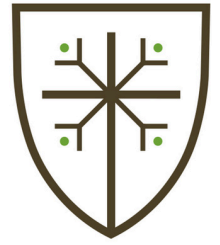


SERMON NOTES



ELISHA

Renewal in the Spirit

May 19, 2024

SERMON INFO

TITLE

"Pentecost Sunday"

PREACHER

Rev. Josh Keller

TEXTS

2 Kings 2:1, 6-14

Acts 1:7-11; 2:1-4

John 14:12-17

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Where do you see yourself as an Elisha? Or an Elijah?
2. How do you see the Spirit shaping your life, moving you to continue to follow God's call on his people?

**Shekinah is a Hebrew word denoting the dwelling or settling of God in a place. So, God's Shekinah glory is the fullness of his beauty and majesty coming down to rest in a specific place, such as Mt. Sinai.*

SERMON IN SUMMARY

This week, Josh began a new series on the book of 2 Kings, in particular, the life of Elisha. And to introduce us to Elisha, he looked at the biblical motif that Elisha and Elijah follow.

Elijah and Elisha

A motif is a repeated piece of music or an image or pattern that is used to recall to mind an idea or character. We find motifs in music, art, and literature – including biblical literature. Elisha and Elijah are a pair of characters that fit into the biblical motif of one character who begins a work, and another who completes or continues the work. Moses and Joshua were another such motif. In Elijah and Elisha, we see the spiritual reconquest of Israel. They work the story of Moses and Joshua in reverse, going together back outside the land of Israel, Elijah being taken away and Elisha crossing over into the land by himself (like Joshua) to spiritually "recapture" a land that has fallen into darkness.

But they not only look backwards to Moses and Joshua, but prefigure another character. Elijah was a loner – wandering in the wilderness in a hairy cloak – just like the character of John the Baptist we see in the New Testament. John prepares the way for Jesus and in 2 Kings we see Elisha pointing forward to who Jesus will be. And yet another layer, prefigured even further, exists because we also see Elijah going up in a whirlwind, consumed by the Shekinah* glory of God in all its beauty and terror. Elijah is a picture of Christ, and in Elisha, we can see our own call to take up the cloak of him who went before just as Elisha takes up Elijah's cloak. In verse 9, Elisha asks Elijah for a double portion of his spirit. This was the common inheritance given to first-born sons, the one who would, so to speak, take on the family business. This isn't Elijah's to give though. A prophet is someone who is welcomed into the counsels of God and only God can give that inheritance. And he does. The Lord places upon him the continuing work of prophet, fighting for the spiritual reconquest of God's people.

Pentecost

In the story of Pentecost, we see many of the same images that we saw with Elisha and Elijah. The Spirit of God fills the place with a mighty rushing wind. Instead of chariots of fire, God's glory descends in tongues of fire resting on each individual. God is no longer far off. The church has become God's earthly home. Like Elisha, we are given the double portion of God's spirit – the inheritance belonging to the first-born, to Jesus. There is a holy work that God is calling each and every one of us into.

The Cloak

We have been given the cloak of the Holy Spirit, clothed just as Jesus was. And in every part of life, we should be mistaken for Christ, pictures, icons of Christ. The Spirit is depicted in several ways – as wind, as fire, as water. All of these have something in common in that they can't be controlled. We can't grasp on to them and manipulate them. But they all shape everything they touch. We are being shaped by that Spirit in order to grow into the cloak of Christ, the call that has been given to us to continue his work on earth.