

2 Kings 2

War

- **Ahab's son Ahaziah**
 1. Falls on face Physically/Spiritually
 2. Seeks council from Baal-Zebub: Will I live?
 3. **God tells Prophet Elijah to ask him...**

Is it because there is no God in Israel?

Now...you will surely die

- **Ahaziah reigns just 2 years:** Curse on father Ahab fulfilled; calamity [1 Kings 21]
- **Chronology:**
 1. **Jehoram, Ahaziah's brother** reigns in Israel Northern Kingdom
 2. **Jehoram, Jehoshaphat's son** reigns in Judah Southern Kingdom

2 Chronicles 21 [Read] Regarding Jehoshaphat's son Jehoram King of Judah] Rabbit Trail?

1. Great Father [Jehoshaphat] though not so smart [joined w/Ahab in north]
2. 6 Brothers: All received gifts of silver, gold, precious things
3. Jehoram the firstborn received the Kingdom
4. Age 32 when installed as King Southern Kingdom
5. *Strengthened himself and killed his brothers*
6. Walked in the ways of the Kings of Israel though in south
7. Ahab's daughter was his wife

2 Chronicles 21:7 Yet the Lord would not destroy the house of David, because of the covenant that He had made with David, and since He had promised to give a lamp to him and to his sons forever.

1. God judges Jehoram...

2 Chronicles 21:12 And a letter came to [Jehoram] from Elijah the prophet, saying, Thus says the Lord God of your father David: Because you have not walked in the ways of Jehoshaphat your father, or in the ways of Asa king of Judah, 13 but have walked in the way of the kings of Israel, and have made Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to play the harlot like the harlotry of the house of Ahab, and also have killed your brothers, those of your father's household, who were better than yourself, 14 behold, the Lord will **strike your people with a serious affliction**—your children, your wives, and all your possessions; 15 and you will become very sick with a disease of your intestines, until your intestines come out by reason of the sickness, day by day.

2. **Lord raises up enemies:** Edomites, Philistines and Arabs
3. Raid the Palace: Take, stuff, sons, wives
4. Left only youngest son: **Jehoahaz** [Remnant for David's sake]

2 Chronicles 21:18 After all this the Lord struck him in his intestines with an incurable disease. 19 Then it happened in the course of time, after the end of two years, that his intestines came out because of his sickness; so he died in severe pain. And his people made no burning for him, like the burning for his fathers. 20 He was thirty-two years old when he

became king. He reigned in Jerusalem eight years and, to no one's sorrow, departed. However they buried him in the City of David, but not in the tombs of the kings.

- **Approx. 850 BC – 840 BC**
 1. King Jehoram in South. King Jehoram in the North.
 2. Elijah and Elisha take the stage...

I. Elijah and Elisha Lifted Up

1 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.

- **Lord ready take Elijah home:**
 1. Life well Lived
 2. Greatest of OT prophets?

Luke 7:28 ... among those born of women there is **not a greater prophet than John** the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he."

- **John the Baptist:** Spirit of Elijah
- **God retires Elijah/Calls Elisha:**

1 Kings 19:18 [Elijah feeling sorry for himself] [God says...] I have reserved seven thousand in Israel, all whose knees have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."19 So he departed from there, and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen before him, and he was with the twelfth. Then Elijah passed by him and **threw his mantle on him.**

- **Elijah last mission:** Calling down fire Ch. 1 of 2 Kings
- Elijah/Elisha leave Gilgal together

Walking together for Six Years at this point...

Elisha student of Elijah

- God ready to take Elijah to paradise and he knows it...

2 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.

- Elijah knows he's was leaving...

"I'm going to Bethel you stay here"

Elisha also knows something's up

- Insists on going with Elijah to **Bethel**, i.e. House of God
- Named by Jacob his dream...

Genesis 28:12 [Jacob] dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it...**16** Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely the Lord is in this place, and I did not

know it." 17 And he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the **house of God** [i.d. Bethel], and this is the gate of heaven!"

- Elijah/Elisha go together to Bethel...

3 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!**"

- **Sons of Prophets?** Seminary; Learning the Word of God
 1. Term appears 11x
 2. Only in 1 and 2 Kings
 3. School of Prophets located in various places
 - Gilgal
 - Bethel
 - Jericho
 - Hills of Ephraim
 4. All under leadership of one prophet; here Elijah
 5. When he died another would take his place
 6. Community of buildings
 7. Shared Table
 8. Some married
 9. Son of Prophet: Belonging to the School of Prophets

All the prophets knew today was the day Elijah was leaving

Amos 3:7 Surely the Lord God does nothing, Unless He reveals His secret to His servants **the prophets.**

- **Do you know Elijah is leaving today...Yah I know be quiet**

4 Then Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here, please, for the Lord has sent me on to Jericho." But he said, "As the Lord lives, and as your soul lives, I will not leave you!" So they came to Jericho.

- **Elijah:** I'm going to Jericho you stay here/ Elisha not leaving sight of Elijah...

5 Now the sons of the prophets who were at **Jericho** came to Elisha and said to him, "Do you know that the Lord will take away your master from over you today?" So he answered, "Yes, I know; keep silent!"

- Elijah and Elisha go to Jericho met by sons of prophets
- **Yah yah I know...**

6 Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here, please, for the Lord has sent me on to the Jordan." But he said, "As the Lord lives, and as your soul lives, I will not leave you!"

Elijah continues to test Elisha's devotion

- **Elijah:** I'm going to Jordan River you stay here/Elisha not leaving sight of Elijah...

...So the two of them went on.

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7 And fifty men of the sons of the prophets went and stood facing them at a distance, while the two of them stood by the Jordan.

