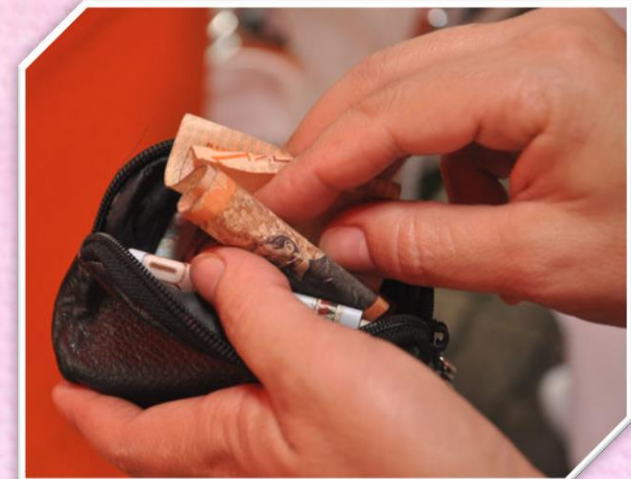
“Now there cried a certain woman of the wives of the sons of the prophets unto Elisha, saying, Thy servant my husband is dead; and thou knowest that thy servant did fear the Lord: and the creditor is come to take unto him my two sons to be bondmen. And Elisha said unto her, What shall I do for thee? tell me, what hast thou in the house? And she said, Thine handmaid hath not any thing in the house, save a pot of oil. Then he said, Go, borrow thee vessels abroad of all thy neighbours, even empty vessels; borrow not a few. And when thou art come in, thou shalt shut the door upon thee and upon thy sons, and shalt pour out into all those vessels, and thou shalt set aside that which is full. So she went from him, and shut the door upon her and upon her sons, who brought the vessels to her; and she poured out. And it came to pass, when the vessels were full, that she said unto her son, Bring me yet a vessel. And he said unto her, There is not a vessel more. And the oil stayed. Then she came and told the man of God. And he said, Go, sell the oil, and pay thy debt, and live thou and thy children of the rest..”



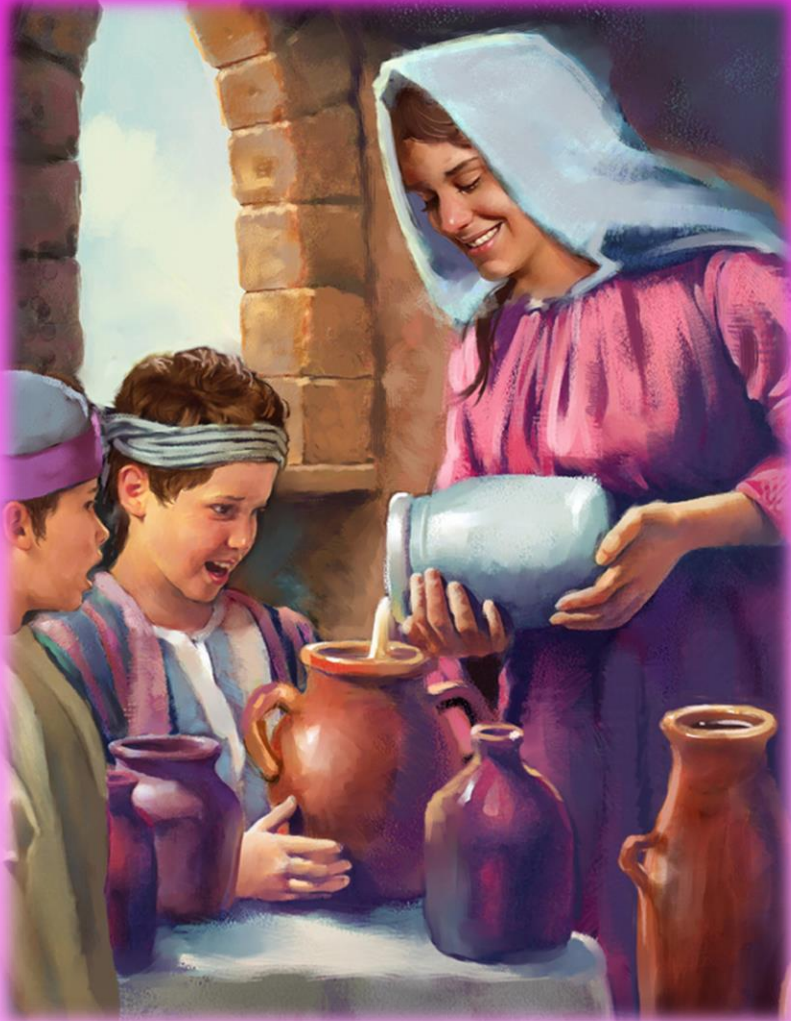


God uses what we have. His resources and power are limitless, and he could easily have supplied the woman's need without the aid of his vessel of oil. But He took what she had and added His blessing. So, it is today with the servants of God. They may not have great natural ability or many material resources, but if they consecrate to God and His service what they have, asking Him to bless them, that little will multiply. The widow had only asked that her children be freed from slavery; but because of her poverty she still had many needs. So, God provided more blessings than she asked for. In addition to paying off her debts, it gave her enough to live on for herself and her children. The jar of oil was not a big deal, but in God's hand and with His blessing, it was enough to meet all the economic needs of this widow, because God also cares about our economy so that we do not lack what is necessary to live.

