

The One

Pastor Charles Kyker

Text: Revelation 21:1-8

PLAIN TRUTH:

What _____ will _____
if we don't get the _____ right.

1) What has _____ away in our _____.

2) What should pass away—The _____ Death.

- a) But the _____,
- b) the unbelieving,
- c) the _____,
- d) the murderers,
- e) the _____ immoral,
 - i) Sexual behavior of fornication, adultery and homo-sexual nature

June 23, 2019

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Personal Study

Week of June 23

In 2 Kings, there is a story of a wealthy woman from Shunem. The story takes place in a time when the leaders of Israel are influencing God's people to turn away from the LORD. The prophet Elisha stands for truth, and travels throughout the land as God's Spirit leads. In this Scripture, Elisha wants to bless a wealthy woman for providing a place for him to stay 'whenever he passed that way'. Elisha tells the woman God will bless her with a son. Though her husband is well along in years, she has a child. But then, the child dies when he is only a few years old. Find out what happens—

Read 2 Kings 4:8-37

1. Elisha promises the woman the child. But the woman is afraid to hope.
"Next year at this time, you will be holding a son in your arms!"
"No, my lord!" she cried. "O man of God, don't deceive me and get my hopes up like that."
She has probably dealt with disappointment many times regarding ever having a child and perhaps come to a place of acceptance. But God 'interrupts' her life with hope. When has a glimmer of hope 'interrupted' your life? Why do you think God does that?

God comes through and the woman has a son. But one day, when the child is older, he goes out to help his father who is working with the harvesters and becomes ill very quickly. The servants take the boy back to his mother and he dies in her arms. The woman carries the boy upstairs to Elisha's room, lays him on Elisha's bed, shuts the door, and then without telling anyone, she sets out to find the man of God (2 Kings 4:18-22). She manages to hold it together until she falls at the feet of the one who promised her this son (v27).

The woman didn't fall apart until she fell at Elisha's feet—*"Did I ask you for a son, my lord?" And didn't I say, 'Don't deceive me and get my hopes up'?"* The hope she had dared to accept was dead on Elisha's bed in the upstairs room. But notice the woman did not tell anyone anything until she fell at Elisha's feet. In fact, when her servants asked her why she was hurrying to the man of God, she replied 'It will be all right' (v23). Almost there, when Elisha's servant met her and asked about everything, she said: "everything is fine" (v26). But it wasn't.

2. Is your world crumbling? Hang on to hope until you fall at the Source of the One who made the promise. Elisha traveled back with the woman and when he arrived, *"He (Elisha) went in alone and shut the door behind him and prayed to the LORD."* Close by reading 2 Kings 4:32-39. No one but God can raise the dead. He is our Source.

EVERYTHING we have around us to enjoy or steward is on-loan from God. God has the power to give and to take away. We must remember *He* is God. Don't allow anything to take God's place in your heart. Later the woman from Shunem has the opportunity to tell her story before the king of Israel! Read 2 Kings 8:1-8. Everything she lost was restored and God received the glory!

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