

2 Kings 4:8-37

THE SHUNAMMITE WOMAN AND HER SON

Read



2 King 4:8-17

Overview of Kings

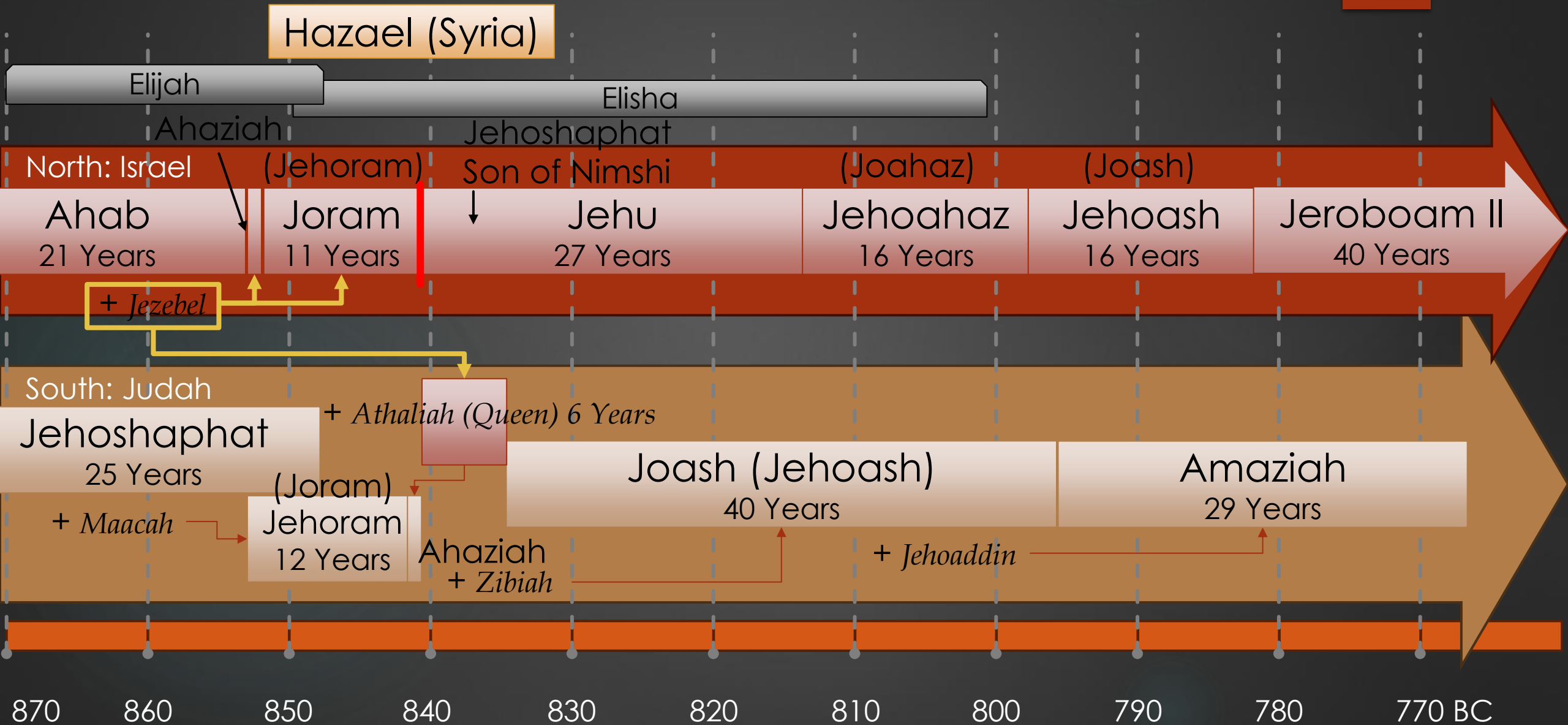
- ▶ Audience: Those living in exile.
 - ▶ What are we doing in exile? God's punishment and chastisement.
 - ▶ What did we do? Persistent sins of Idolatry and failure to follow Mosaic Law.
 - ▶ Why didn't someone warn us? **Prophets were sent and rejected.**
 - ▶ What should we do? Repent! The Lord was even merciful with Ahab.

Current context

▶ 2 Kings

- ▶ Chapter 1: Ahaziah receives word from Elijah that he will die.
- ▶ Chapter 2: Elijah is taken to heaven and Elisha “takes up his mantle”.
- ▶ Chapter 3: The war with Edom and Elisha’s prophecy of water and destruction.
- ▶ Chapter 4: Elisha performs miracles... continues for a few chapters...

