

THE UPPER ROOM



(II Kings 4)

The upper room was a chamber built above the houses to serve as guest rooms and a place for activities and privacy for families.

Chapter four of II Kings offers a woman's beautiful story of faith and courage. She displayed her faith and courage after the loss of her son to death. This was a very special child; he was the son the Prophet Elisha promised her in return for her kindness she had shown to him. That was the only son she had, for her husband was an old man. This Shunammite woman never realized that that upper room she had built for the Prophet, was one day a refuge in her time of trouble. It is said that "What goes around, comes around." An act or a word of kindness find their way back to the one who blessed others. Even though her emotional pain was great, her faith was greater. It compelled her to seek life from the one who had promised her a son. At his death she knew exactly what to do: The upper room where she had received the promise of a son, was to be the place where he would receive his life back. It was the place where God was going to manifest Himself through resurrection power. She carried her son up there and left him lying on the prophet's bed and left in a hurry to see the prophet. He lived about

twenty miles away from her. She redeemed her time by not stopping to greet anyone; she pressed on seeking life for her son. She kept her pain to herself until she met Elisha, the prophet. In anguish of soul, she started by asking him a question, Did I desire a son of my lord? Did I not say, Do not deceive me? As the Lord lives and as my soul lives, I will not leave you. And Elisha arose and followed her (vs.28,30).

Elisha went up and found the child lying on his bed. The first thing he did was to shut the door. In that quiet place, where he had found rest when traveling, was now the place for a battle for the life of that young child. Never saying anything, the Prophet Elisha lay on the child, his mouth on his mouth, his eyes on his eyes, and his hands on his hands, as he stretched himself on him and embraced him; he did once more and the child was brought to life. Blessed with the double portion of Elijah's anointing, Elisha exercised the power to bring life to the Shunammite son's lifeless body. He then returned her son back to her. Her promised son. Finding a place to be alone with God, constitutes our upper room. The Shunammite woman, who had not given up even when facing death of her son, continued believing for his life. She received her son back as a result. Acceptance of his death was not a choice for her. Had she done that it would have been the end of the story. No, she did not do that. God honored her persistent faith; from the upper room she received a promise of a son; from there she was going to receive her son back. It all started there and it was going to finish there, too.

Many of us have spiritual dead children in need to be brought to the upper room to be revived. We make the mistake of talking about them to friends and families, but never taking them as they are to the upper room to plead to God for their lives. But it seemed that we have buried them in our hopelessness. If we could learn from this Shunammite woman the secret of faith and true love for our children, we would not measure time and efforts to save their lives. Instead, we would battle for them until eternal life enters their spirit. The twelve-year-old girl, who YAHSHUA raised from the dead, was taken to the family upper room at her death. When YAHSHUA came to her He sent all away, with the exception of her parents and three disciples. That upper room needed to be filled with people with faith, who believed YAHSHUA'S healing power, for the miracle to happen. Even He had to fight the doubters.

The Word of God tells us to cast on Him all our cares; all our troubles, our worries. YAHSHUA commanded us to do so, and Peter echoed it many years later. YAHSHUA said, Do not worry and be anxious, saying, What are we going to have to eat? Or, What are we going to have to drink? Or what are we going to have to wear? But seek first of all His kingdom and His righteousness and then all these things taken together will be given you besides (Matt. 6: 31,33). In other words, Do not worry about anything; but go to the upper room (seek the Lord) and you will be blessed by experiencing the manifestation of God's faithfulness and goodness. Peter, an apostle, who walked with the Lord for three years, echoed His message many years later saying, Casting the whole of your care on Him, for He cares for you affectionately and cares about you watchfully (I Peter 4:7). We will know how much He cares when we meet Him at our upper room as many times we want. The upper room is a place from where our tears are collected; from where the spiritual blessings and miracles flow; from where we come to know Him, Who said, I will never leave nor forsake you.

YAHSHUA'S last Passover supper on earth was in an upper room. It was nicely furnished and ready for them. There, He ate His last meal on earth with the disciples. Before supper He got up, took off His garments, and taking a towel, He fastened it around His waist, then He poured water into the washbasin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded (John 13:4-5). It was a lesson of humility. He said to them, If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you this as an example, so that you should do what I have done to you (John 13:14-15). The washing of the disciples' feet was a symbol of YAHSHUA'S cleansing us from all the world's impurities. Only at the upper room we become one with Him, as His Spirit sanctifies by the teaching of His Word. Through our worldly lifestyle, we carry the filth of this world and we are often in need of visiting the upper room to restore our relationship with the Lord and be restored by Him. As He told Peter, Unless I wash your feet, you have no part with me (John 13: 8).

It was there in the upper room, after Judas left that YAHSHUA constituted the new covenant. He said, This is My blood [which ratifies] the new covenant, which is being poured out for many (Mark 14: 24). Judas' feet were not washed by YAHSHUA; he had no part with Him. The experience the disciples had in the upper room was to last in their minds for the rest of their lives. But I still think they

missed out on a lot for not having understood the message YAHSHUA demonstrated in that upper room.

After YAHSHUA'S ascension His disciples went to an upper room where they were staying; there they with one mind in full agreement devoted to prayer, with the women and Mary the mother of YAHSHUA and His brothers (Acts 1:13-14). That was the place where the Holy Spirit descended to at Pentecost time. He came to take YAHSHUA'S place. And that's how He came: When Pentecost had fully come, suddenly there came a sound from heaven like the rushing of a violent tempest blast, and it filled the whole house. And there appeared to them tongues resembling fire, which were separated and distributed and which settled on each one of them. Now there were then residing in Jerusalem Jews, devout and God-fearing men from every country under heaven. There were confusion and misunderstanding among several of those who were there, for they were amazed and astonished when hearing the apostles speaking in their tongues. But Peter stood and explained all that was happening (Acts 2). That was indeed the manifestation of His presence. He came and He stayed in each heart that accepts the message of salvation, as a seal guaranteeing their salvation.

Every believer in YAHSHUA should experience the upper room relationship with Him. It should be something to consider as we grow in Him. The Holy Spirit is ever present, willing to do what He came to do, if we only allow Him to. But it will take us going to the upper room, away from the noises of the world to be able to hear His voice. "All is well" the Shunammite proclaimed when she took her dead son to the upper room. There is resurrection power available to our spiritual dead sons and daughters. Only we must place them on the altar- God's altar, from where eternal life will flow to their spirit. And like the Shunammite woman, we will confirm the fact that all is well!

THINK ABOUT IT !