



Elijah's Final Days

2 Kings 1:1–2:14



Discuss

1. Think back 15–20 years ago. What are two things in your life that are different?
What are two things that are the same?



What's going on with Ahab?

1. Ahab once again REJECTS the LORD.
2. Ahab DIES in battle, so his son, Ahaziah, takes over.



2 Kings 1:1–18

1. The messengers go to meet “Baal-Zebub,” which means “Lord of the FLIES.”
2. Instead, they meet “Baal-Shear,” which means “Lord of HAIRINESS” (“He wore a garment of hair” in the ESV).



2 Kings 1:1–18

3. What do we learn about Ahaziah from this section?
4. How does this situation compare to the beginning of Elijah's ministry?



2 Kings 1:1–18

5. King Ahaziah recognized Elijah's physical attributes but seemed to forget the more important detail: Elijah is a PROPHET of the LORD.



2 Kings 1:1–18

6. The repeated sending of men and repeated fire shows both Ahaziah's STUBBORNNESS and Elijah's STEADFASTNESS.



2 Kings 1:1–18

7. How do we see God's *judgment* in this interaction between Ahaziah and Elijah?

8. How do we see God's *mercy* in this interaction between Ahaziah and Elijah?



2 Kings 2:1–14

1. The narrator reveals what is about to happen to Elijah which makes the reader wonder: “HOW will this happen?” and “What will happen to ELISHA?”



2 Kings 2:1–14

2. From the repeated requests from Elijah and denials from Elisha, we see that Elisha is as STEADFAST as Elijah.

3. The prophet who was once alone is now SURROUNDED by prophets hearing the Word of the LORD.



2 Kings 2:1–14

4. They are now standing in the same place where MOSES died.

5. Elisha's request is for an INHERITANCE as if he were Elijah's son.



2 Kings 2:1–14

6. The closes example is MOSES to JOSHUA, which is yet another similarity between these two Old Testament figures.

7. Chariots and horses are typical signs of MILITARY POWER. Why might this imagery make sense for the prophet Elijah's departure?



2 Kings 2:1–14

8. What is significant about Elijah being taken to Heaven instead of dying?

9. When Elisha picked up the cloak and performed a miracle, it confirms all that was hinted at before: Elisha will CONTINUE this ministry.



Elijah's Legacy

Immediate:

1. Elisha continues the ministry God BEGAN with Elijah.
 - a. Especially by anointing Jehu and Hazael to bring JUSTICE on the house of Ahab.



Elijah's Legacy

Beyond:

1. John the Baptist

Luke 1:17 - "He will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah..."

a. How would you describe the "spirit and power of Elijah"?



Elijah's Legacy

2. Transfiguration

Matthew 17:1–3 – “And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light. And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him.”



Elijah's Legacy

- a. While there are similarities between Moses and Elijah, they are both mere shadows and precursors to JESUS.
- b. After studying the story of Elijah, how does he remind us of Jesus?



Elijah's Legacy

c. If all someone knew about God came from the story of Elijah, how might they describe God?



Closing Discussion

When we study the stories of the Bible, we learn more fully the PATTERN of how God worked in the past and how he is at work in our lives.



Closing Discussion

“The grand story of God repeats itself over and over. The scriptures contain brief stories that show this as well. And we see this same encapsulation in each of our everyday lives.”

- Robert Kolb, *Luther and the Stories of God*



Closing Discussion

“It has—praise God—come to this: that men and women, young and old, know the catechism and how to believe, live, pray, suffer, and die.”