Line of Kings





2 Kings 4:8

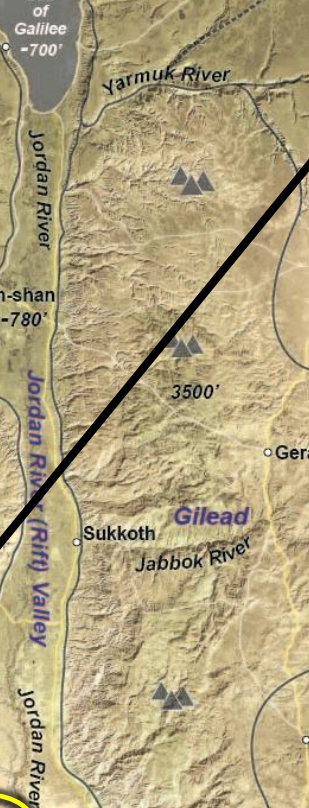
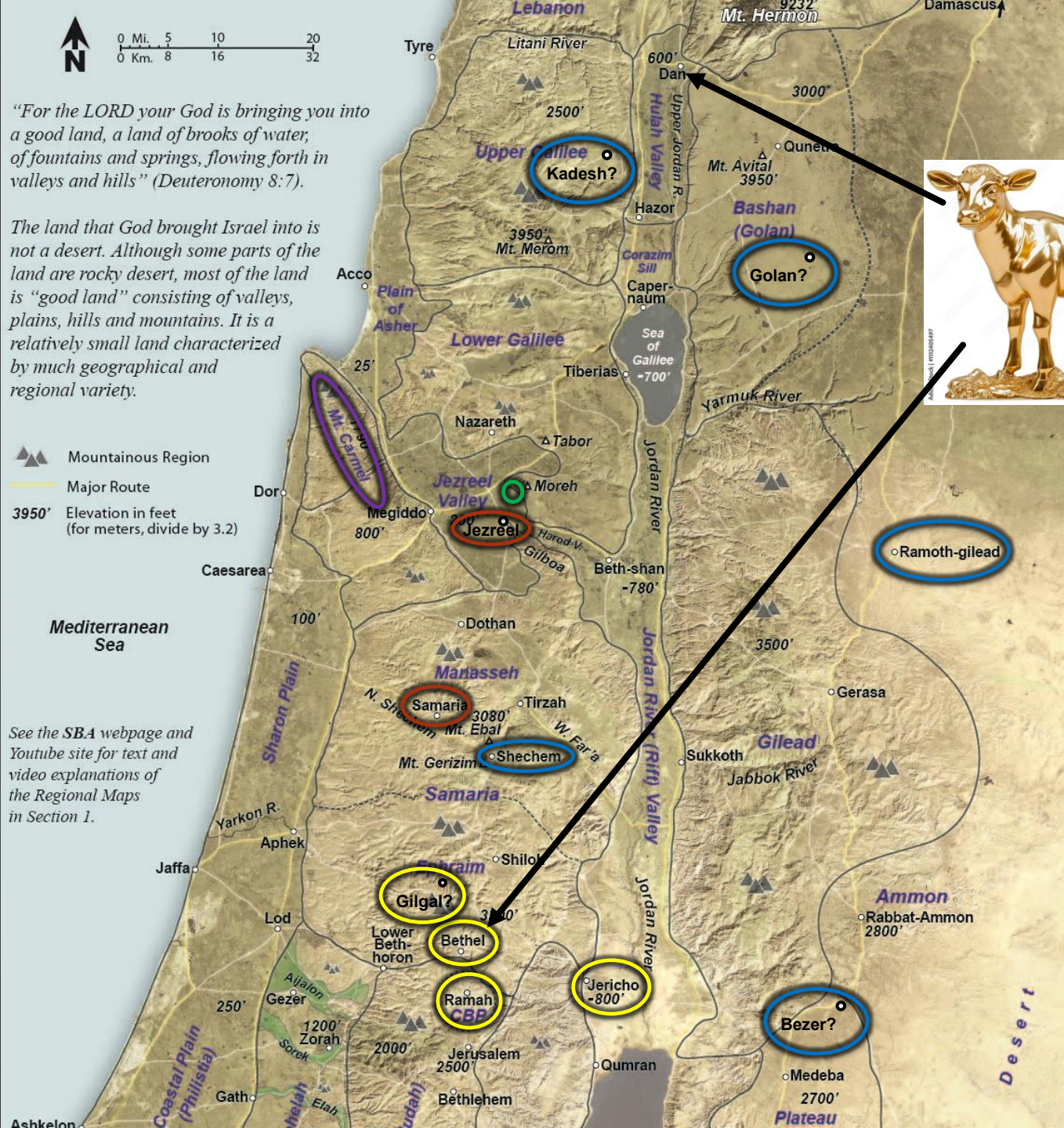
- ▶ Schools: ○
- ▶ Cities of Refuge: ○
- ▶ Capitals of Israel: ○
- ▶ Shunem: ○
- ▶ Mt Carmel: ○

"For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, flowing forth in valleys and hills" (Deuteronomy 8:7).

