**The Provision**

**2 Kings 4:1-7**

“The LORD has done great things for us; we are glad . . .Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy! He who goes out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, bringing his sheaves with him.”(Psalm 126:3, 5-6 [ESV](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#Psa._126:5))

**Main Idea: The LORD is merciful and shows generous compassion to every person who trusts in Him.**

**Lesson #1: Our desperation activates our faith.**

Truth: God does not promise us an earthly life free from terrible pain. God does promise us an eternity free from pain if we believe in Him. God does promise us an earthly life filled with His loving provision when we trust in Him.

*““The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.” (Deuteronomy 29:29* [*ESV*](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#Deut._29:29)*)*

*For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.” (Isaiah 55:8-9* [*ESV*](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#Is._55:8)*)*

*And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. (Romans 8:28* [*ESV*](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#Rom._8:28)*)*

*For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.” (2 Corinthians 4:17-18* [*ESV*](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#2Cor._4:17)*)*

Truth: Our faith sleeps when all is well in our life. God often uses storms to shake us awake and to take shelter in the LORD.

**Lesson #2: God’s character directs our faith.**

Truth: What we believe about God determines what we do when we face disasters in our life. Our knowledge of God directs our faith upward to the LORD in times of need. Without a true knowledge of God, disaster directs us to dark despair.

Principle: The Lord often uses His servants to represent Him at the point of a person’s need.

Principle: God’s human instruments need to hear the requests of God’s people so that they can help through prayer and other means. True servants of the LORD are moved to compassion when others personally share their burdens

Application: Let us not be passive in our discouraging moments. Let us go to God. Let us ask those who know God to pray for us and to help us!

**Lesson #3: God’s word instructs our faith.**

Truth: We often miss God’s blessing because we neglect the details of the Word.

Truth: We often miss God’s blessing because we believe our preferences to be commands from the LORD.

*“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others. You blind guides, straining out a gnat and swallowing a camel!” (Matthew 23:23-24* [*ESV*](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#Matt._23:23)*)*

**Lesson #4: God’s promises strengthen our faith.**

Application: God’s promises are like manna falling from heaven. God calls us to gather them each morning and be nourished by them.

*“And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and* ***that he rewards those who seek him.”*** *(Hebrews 11:6* [*ESV*](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#Heb._11:6)*)*

**Lesson #5: God’s grace smiles upon our faith.**

Truth: The LORD always smiles upon a person who comes to Him in faith. We will gain the blessing of the LORD when we trust Him in faith. Every time. Without exception.

*“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.” (Romans 8:18* [*ESV*](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#Rom._8:18)*)*

*And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.” (Philippians 4:19-20* [*ESV*](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#Phil._4:19)*)*

**Main Idea: The LORD is merciful and shows generous compassion to every person who trusts in Him.**