**"I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread"
Psalms 37:25.**



REMEMBER THAT GOD CARES ABOUT...



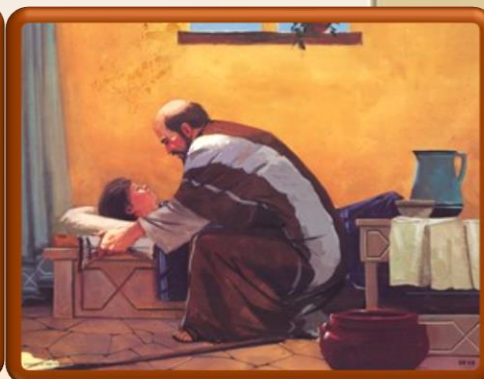
OUR ECONOMY

2 Kings
4:29-37

THE RESURRECTION OF THE CHILD

GOD CARES ABOUT OUR LIFE

“Then he said to Gehazi, Gird up thy loins, and take my staff in thine hand, and go thy way: if thou meet any man, salute him not; and if any salute thee, answer him not again: and lay my staff upon the face of the child. And the mother of the child said, As the Lord liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee. And he arose, and followed her. And Gehazi passed on before them, and laid the staff upon the face of the child; but there was neither voice, nor hearing. Wherefore he went again to meet him, and told him, saying, The child is not awaked. And when Elisha was come into the house, behold, the child was dead, and laid upon his bed. He went in therefore, and shut the door upon them twain, and prayed unto the Lord. And he went up, and lay upon the child, and put his mouth upon his mouth, and his eyes upon his eyes, and his hands upon his hands: and stretched himself upon the child; and the flesh of the child waxed warm. Then he returned, and walked in the house to and fro; and went up, and stretched himself upon him: and the child sneezed seven times, and the child opened his eyes. And he called Gehazi, and said, Call this Shunammite. So he called her. And when she was come in unto him, he said, Take up thy son. Then she went in, and fell at his feet, and bowed herself to the ground, and took up her son, and went out.”



The staff was the insignia of Elisha's prophetic gift and, like Moses' rod, symbolized God's power to perform miracles. The child could have been resurrected using only the staff of the prophet that Gehazi placed on him. But the woman looked upon Elisha as the messenger by whom the Lord would demonstrate His power, and the Lord saw fit to reward that faith in the way she herself expected.



God responded to this mother's faith by giving her back her son. Like her, the widow of Zarephath and the widow of Nain received their resurrected children in their arms.

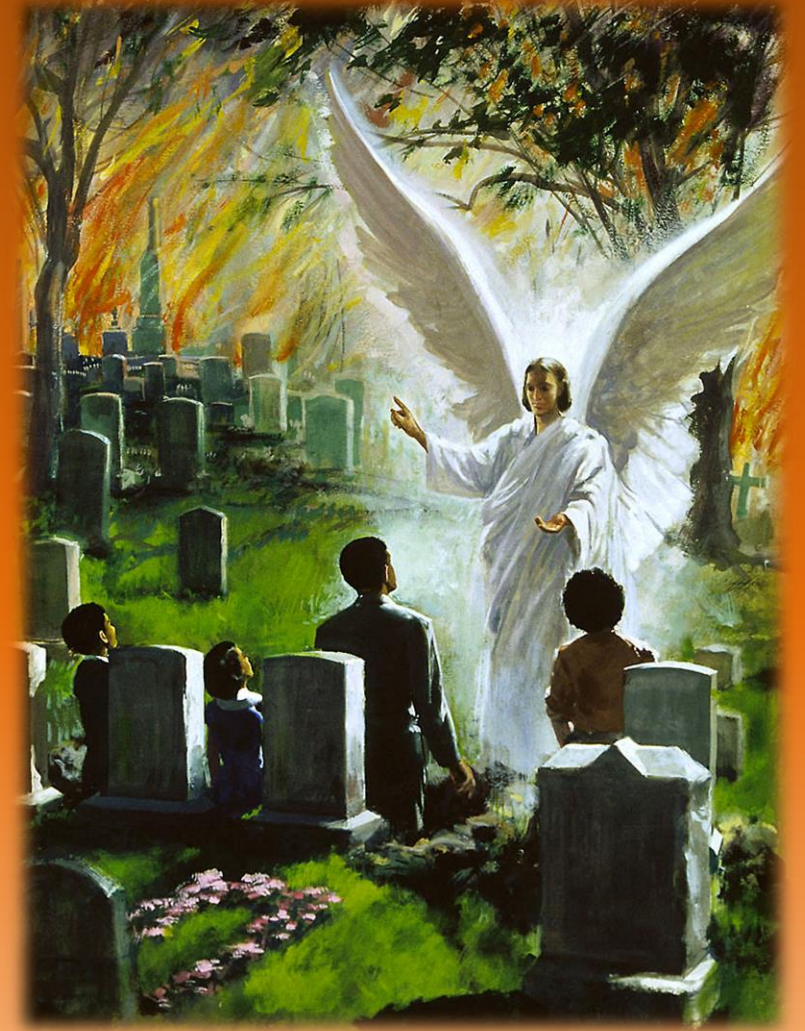
Jesus has compassion for every mother who weeps over the loss of a child. And on the happy day of resurrection, the children who now sleep in the tomb will rise again and will be carried by the angels into the arms of their mothers.



