

The great woman of Shunem

Study 3



The story and sequel

2 Kings 4

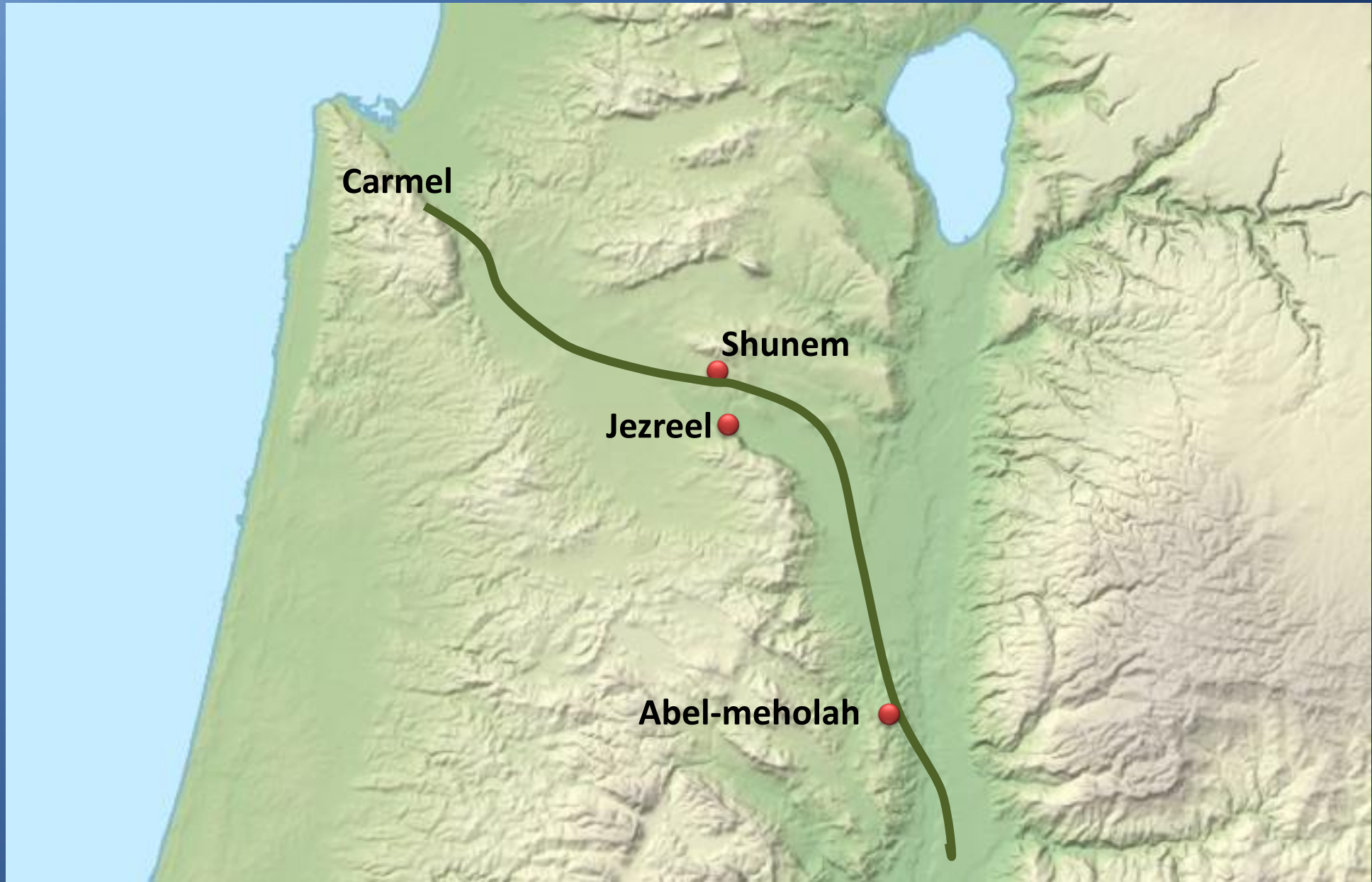
- Day 1 (V8-10) Fellowship is established with the man of God.
- Day 2 (V11-17) A child is born in the house.
- Day 3 (V18-36) The child dies, and a son is born of the spirit in the extended house.

