

Elisha Succeeds Elijah – the Passing of the Mantle (2 Kings 2:1-18)

- Ancient Canaan, Baal was known as the rider of the clouds: warlike weather god
- Billowing dark thunderclouds were supposedly the chariots Baal rode on
- A number of ways already the LORD has shown Baal's impotence on his own turf
- Baal: not the rider of the clouds! Bible says God alone is (Deut 33:26 Isa 66:15)

I. Yahweh – The God Who Rides upon the Storm

- Glory cloud: pillar of fire & smoke testified to God's presence going before Israel
- God & armies of heaven fought for Israel from within the cloud at the Red Sea
- Elisha saw the wind & fire, the horses: symbolism was unmistakable (11-12)
- The warrior God, the captain of armies of heaven, had to retrieve his servant
- Elijah had fought the good fight, God would take him out of the battle & home
- Parallels between Elijah & Jesus: fought good fight, taken to heaven (Acts 1:11)
- Unlike Elijah, Jesus will return on clouds for us & will judge the world (Rev 1:7)

II. Yahweh – The Warrior God Who Fights for His People

- Prophets on battlefield often portrayed Yahweh the God who fights for his people
- Prophets would declare a kind of a verbal holy war on Israel's enemies.
- vs. 12 Elisha cried, "My father, my father. The chariots of Israel & its horsemen"
- The identical cry is made by Elisha when he was on death's door **2 Kings 13:14**
- "chariots & horsemen" refer to the prophet himself - symbolic of armies of God
- Church is called to holy warfare. Jesus: captain of Lord's armies. Rev 19:11-16
- Jesus has fought our battles for us, he is worth more than all the armies (Is 54:17)
- Our weapons: spiritual & more powerful than any earthly weapon (2 Cor 10:4-5)

III. Jesus- the Victory of Yahweh over Death

- New Testament relationship of John the Baptist & Jesus similar to Elijah & Elisha
- Jesus & Elisha would both enjoy a double portion of God's Spirit
- Moses divided the sea, Elijah & Elisha the river: River & Sea Baal's enemies
- Deep water symbolized death (Old Testament) Jesus defeated death (1Thess 4:17)

IV. Jesus – Yahweh's Rock Gushing Forth Living Water

- Elijah's mantle was a symbol of the way in which the Spirit of God clothed him
- John came dressed like Elijah & there anointed his successor, the Spirit descended
- The double portion, given to Jesus: Spirit given without measure (John 3: 34)