God not only cares about our future life, but He preserves our physical life now. The psalmist says: "I laid me down and slept; I awaked; for the Lord sustained me." (Psalms 3:5)

Jesus said: "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." (John 10:10)

REMEMBER THAT GOD CARES ABOUT...



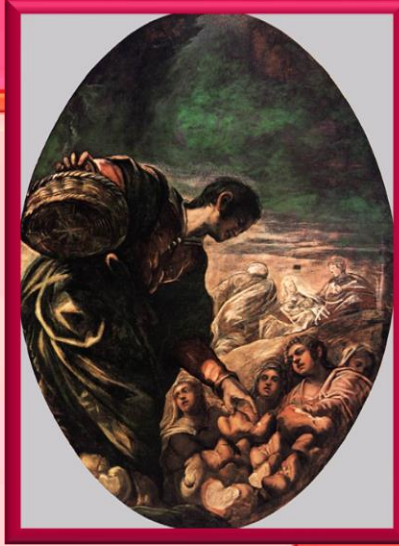
OUR PRESENT AND FUTURE LIFE

**2 Kings
4:38-44**

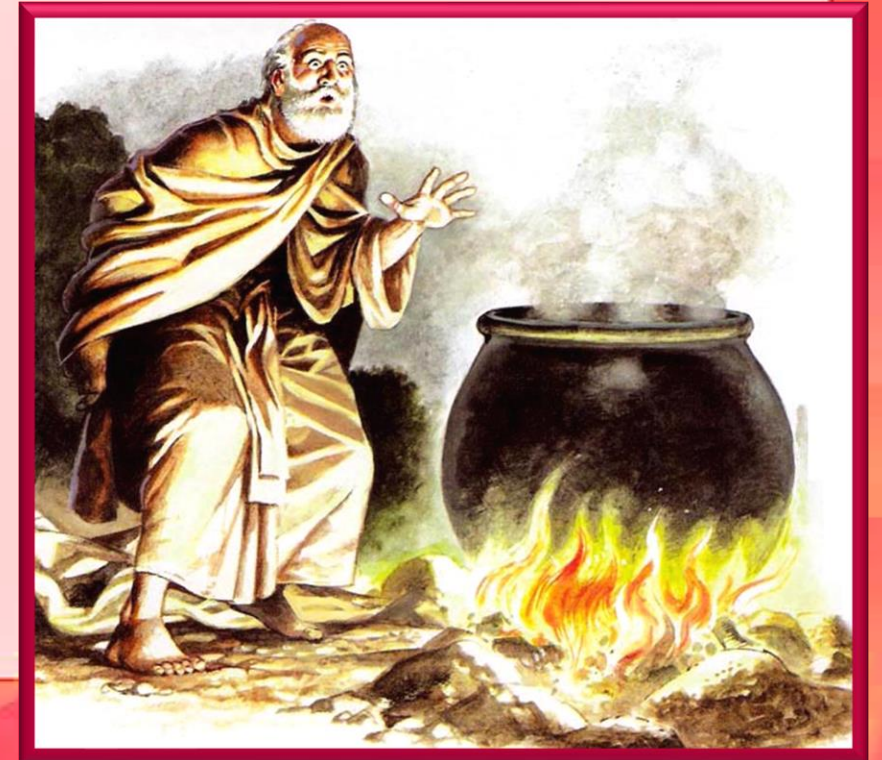
HEALED POT AND MULTIPLIED BREAD

GOD CARES ABOUT OUR FOOD

“And Elisha came again to Gilgal: and there was a dearth in the land; and the sons of the prophets were sitting before him: and he said unto his servant, Set on the great pot, and seethe pottage for the sons of the prophets. And one went out into the field to gather herbs, and found a wild vine, and gathered thereof wild gourds his lap full, and came and shred them into the pot of pottage: for they knew them not. So they poured out for the men to eat. And it came to pass, as they were eating of the pottage, that they cried out, and said, O thou man of God, there is death in the pot. And they could not eat thereof.