2 Kings 8

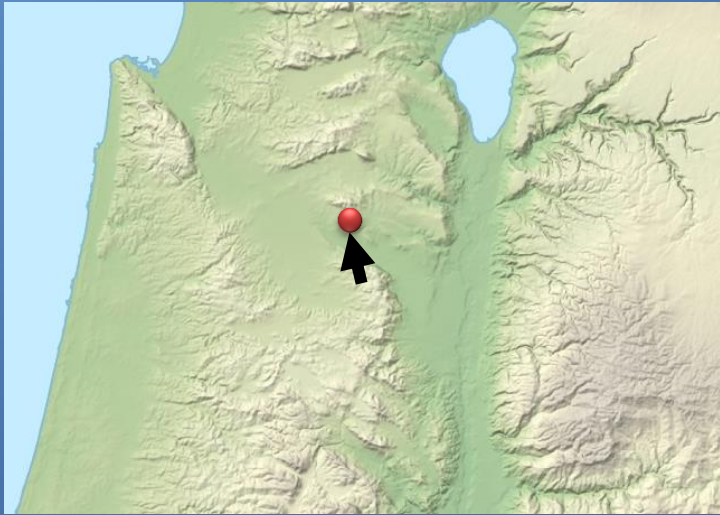
- V1-6 After a long absence the mother and the son born of the spirit receive their inheritance.



He passed over unto Shunem



Shunem



Shunem in the distance viewed from Jezreel

The allegory of Galatians 4

	Sarah + Isaac Represent those who are 'led of the spirit' (Gal 5:19)	Hagar + Ishmael Represent those who desire to be under the law (Gal 4:21)
Attributes represented by the woman	Sarah was a freewoman. This class like Sarah serve voluntarily .	Hagar was a bondwoman (servant). This class like Hagar serve by compulsion .
Attributes represented by the son	Isaac was born by the operation of Divine power on a barren woman. This class like Isaac are born by the operation of Divine power (word of God). They are 'led by the spirit' and are justified by faith.	Ishmael was born after the flesh . This class like Ishmael seek to be justified by the works of the flesh.

The Shunemite and her son together represent this class of people

The allegory of 2 Kings 4

THE MAN

- Observed days, and months, and times, and years (4:23) **Gal 4:10**
- Never referred to the child as his son.
- Was unable to save the child
- Had no part in the coming to life of the dead son
- Lacked regenerative power, was old and ready to pass away (4:14) **Heb 8:13**

Represents the Law

THE WOMAN

- She was unable to have a child by natural means.
- She was promised a son (4:16)
- She would have the son 'according to the time of life' (4:16) **cmp Gen 18:14**
- She inherits the land without her husband. **2 King 8:6**

Represents the 'free woman' (of Galatians 4)

SON BORN IN THE HOUSE

- A child of promise (4:16)
- Born in the house on account of the faith of the woman
- Subject to the father (the law) but could not be saved by him.

Represents spiritual Jews

SON BORN IN EXTENDED HOUSE

- Brought to life in the extended house^{#1} (4:21) by the operation of the spirit. **Isa. 54:2**
- Identified with the man of God and embraced the covenant (4:35)

Represents spiritual Gentiles

#1 The chamber where the son of the spirit was born was incorporated within the 'house' (V32,35).

The lesson for the nation

Context

Israel mistakenly thought that they were God's people. Hosea was later to write "ye are not my people, and I will not be your God" (Hosea 1:9).

Question

Who are the true Israelites?

Answer

They are not all Israel which are of Israel ... they which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God, but the children of the promise are counted for the seed.

Romans 9:6-8

Principles for life

The Shunemite raised a godly seed despite her husband being disengaged.

Her unshakeable belief that God could do what was humanly impossible saved her son.

Our Lord himself hath suffered being tempted, therefore he is able to run to the cry of them that are tempted.

Now we brethren, as Isaac was are the children of promise. Let us ensure that our identification with Christ is eye to eye, mouth to mouth, hand to hand.

