A Fresh Start... And A Beautiful New Beginning

THE GOOD SHUNAMMITE WOMAN



8:1-6

THE BAD SYRIAN SOLDIER 8:7-15





931 BC -842 BC----

SOLOMON

Jeroboam I

Omri

Nadab

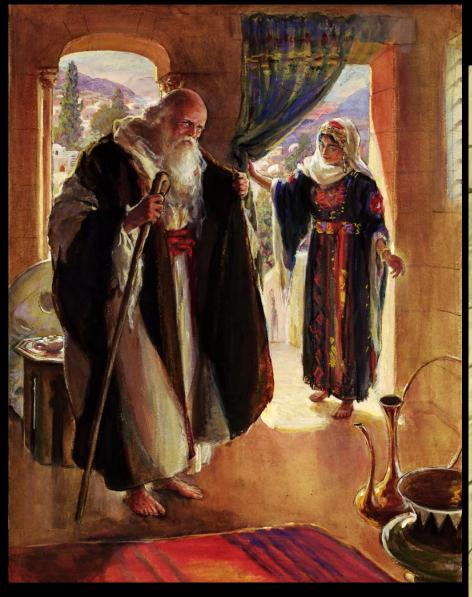
Ahab

Northern Kings:

Baasha

Ahaziah

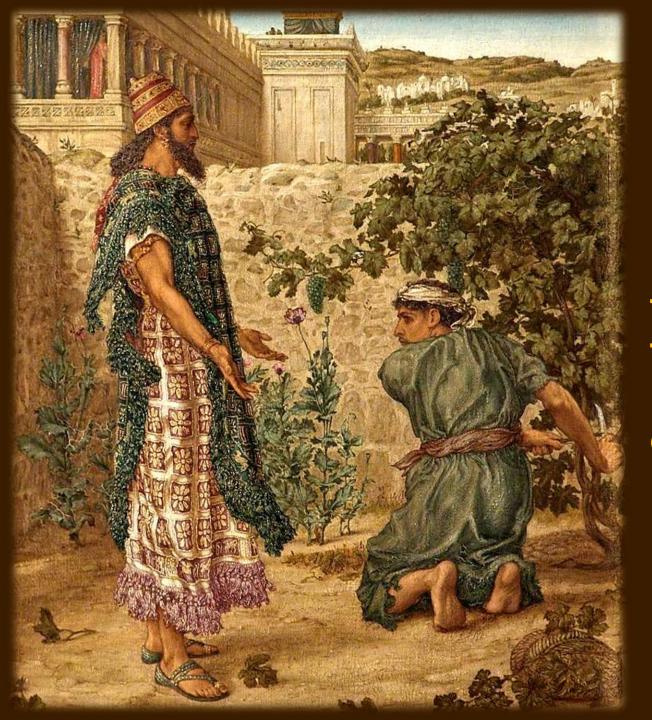
Elah, Zimri, Tibni Johoram



Elisha and the Shunammite 2 Kings 4:8-37







King Ahab takes Naboth's field with the murderous help of evil Jezebel

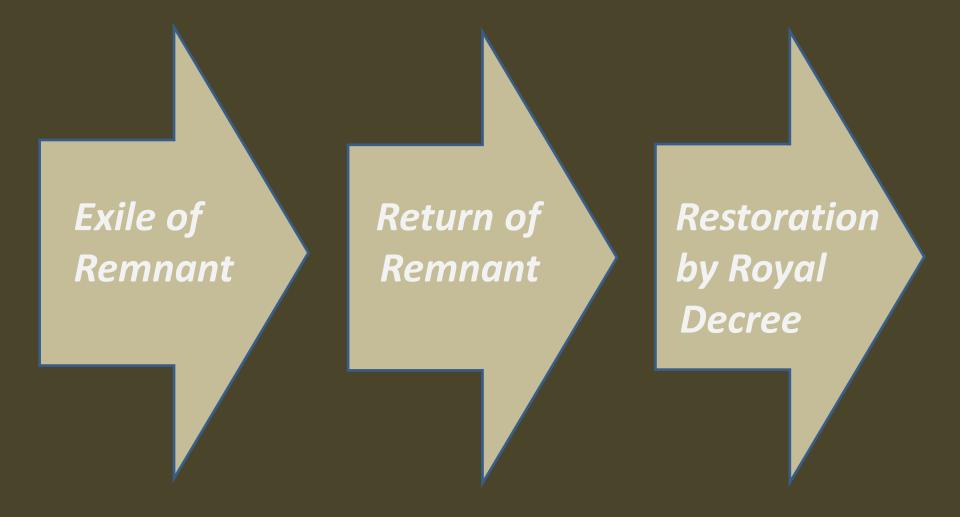
I Kgs. 21





He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me. He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward; and he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward. And whoever in the name of a disciple gives to one of these little ones even a cup of cold water to drink, truly I say to you, he shall not lose his reward."