But he said, Then bring meal. And he cast it into the pot; and he said, Pour out for the people, that they may eat. And there was no harm in the pot. And there came a man from Baalshalisha, and brought the man of God bread of the firstfruits, twenty loaves of barley, and full ears of corn in the husk thereof. And he said, Give unto the people, that they may eat. And his servitor said, What, should I set this before an hundred men? He said again, Give the people, that they may eat: for thus saith the Lord, They shall eat, and shall leave thereof. So he set it before them, and they did eat, and left thereof, according to the word of the Lord.”



It was a time of need for the prophet himself and for those who were with him. The people were hungry; they needed food. Elisha could have thought of himself and prepared food just for himself or kept the bread and grain for himself. But instead, he thought about the needs of the people.

When the pot was ready, it turned out that it could not be eaten. But, since God also cares about our food, He decided to turn poisoned food into healthy food.

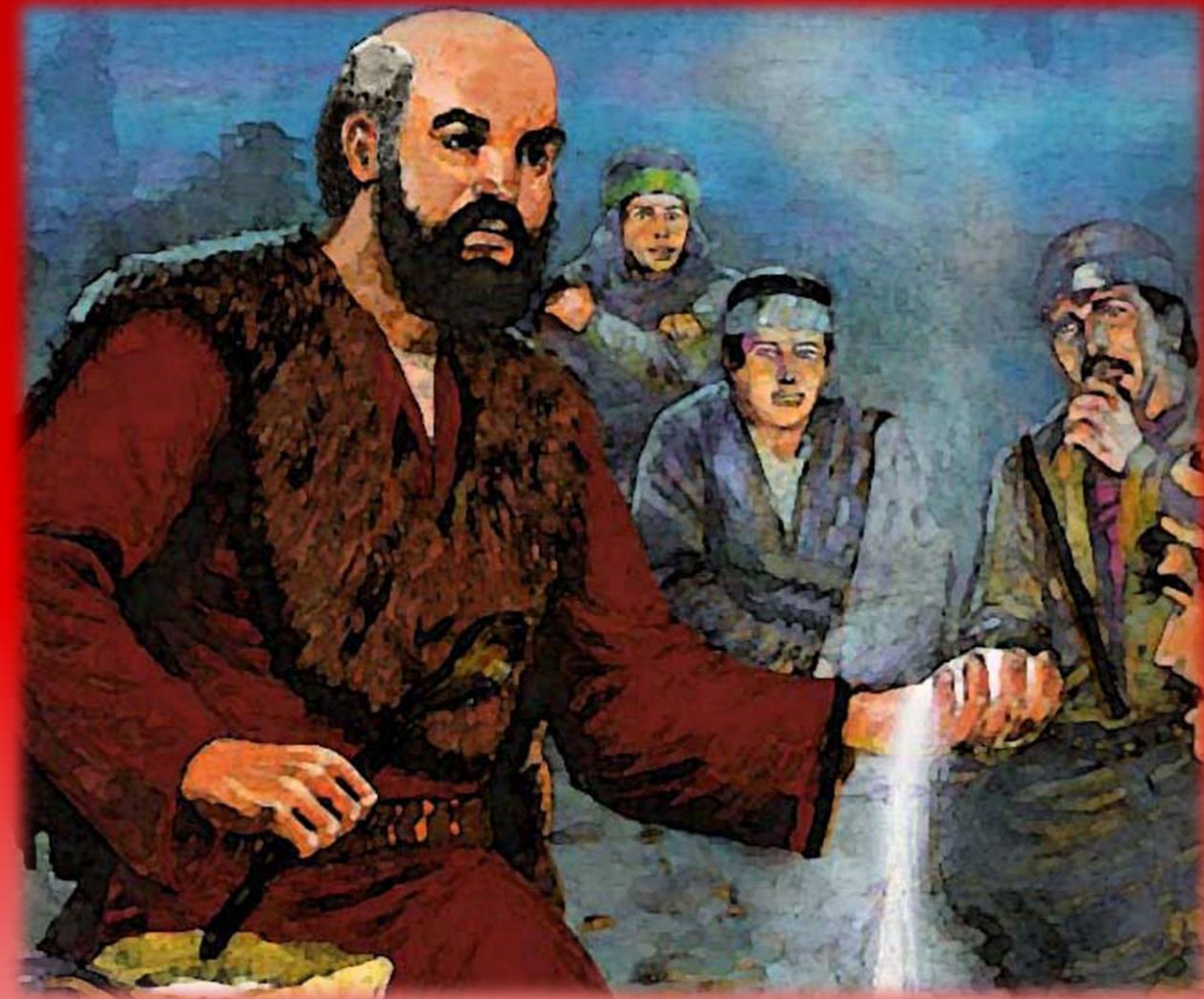
Soon after, just as Jesus fed the multitudes with five loaves and two fishes, God worked through Elisha to feed the prophets by multiplying their meager food supplies.



“What condescension it was on the part of Christ, through His messenger, to work this miracle to satisfy hunger! Again and again since that time, though not always in so marked and perceptible a manner, has the Lord Jesus worked to supply human need. If we had clearer spiritual discernment we would recognize more readily than we do God's compassionate dealing with the children of men. PK 241.2 It is the grace of God on the small portion that makes it all-sufficient. God's hand can multiply it a hundredfold. From His resources He can spread a table in the wilderness. By the touch of His hand He can increase the scanty provision and make it sufficient for all. It was His power that increased the loaves and corn in the hands of the sons of the prophets.” (PK 241)



REMEMBER THAT GOD CARES ABOUT...



