

2 Kings 2:9–17

- ⁹ And so it was, when they had crossed over, that Elijah said to Elisha, “Ask! What may I do for you, before I am taken away from you?” Elisha said, “Please let a double portion of your spirit be upon me.”
- ¹⁰ So he said, “You have asked a hard thing. Nevertheless, if you see me when I am taken from you, it shall be so for you; but if not, it shall not be so.”
- ¹¹ Then it happened, as they continued on and talked, that suddenly a chariot of fire appeared with horses of fire, and separated the two of them; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.
- ¹² And Elisha saw it, and he cried out, “My father, my father, the chariot of Israel and its horsemen!” So he saw him no more. And he took hold of his own clothes and tore them into two pieces.
- ¹³ He also took up the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and went back and stood by the bank of the Jordan.
- ¹⁴ Then he took the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and struck the water, and said, “Where is the LORD God of Elijah?” And when he also had struck the water, it was divided this way and that; and Elisha crossed over.
- ¹⁵ Now when the sons of the prophets who were from Jericho saw him, they said, “The spirit of Elijah rests on Elisha.” And they came to meet him, and bowed to the ground before him.
- ¹⁶ Then they said to him, “Look now, there are fifty strong men with your servants. Please let them go and search for your master, lest perhaps the Spirit of the LORD has taken him up and cast him upon some mountain or into some valley.” And he said, “You shall not send anyone.”
- ¹⁷ But when they urged him till he was ashamed, he said, “Send them!” Therefore they sent fifty men, and they searched for three days but did not find him.

Elijah Goes Home *2 Kings 2:1-17*

INTRO:

We come to the end of Elijah’s career today. Elijah the Tishbite, God’s Prophet, burst on the scene in **1 Kings 17:1**. We traveled with him to Cherith to be fed by Ravens, and then to Zarephath (Baal central) to miraculously be supplied along with a widow and her son. We listened and watched as he led the huge demonstration of power at Mount Carmel. We also went on the long trip to Mount Horeb to meet with the LORD Himself. We saw him call Elisha. We were there when he confronted Ahab in Naboth’s vine yard. Last time, we witnessed the confrontation of Ahab’s son. Now, finally, the time had come for Elijah to go home. Like everything else in Elijah’s life, it couldn’t happen in a normal way.

I. The Story (v. 1-8)

II. The Highlights (v. 9-17)

I. The Story (v. 1-11)

2 Kings 2:1–3 *“And it came to pass, when the LORD was about to take up Elijah into heaven by a whirlwind, that Elijah went with Elisha from Gilgal. Then Elijah said to Elisha, “Stay here, please, for the LORD has sent me on to Bethel.” But Elisha said, “As the LORD lives, and as your soul lives, I will not leave you!” So they went down to Bethel. Now the sons of the prophets who were at Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, ‘Do you know that the LORD will take away your master from over you today?’ And he said, ‘Yes, I know; keep silent!’”*

A. The time has come for Elijah to go home and Elisha’s graduation from assistant to senior prophet in Israel. Through the centuries God interrupted the long line of caskets to take someone home without dying. That one was Enoch who walked with God and was not because God took him (**Genesis 5:24**). Now we arrive at the moment in which the second person to never die would go to be with the LORD. Elijah would go home. Until the Rapture at the end of the age, no one will go home without going through death.

B. The fact that this day was the day was a reality God had shown many folks. This is also the first time we hear about the Sons of the Prophets. These were groups of men who seemed to follow Elijah and serve God. As Elijah and Elisha begin their geographic journey to the Jordan they meet these guys along the way.

C. When Elijah and Elisha finally cross Jordan to his appointment with a fiery chariot and a whirlwind, Elijah takes his mantle one last time and strikes the water so they can pass through on dry ground.

II. The Highlights (v. 9-17)

A. Our first highlight is right before the LORD takes Elijah.

2 Kings 2:8–10 *“Now Elijah took his mantle, rolled it up, and struck the water; and it was divided this way and that, so that the two of them crossed over on dry ground. And so it was, when they had crossed over, that Elijah said to Elisha, ‘Ask! What may I do for you, before I am taken away from you?’ Elisha said, ‘Please let a double portion of your spirit be upon me.’ So he said, ‘You have asked a hard thing. Nevertheless, if you see me when I am taken from you, it shall be so for you; but if not, it shall not be so.’”*

1. Commentators debate what it was that Elisha was asking. He was asking God multiply Elijah’s miracles by two or that He would give Elisha a second blessing, yet he did want to be used of God in Elijah’s place.

2. Why was this a hard thing? Do you remember Jeremiah's statement in his prayer in **Jeremiah 32:17**?

"Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and outstretched arm. There is nothing too hard for You."

This was not a hard thing for God to do. It was a hard thing for Elisha to live as Elijah did. Serving God can cost a lot. We must be willing to do what He wants us to do and most of to be what He wants us to be.

B. Our second stop is after the fiery chariot separates Elijah and Elisha and the whirlwind whisks Elijah home. Elisha's cry is significant. He is saying the entire defense of Israel is gone. Still, we need to run on to **verses 13 -14**.

"He also took up the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and went back and stood by the bank of the Jordan. Then he took the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and struck the water, and said, 'Where is the LORD God of Elijah?' And when he also had struck the water, it was divided this way and that; and Elisha crossed over."

1. This is the question that Moses asked when he ran into the presence of God in **Exodus 6:1**:

"Then the LORD said to Moses, 'Now you shall see what I will do to Pharaoh. For with a strong hand he will let them go, and with a strong hand he will drive them out of his land.'"

Where was God? Where He has always been.

Psalm 115:1-2 ***"Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, But to Your name give glory, Because of Your mercy, Because of Your truth. Why should the Gentiles say, "So where is their God?"***

2. This is a question we ask and receive an answer often. The reason God gave the rocks when Joshua took Israel over the Jordan was so they could answer this question for their offspring. Do we have rock piles we visit often and pick up the rocks and thank God for what He has done? Let me share just one of my rocks, Rachel's eyes and the miracle God did.

C. Our last stop is when Elisha crosses the Jordan. He is met by the Sons of the Prophets who recognize God's spirit upon Elisha and then have an unusual request.

2 Kings 2:16 ***"Then they said to him, 'Look now, there are fifty strong men with your servants. Please let them go and search for your master, lest perhaps the Spirit of the LORD has taken him up and cast him upon some mountain or into some valley.' And he said, 'You shall not send anyone.'"***

The fact is that our LORD never fails. He never drops us or allows us to fall. Do you remember Jeremiah in **Lamentations 3:21-23**?

“This I recall to my mind, Therefore I have hope. Through the LORD’s mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness.”