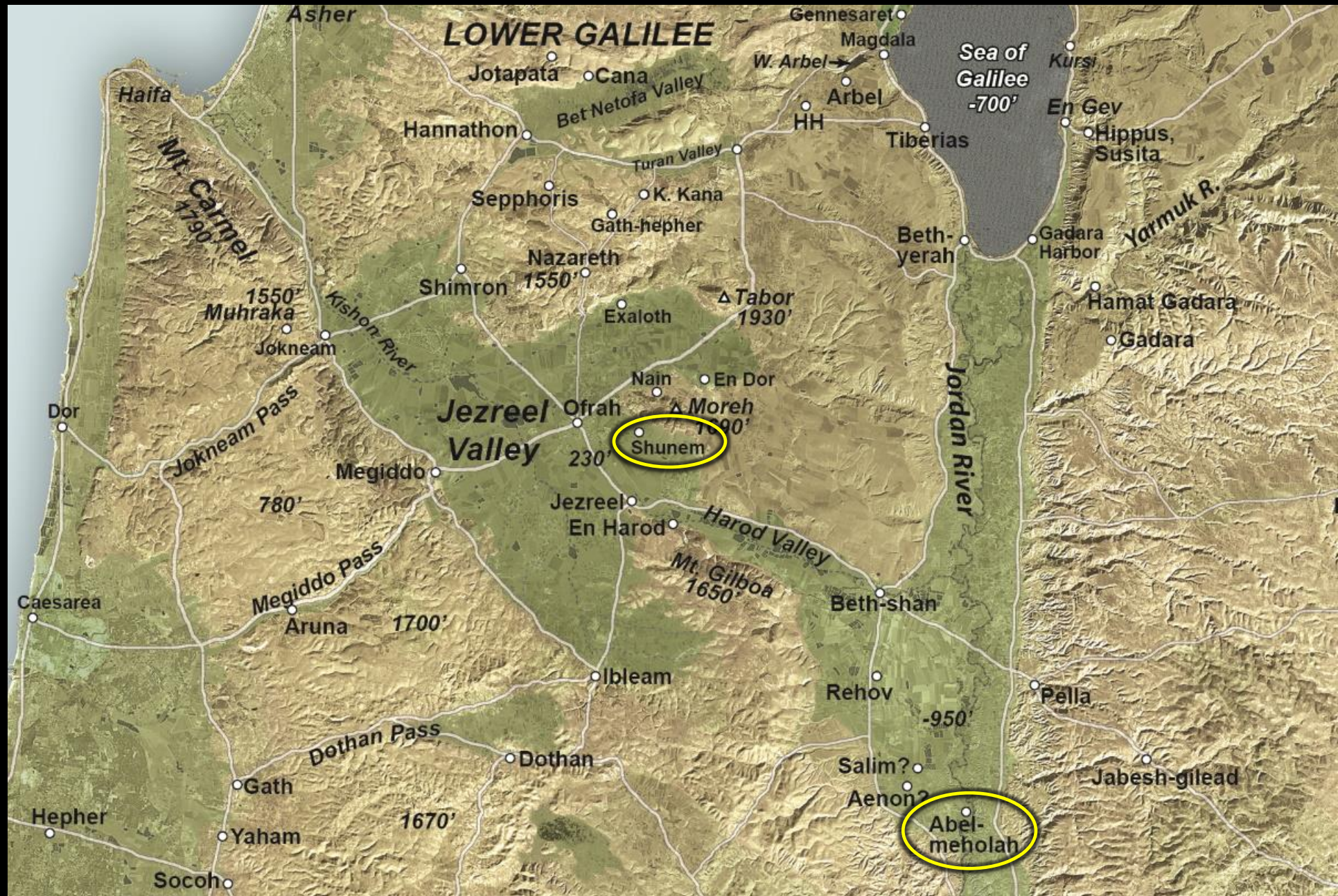
The land that God brought Israel into is not a desert. Although some parts of the land are rocky desert, most of the land is "good land" consisting of valleys, plains, hills and mountains. It is a relatively small land characterized by much geographical and regional variety.