OUR FOOD



**2 Kings
5:9-15**

HEALING OF NAAMAN

**GOD CARES ABOUT
OUR HEALTH**

“So Naaman came with his horses and with his chariot, and stood at the door of the house of Elisha. And Elisha sent a messenger unto him, saying, Go and wash in Jordan seven times, and thy flesh shall come again to thee, and thou shalt be clean. But Naaman was wroth, and went away, and said, Behold, I thought, He will surely come out to me, and stand, and call on the name of the Lord his God, and strike his hand over the place, and recover the leper. Are not Abana and Pharpar, rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? may I not wash in them, and be clean? So he turned and went away in a rage. And his servants came near, and spake unto him, and said, My father, if the prophet had bid thee do some great thing, wouldest thou not have done it? how much rather then, when he saith to thee, Wash, and be clean? Then went he down, and dipped himself seven times in Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God: and his flesh came again like unto the flesh of a little child, and he was clean. And he returned to the man of God, he and all his company, and came, and stood before him: and he said, Behold, now I know that there is no God in all the earth, but in Israel: now therefore, I pray thee, take a blessing of thy servant.”



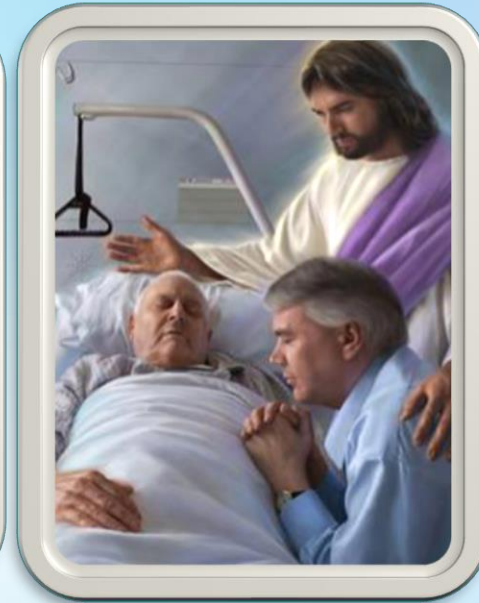
Naaman was angry when he was not healed as he wanted. He was proud and wanted to be treated as his dignity required.

In order to be healed, Naaman had to recognize that the God of Israel was more powerful than the idols of Syria, and that Elisha's instructions were superior to his own desires and thoughts.

Only when we are willing to obey God's instructions through His Word can He work wonders in our lives.

God cares about our health. For this reason, through the prophet Ellen White, he has left us health and food rules that will allow us to preserve our health. If, like Naaman, we obey the instructions God gives us through His prophet, we will be kept from many diseases.

And when someone falls ill, pray to God and ask other faithful brothers and sisters to pray for them. "And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him." (James 5:15)