Matt. 10:40-42



The Shunammite woman somewhat foreshadows the future remnant's fate . . .

THE GOOD SHUNAMMITE WOMAN



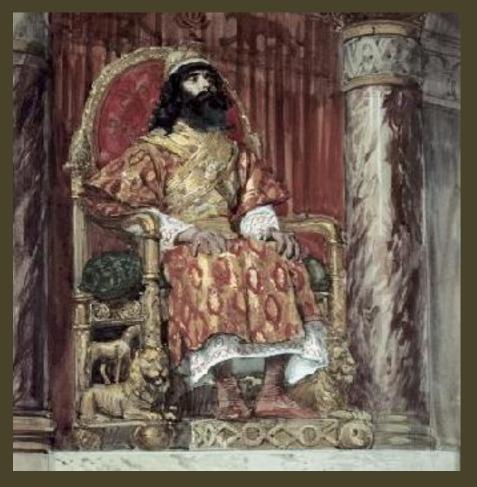
8:1-6

THE BAD SYRIAN SOLDIER 8:7-15





... Your son Ben-hadad king of Aram has sent me to you, saying, "Will I recover from this sickness?"

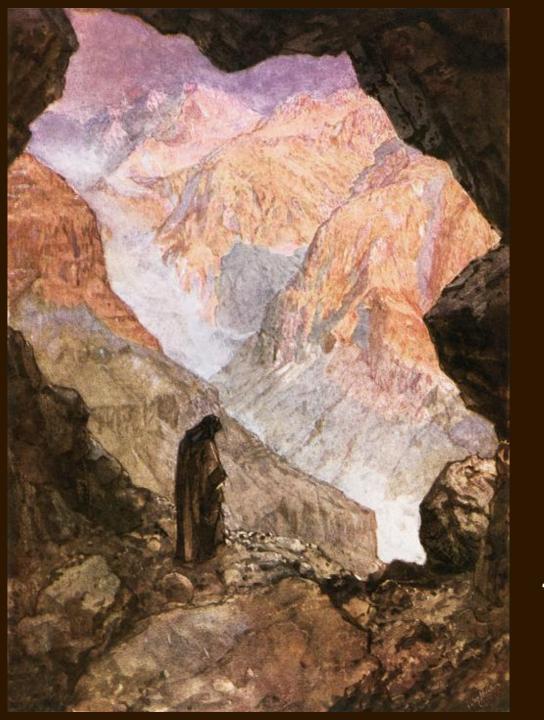


Johoram's older brother, evil King Ahaziah.

And Ahaziah fell through the lattice in his upper chamber which was in Samaria, and became ill. So he sent messengers and said to them, "Go, inquire of Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron, whether I will recover from this sickness."



Elisha's answer: (1) a paradoxical verbal affirmation, (2) a non verbal stare-down, (3) weeping and tells Hazael far more than what he expected to hear.



The LORD said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus, and when you have arrived, you shall anoint Hazael king over Aram . . . the one who escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall put to death, and the one who escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall put to death.

I Kgs. 19:15,17

Say to them, "As I live!" declares the Lord GOD, "I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn back, turn back from your evil ways! Why then will you die, O house of Israel?"

Ezk. 33:11



How really shocked was Hazael by Elisha's prediction?



HAZAEL... MILITARISTIC KING OF ARAM

"Son of a nobody"



Tel Dan Stele (dates to 2nd half of 9th c. BC.)

It boasts of
Aramean
victories over
Israel and
Judah.

In those days the LORD began to cut off portions from Israel; and Hazael defeated them throughout the territory of Israel; (10:32)

Then Hazael king of Aram went up and fought against Gath and captured it, and Hazael set his face to go up to Jerusalem. (12:17)

So the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel, and He gave them continually into the hand of Hazael king of Aram, and into the hand of Ben-hadad the son of Hazael. (13:3)

Now Hazael king of Aram had oppressed Israel all the days of Jehoahaz. (13:22)

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When He approached Jerusalem, He saw the city and wept over it, saying, "If you had known in this day, even you, the things which make for peace! But now they have been hidden from your eyes. For the days will come upon you when your enemies will throw up a barricade against you, and surround you and hem you in on every side, and they will level you to the ground and your children within you . . ."

Lk. 19:41-44a