▲ Mountainous Region
 — Major Route
 3950' Elevation in feet (for meters, divide by 3.2)

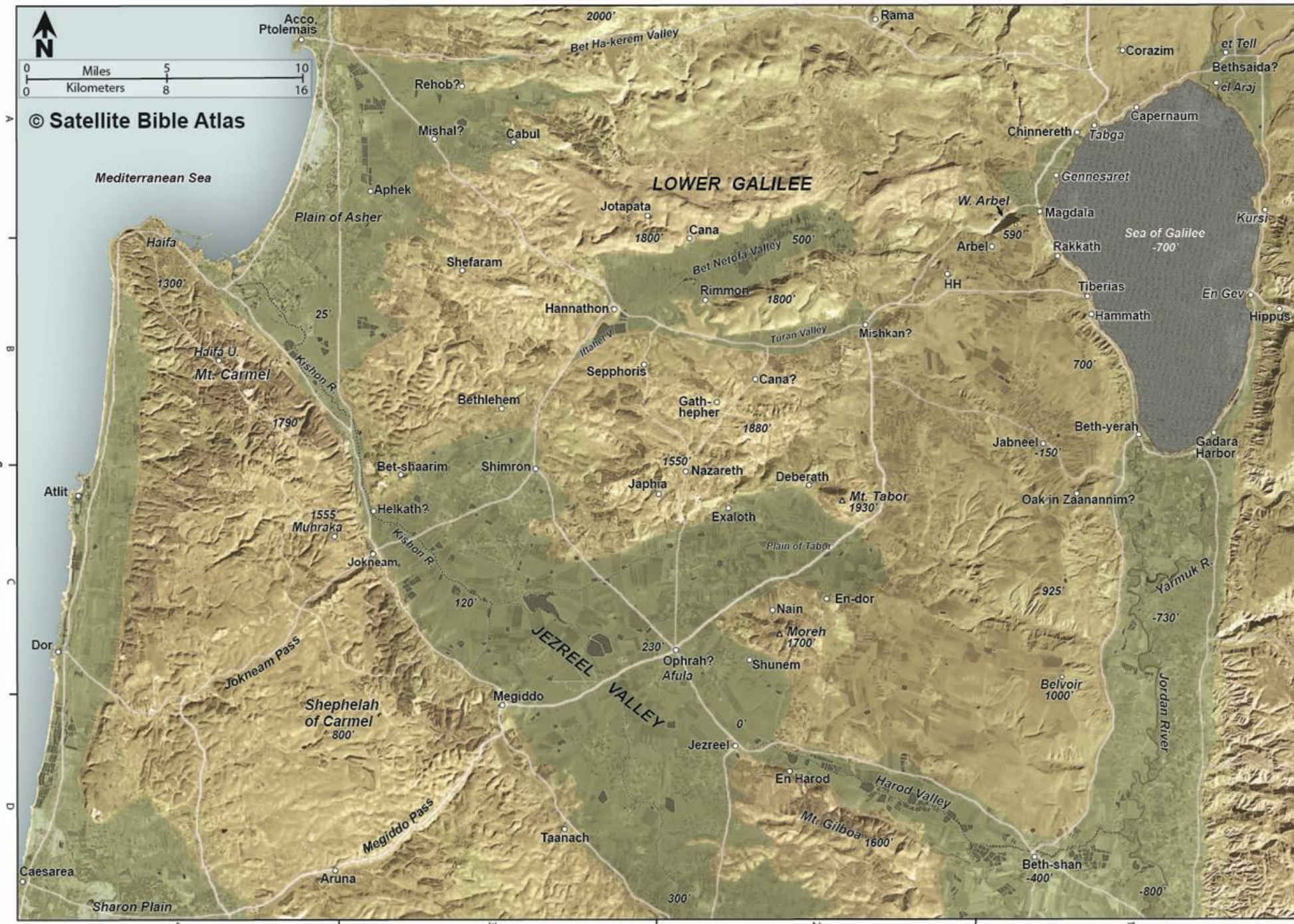
See the SBA webpage and Youtube site for text and video explanations of the Regional Maps in Section 1.