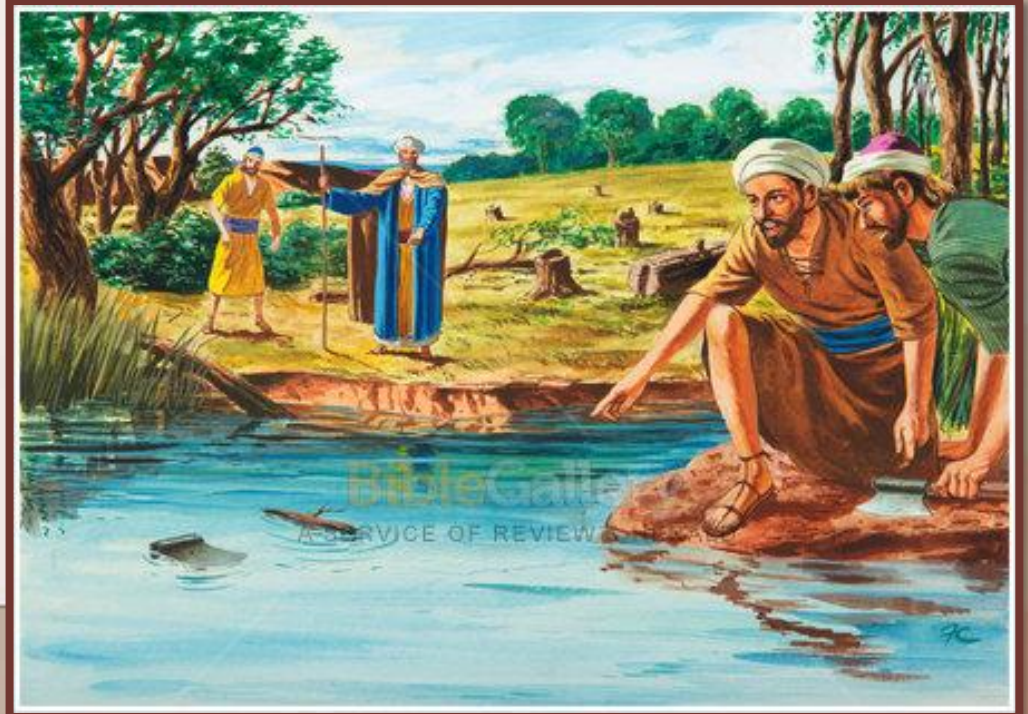
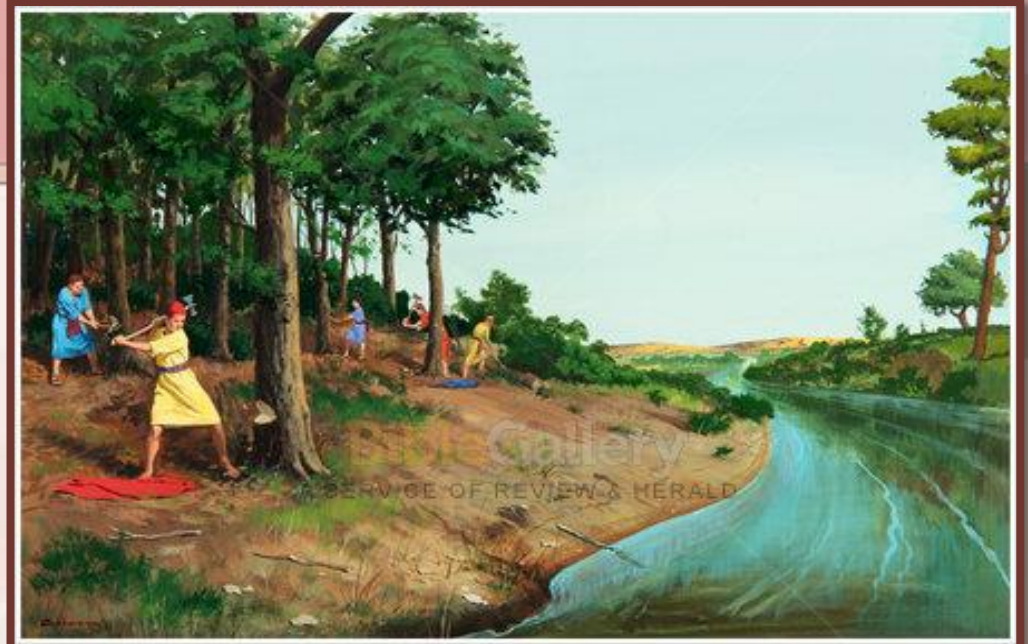


REMEMBER THAT GOD CARES ABOUT...



OUR HEALTH

“And the sons of the prophets said unto Elisha, Behold now, the place where we dwell with thee is too strait for us. Let us go, we pray thee, unto Jordan, and take thence every man a beam, and let us make us a place there, where we may dwell. And he answered, Go ye. And one said, Be content, I pray thee, and go with thy servants. And he answered, I will go. So he went with them. And when they came to Jordan, they cut down wood. But as one was felling a beam, the axe head fell into the water: and he cried, and said, Alas, master! for it was borrowed. And the man of God said, Where fell it? And he shewed him the place. And he cut down a stick, and cast it in thither; and the iron did swim. Therefore said he, Take it up to thee. And he put out his hand, and took it.”



