



FORERUNNER

ADVENT THROUGH ELIJAH'S EYES

PLEASE SILENCE YOUR PHONE

Change of Command Ceremony aboard USS *Wyoming* 16 September 1914



- “The former commander hands over symbols of office & keys to the new.”
- “Whenever possible, takes place on ship in water.”
- “The transfer is to be formally made in the presence of as many of her officers and crew as can be assembled.”

United States Navy Regulations, Article 0807



**Cmdr. David Cox, command change
ceremony USS *Louisville*
20 October 2017**



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⁷ Fifty men from the sons of the prophets came and stood observing them [Elijah and Elisha] at a distance while the two of them stood by the Jordan. ⁸ Elijah took his mantle, rolled it up, and struck the water, which parted to the right and left. Then the two of them crossed over on dry ground. ⁹ When they had crossed over, Elijah said to Elisha, “Tell me what I can do for you before I am taken from you.” So Elisha answered, “Please, let me inherit two shares of your spirit.”

2 Kings 2 CSB

¹⁰ Elijah replied, “You have asked for something difficult. If you see me being taken from you, you will have it. If not, you won’t.”

¹¹ As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire with horses of fire suddenly appeared and separated the two of them. Then Elijah went up into heaven in the whirlwind. ¹² As Elisha watched, he kept crying out, “My father, my father, the chariots and horsemen of Israel!”

When he could see him no longer, he took hold of his own clothes, tore them in two,

2 Kings 2 CSB

¹³ picked up the mantle that had fallen off Elijah, and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. ¹⁴ He took the mantle Elijah had dropped, and he struck the water. “Where is the Lord God of Elijah?” he asked. He struck the water himself, and it parted to the right and the left, and Elisha crossed over. ¹⁵ When the sons of the prophets from Jericho who were observing saw him, they said, “The spirit of Elijah rests on Elisha.” They came to meet him and bowed down to the ground in front of him.

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Thus, Elisha replaces Elijah as captain of the Bible teachers and preachers in Israel and Judah.

Elijah passes the mantle to Elisha
Henry Coller
1953

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*Elijah ascends before Elishah
and the Jericho school*
Unknown, 17th c.

Wayne,

Our son, Mark, has noted the similarities of the passing of ministry/leadership from Moses to Joshua, Elijah to Elisha and John the Baptist to Jesus.

- All take place at the Jordan River.**
- Moses, Elijah, and John act as forerunners for even greater works done by the successors.**
- The successors names – Joshua, Elisha and Jesus – all mean savior or salvation.**

– George Kelly

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- The successors names – Joshua, Elisha and Jesus – all mean savior or salvation.**
- Each occurs before many witnesses.**

²¹ Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, I also send you.” ²² After saying this, he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit.”

John 20 CSB

⁸ “You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Acts 1 CSB



Advent principle: Jesus commissioned His followers, literally inspiring them with God the Spirit. As His people, we are to go forth under His mantle as witnesses. In honor of that, the candle of God's Spirit is lit tonight.



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Unknown, 17th c.

**God's Spirit rested on
Joshua...and Elisha...and
Messiah Jesus...and through
Jesus on every Christian. We
are an extension of that
audience. We gather here to
celebrate salvation. We stand
in the parted waters on this
ship of souls.**

So how does one respond to that?

- **If you have never trusted God's salvation, come aboard!**
- **If you are already serving on the ship, salute & rejoice that you get to serve the greatest commander. You are a witness to God's Provision, so tear away the clothes of the past and put on Christ.**





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