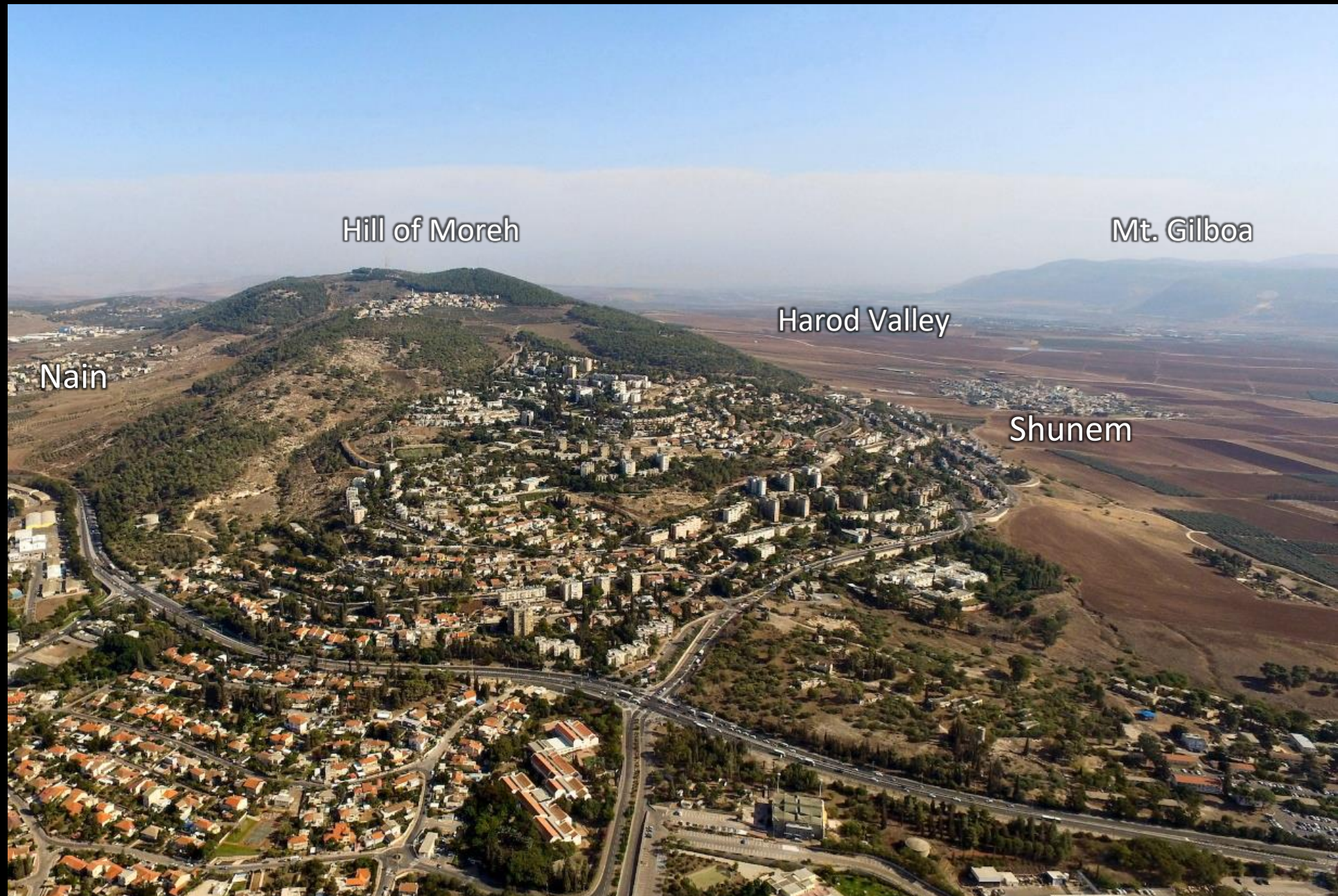
So she went and came to the man of God on Mount Carmel



Map of Mount Carmel, Shunem, and Abel-meholah



One day Elisha travelled to the town of Shunem



Shunem and the Hill of Moreh (aerial view from the northwest)

Luke 7:11-13

¹¹ Soon afterwards He went to a city called Nain; and His disciples were going along with Him, accompanied by a large crowd. ¹² Now as He approached the gate of the city, a dead man was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow; and a sizeable crowd from the city was with her. ¹³ When the Lord saw her, He felt compassion for her, and said to her, "Do not weep."

Luke 7:14-17

¹⁴ And He came up and touched the coffin; and the bearers came to a halt. And He said, “Young man, I say to you, arise!” ¹⁵ The dead man sat up and began to speak. And *Jesus* gave him back to his mother. ¹⁶ Fear gripped them all, and they *began* glorifying God, saying, “A great prophet has arisen among us!” and, “God has visited His people!” ¹⁷ This report concerning Him went out all over Judea and in all the surrounding district.