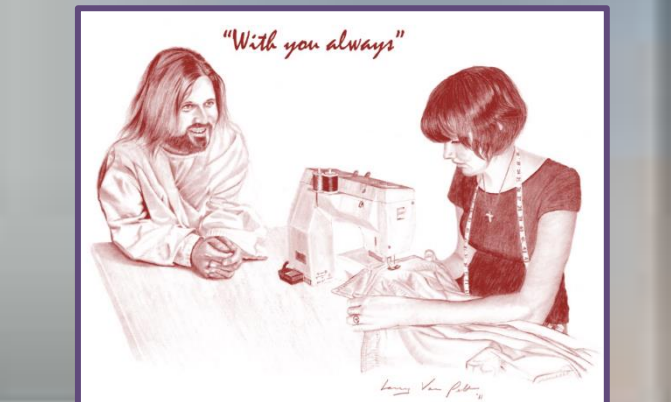
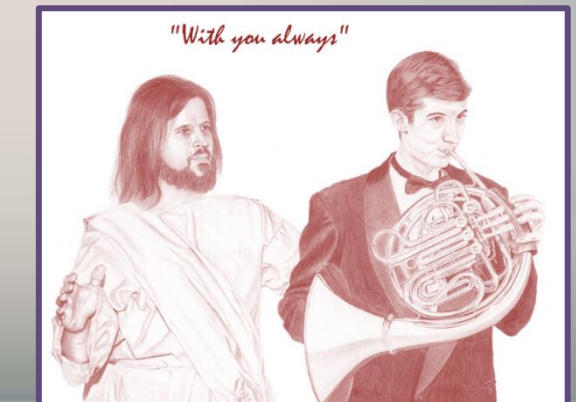
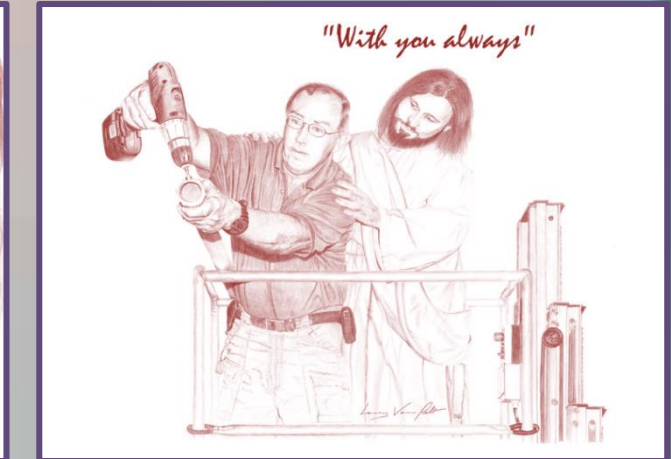
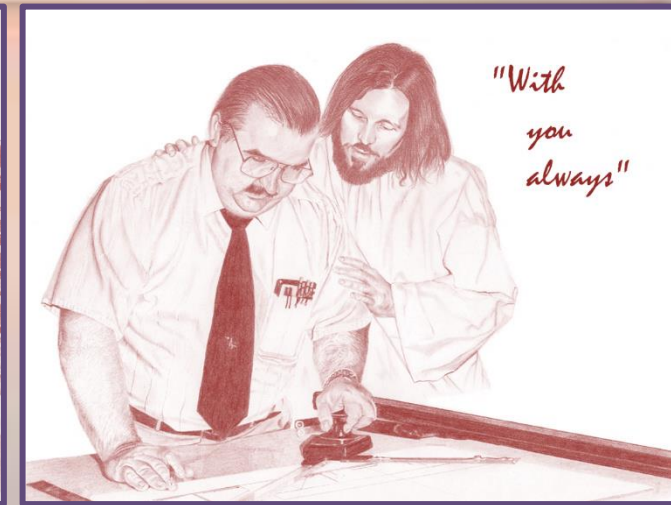
“That axe was not mine!” was the instinctive cry of a young worker who had been unlucky enough to lose something borrowed and who, in all likelihood, was too poor to replace what he lost.

The iron was at the bottom, beyond the reach of the children of the prophets. But, by divine intervention, it rose to the surface and remained there.

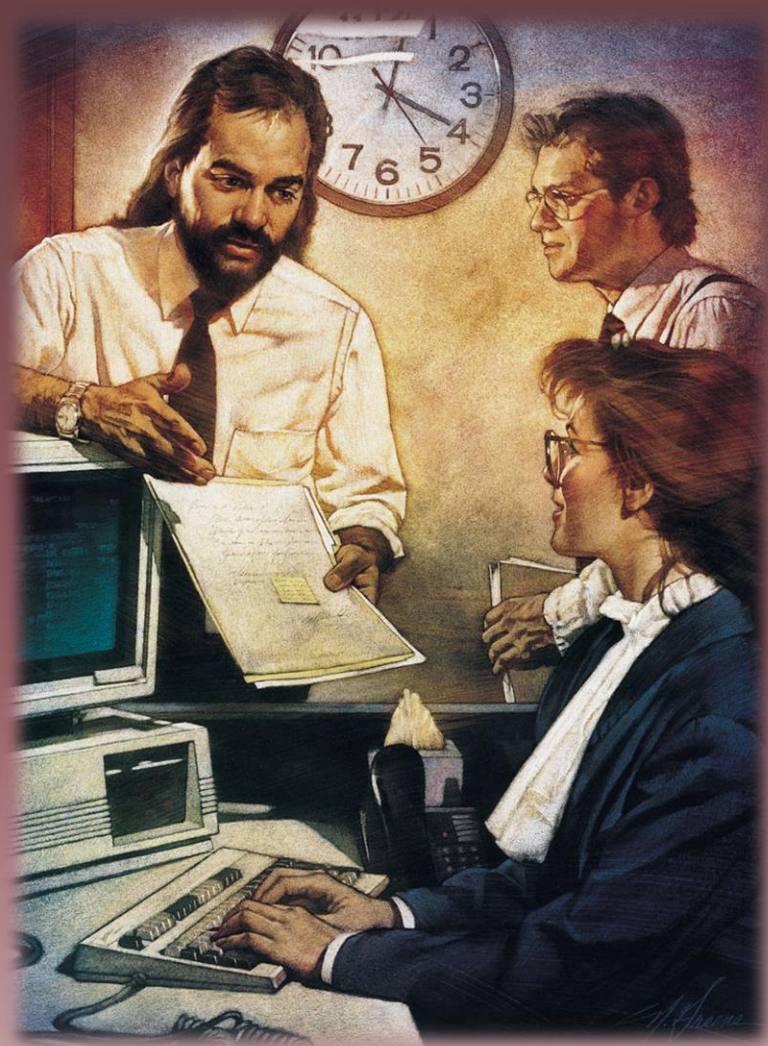
God could have caused the axe not only to float but to return to its original position on the handle; but he did not need to do what the young man could do for himself.