Hospitality

Leviticus 19:33-34:

³³ ‘When a stranger resides with you in your land, you shall not do him wrong. ³⁴ The stranger who resides with you shall be to you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt; I am the Lord your God.



2 Kings 4:9-
10

Let us make a small upper room



Village guest chamber

Let us make a small upper room

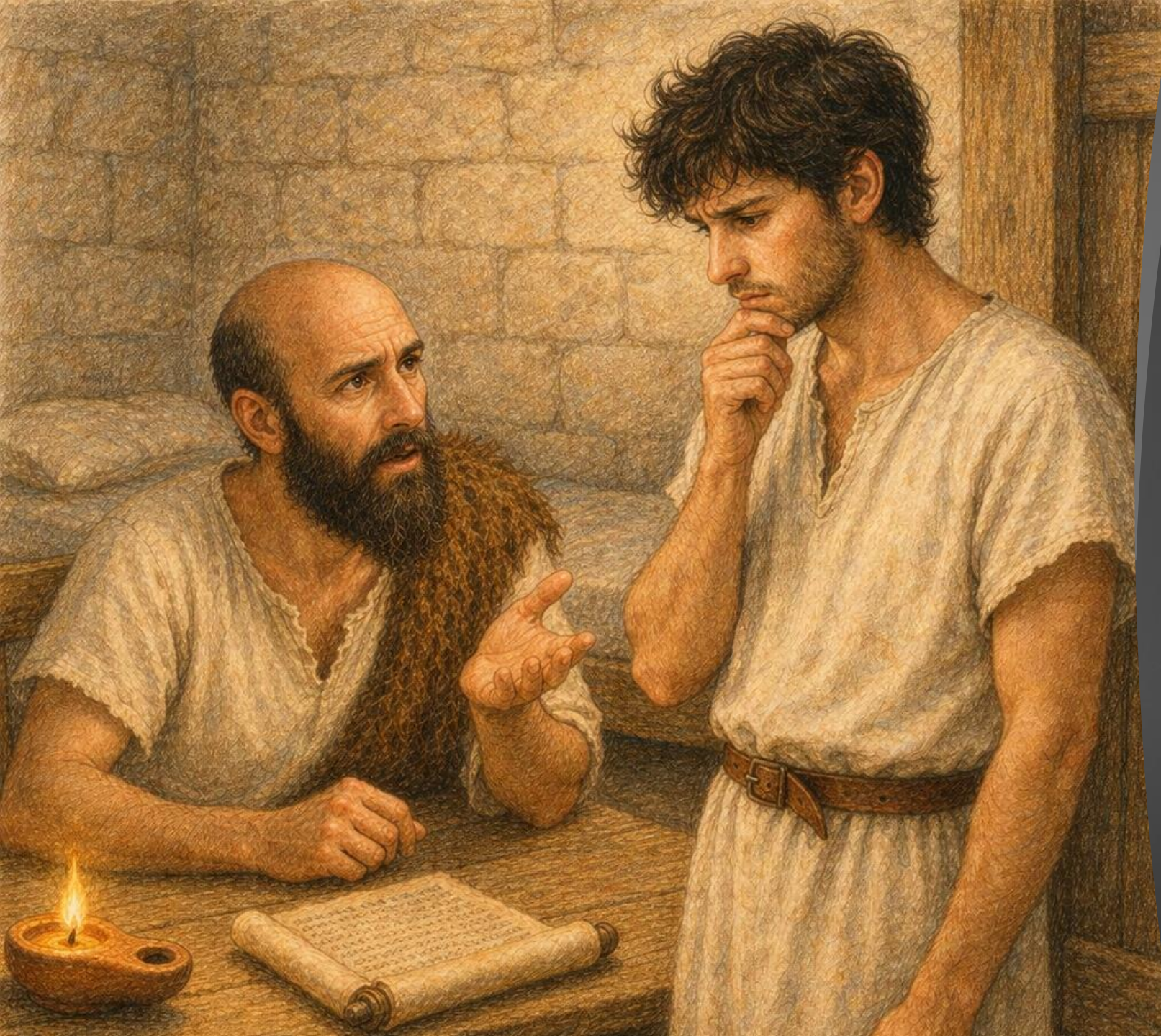


House model with exterior staircase, from Egypt, circa 1900 BC

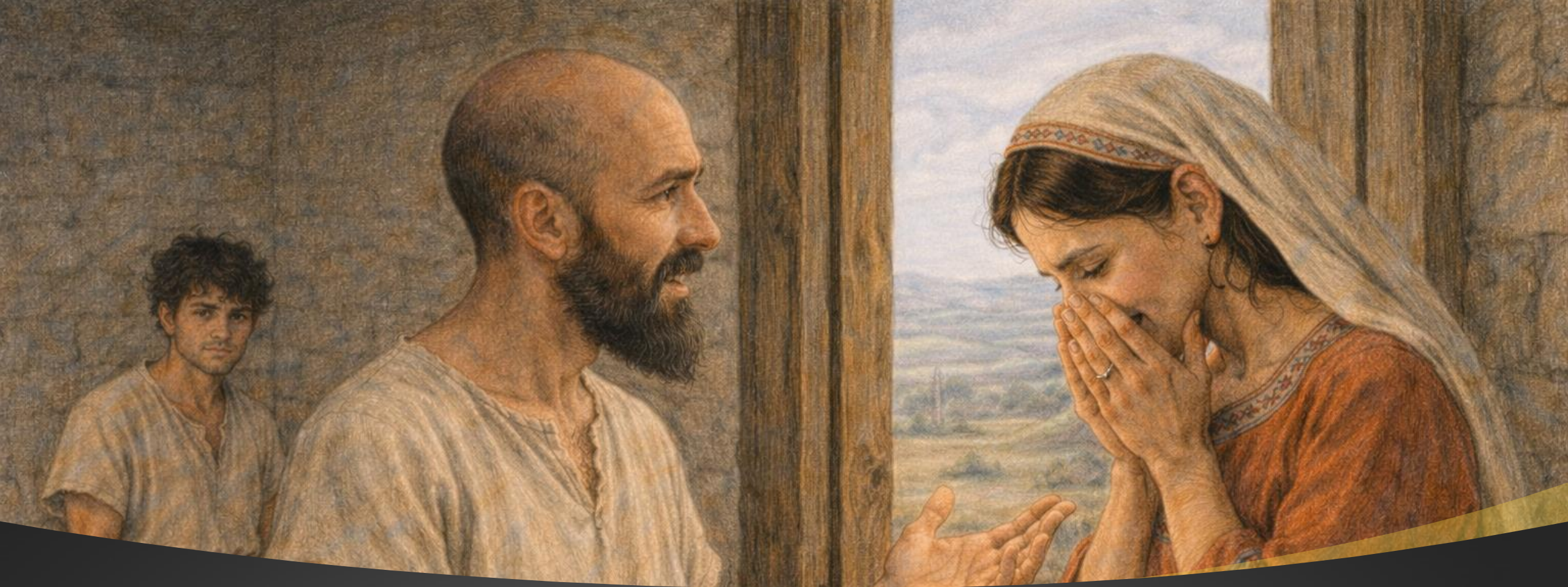




2 Kings
4:11-13



2 Kings 4:14



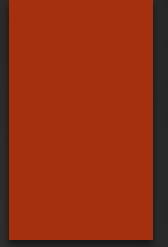
2 Kings 4:15-16

YES, SHE'S SUPPOSED TO BE
OUTSIDE THE DOOR... AI ISSUES.



2 Kings 4:17

Read



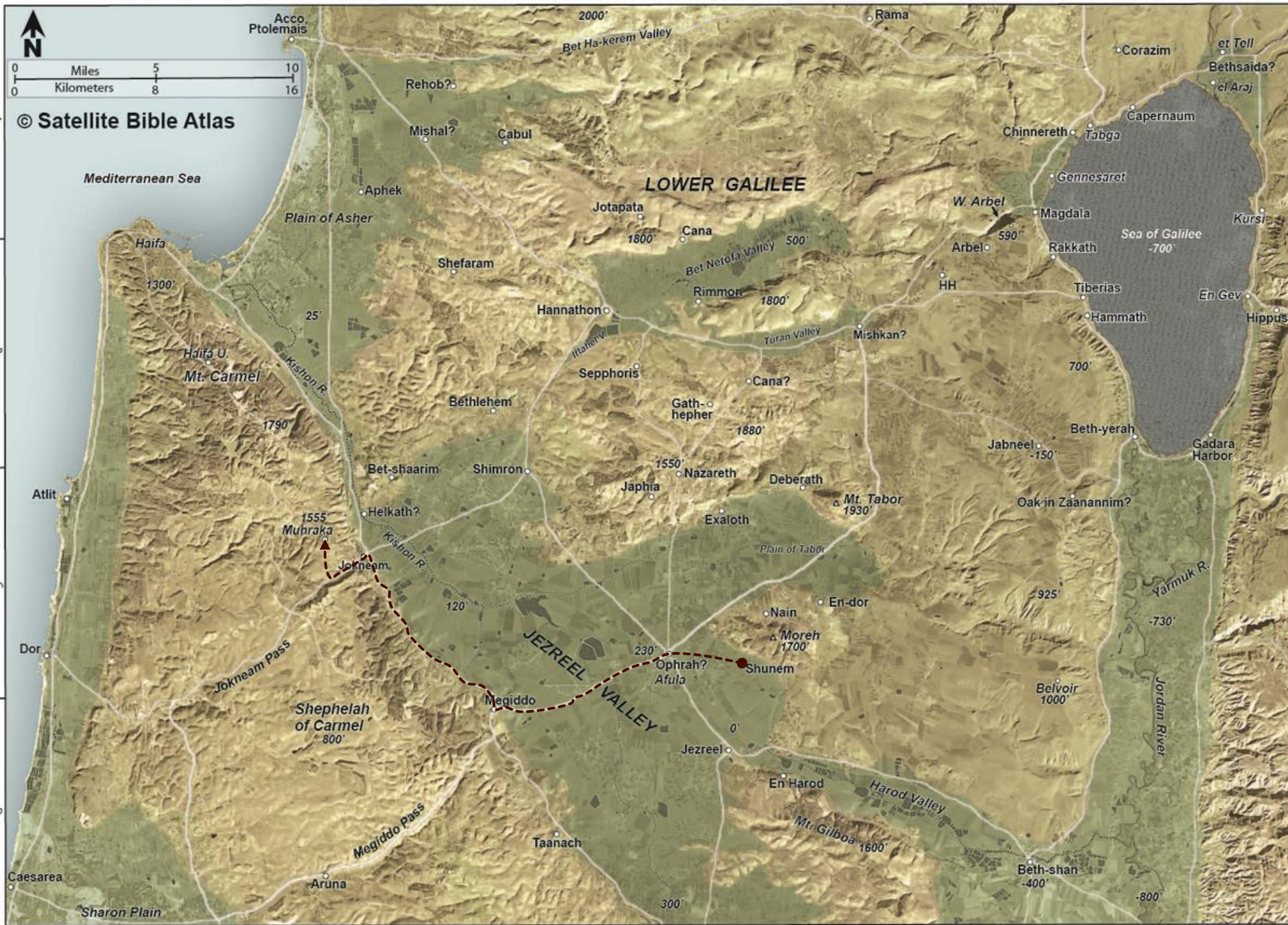
▶ 2 King 4:18-37



2 Kings 4:
18-21



2 Kings 4:
22-24



1-4 Regional Map: Jezreel Valley and Lower Galilee

2 Kings 4:25-26



2 Kings 4:27-28



Gehazi came near to push her away, but the man of God said, "Leave her alone"



Elisha Talks to the Shunammite Woman, by Gerbrandt van den Eeckhout, 1664



2 Kings 4:
29-31

2 Kings 4:32-35



Then he lay on the child, mouth to mouth, eye to eye, and hand to hand



Elijah Raises the Widow's Son, by James Tissot, circa 1899

1 Kings 17:17-19 – Elijah's Version

¹⁷ Now it came about after these things that the son of the woman, the mistress of the house, became sick; and his sickness was so severe that there was no breath left in him. ¹⁸ So she said to Elijah, “What do I have to do with you, O man of God? You have come to me to bring my iniquity to remembrance and to put my son to death!” ¹⁹ He said to her, “Give me your son.” Then he took him from her bosom and carried him up to the upper room where he was living, and laid him on his own bed.

1 Kings 17:20-24 – Elijah's Version

²⁰ He called to the LORD and said, “O LORD my God, have You also brought calamity to the widow with whom I am staying, by causing her son to die?” ²¹ Then he stretched himself upon the child three times, and called to the LORD and said, “O LORD my God, I pray You, let this child's life return to him.” ²² The LORD heard the voice of Elijah, and the life of the child returned to him and he revived. ²³ Elijah took the child and brought him down from the upper room into the house and gave him to his mother; and Elijah said, “See, your son is alive.” ²⁴ Then the woman said to Elijah, “Now I know that you are a man of God and that the word of the LORD in your mouth is truth.”

2 Kings 4:36-37



About the woman

- ▶ Some parallels of the woman:
 - ▶ Wants to build a room for the “man of God” to be able to rest.
 - ▶ Has no son or chance for inheritance.
 - ▶ Given a son as promised.
 - ▶ The son dies and is raised again.
 - ▶ Later must sojourn during a drought.
 - ▶ Her lands and title are restored to her when the king is hearing of her story from Gehazi.