God still responds to the needs of His children and works on their behalf. Not a day goes by without the Lord intervening in the affairs of those who cry out to Him for their needs. The time of miracles is not over. There may not be an Elisha present, but God, in His own way, works on behalf of His children who trust Him.

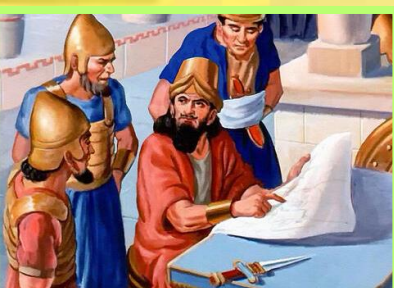
God cares about our work and wants to bless it to produce the best results.



OUR WORK GOD CARES ABOUT...



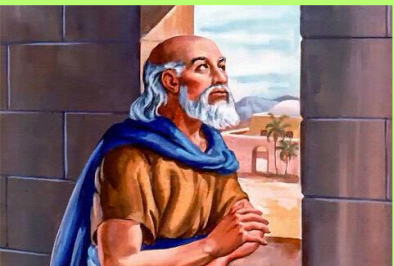
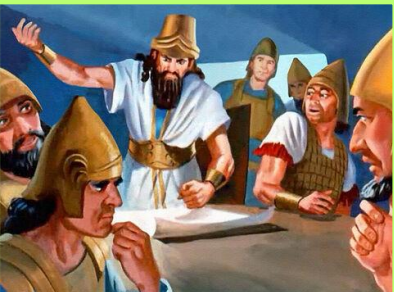
OUR WORK



**2 Kings
6:8-17**

**PROTECTED
BY ANGELS**

**GOD CARES ABOUT
OUR SECURITY**



“Then the king of Syria warred against Israel, and took counsel with his servants, saying, In such and such a place shall be my camp. And the man of God sent unto the king of Israel, saying, Beware that thou pass not such a place; for thither the Syrians are come down. And the king of Israel sent to the place which the man of God told him and warned him of, and saved himself there, not once nor twice. Therefore the heart of the king of Syria was sore troubled for this thing; and he called his servants, and said unto them, Will ye not shew me which of us is for the king of Israel? And one of his servants said, None, my lord, O king: but Elisha, the prophet that is in Israel, telleth the king of Israel the words that thou speakest in thy bedchamber. And he said, Go and spy where he is, that I may send and fetch him. And it was told him, saying, Behold, he is in Dothan. Therefore sent he thither horses, and chariots, and a great host: and they came by night, and compassed the city about. And when the servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, behold, an host compassed the city both with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! how shall we do? And he answered, Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them. And Elisha prayed, and said, Lord, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the Lord opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha..”



What Elisha revealed was information about the future plans of the Syrians, so that the king of Israel, knowing in advance the strategy they planned to use, could send enough troops to the places in question to deal with the Syrians when they arrived. When the king of Syria learned that it was Elisha who was continually discovering his plans, he sent a small army to capture him. When Elisha's servant saw the army, he was terribly afraid.



Often, in the course of life, believers find themselves in situations that instill in them fear and uncertainty. but God reveals his presence to them and speaks words of encouragement and hope.



“The Lord would have our perceptions keen to understand that these mighty ones who visit our world have borne an active part in all the work which we have called our own. These heavenly beings are ministering angels, and they frequently disguise themselves in the form of human beings. As strangers they converse with those who are engaged in the work of God. In lonely places they have been the companions of the traveler in peril. In tempest-tossed ships angels in human form have spoken words of encouragement to allay fear and inspire hope in the hour of danger, and the passengers have thought that it was one of their number to whom they had never before spoken.” (The Upward Look, 84. TA 300)

When we find ourselves surrounded by the Lord's enemies, God cares about our safety. With us are angels infinitely more powerful than the enemy. They are the constant companions of the righteous.

GOD CARES ABOUT...



OUR SECURITY

GOD CARES ABOUT...



**Our Spiritual
Life**



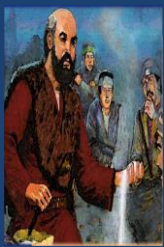
**Our Reputation
and Honor**



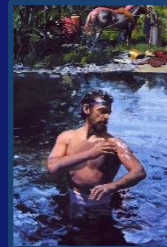
Our Economy



Our Life



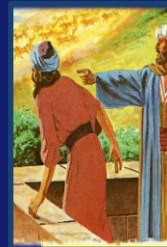
Our Food



Our Health



Our Work



Our Security

"Casting all your
care upon him; for
he careth for you."

1 Peter 5:7 KJV