- Elijah and Elisha standing on banks of Jordan
- Turn around and see 50 sons of Prophets wondering what will happen next

8 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.

- Prophets watch Jordan split as two cross on dry ground

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?"

- Prophets watching heroes having conversation...

What can I do for you before I leave?

9b...Elisha said, "Please let a double portion of your spirit be upon me."

I want a double portion of your spirit

- **Double Portion:**

1. **Double Portion:** Portion that goes to firstborn son; inheritance
2. Inheritance in view? Elijah's prophetic ministry/authority

This was a request for the spiritual power to fulfill the calling he already received. [Guzik]

- Elisha would do twice as many recorded miracles as Elijah

I want a double portion of your spirit

10 So [Elijah said to Elisha] "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.**"

- **Okay but one stipulation:** No matter what happens...

...Keep your eyes on me and you will receive double portion

- Jon Courson on how to receive a double blessing: Places Elijah took Elisha

1. **Gilgal:** Place of circumcision; i.e. getting rid of flesh
2. **Bethel:** House of God; Church to receive revelation [Thursdays?]
3. **Jericho:** Place of storming gates of hell by faith

Keeping your eyes on the Master no matter what **shiny object appears...**

11 Then it happened, as they continued on and talked, that suddenly a chariot of fire appeared with horses of fire

- **Mid-conversation**

1. Chariot of fire comes through atmosphere
2. From supernatural into natural realm
3. Drawn by horses of fire

... and separated the two of them

- ...Sets down between two of them

11b...and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.

- **Whirlwind:** heb. sah'·ar; Lit tempest, stormy. From "rage" or "raging storm"

Whirlwind straight to heaven without dying

Elijah was one of two humans in Bible we know never died!

Genesis 5:24 And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.

- **Whirlwind:** Violently Shaken; picture of Rapture of Church

1 Thessalonians 4:16 ...the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

- **Caught up:** gr. *här-pä'-zō*
- **Latin:** Rapture
- **Take by force,** seize on, pluck/pull. To snatch away. Meet the Lord in the air

Fullness of Gentiles is almost complete...Then God will deal with Jewish people

Romans 11:25 ...blindness in part has happened to Israel until the **fullness of the Gentiles** has come in. 26 And so all Israel will be saved

- **Blessed hope:** Jesus saves us from the wrath to come

1 Thessalonians 1:10 [We] **wait for His Son from heaven,** whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who **delivers us from the wrath to come.**

John 14: 2b...I go to **prepare a place for you.** 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, **there you may be also.**

- Elijah taken up/ Raptured in whirlwind

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.

- **Elisha tears his clothes:** Grief/sorrow...then excitement

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.

- **Mantle fell off Elijah when he went up:** One reason he needed to be near?
- Stood at the bank of now filled Jordan looking at amazed SOT Prophets

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?**"

Elisha Takes Elijah's mantle

- **Elisha spits water as others in OT:**

1. Moses
2. Joshua
3. Elijah
4. Elisha

Where is the Lord God who was with Elijah?

- **God of Elijah:**

1. Caused the rain to cease for 3 1/2 years (1Ki 17:1)
2. Fed by the ravens (1Ki 17:4)
3. Miracle of the bread and oil (1Ki 17:14)
4. Resurrection of widow's son (1Ki 17:22)
5. Calling of fire from heaven on the altar (1Ki 18:38)
6. Causing it to rain (1Ki 18:45)
7. Prophecy that Ahab's sons would all be destroyed (1Ki 21:22)
8. Prophecy that Jezebel would be eaten by dogs (1Ki 21:23)
9. Prophecy that Ahaziah would die of his illness (2Ki 1:4)
10. Calling fire from heaven upon the first 50 soldiers (2Ki 1:10)
11. Calling fire from heaven upon the second 50 soldiers (2Ki 1:12)
12. Parting of the Jordan (2Ki 2:8)

Where is the God who worked so mightily in Elijah?

- What we want people to ask about our lives...

I want to know the God who worked so mightily through _____

14b... And when [Elisha] also had struck the water, it was divided this way

and that; and **Elisha crossed over.**

- Crosses over to the SOT Prophets

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.

- **Watched** Elijah strike Jordan and both walk across
- **Watched** God's Chariot pick up Elijah
- **Watched** Elijah's his Mantle fall into Elisha's hands
- **Watched** Elisha now strike the Jordan with Mantle that is now his

Prophets understood a divine passing of the torch had just taken place. Elijah had passed the baton to Elisha and he was their new master

- **We need to prepare/equip others to take the Mantle...**
- Raise up men/woman/youth for God's work
 1. Teach other to teach
 2. Lead others to lead
- Prophets acknowledge Elisha's authority...

"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."

- **We got 50 strong guys for a search party**
 1. Maybe the Lord picked him up and dropped him somewhere?
 2. They already told Elisha they knew Elijah was going?

Elisha: "Don't 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.

- **C'moned him...**Till he was ashamed
- **Searched three days...**but did not find him? [Sounds familiar]

18 And when they came back to him, for he had stayed in Jericho, he said to them, "Did I not say to you, 'Do not go'?"

- **Elisha stayed:** I told you not to go

He knew Elijah would not be coming back to earth for 800 years

Luke 9:28 [Read] Now it came to pass, about eight days after these sayings, that He took Peter, John, and James and went up on the mountain to pray. 29 As He prayed, the appearance of His face was altered, and His robe became white and glistening. 30 And behold, two men talked with Him, who were Moses and Elijah, 31 who appeared in glory and spoke of His decease [departure/exodus] which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.

- **Elijah was gone and would not be back for at least 2000 more years...**

Revelation 11:3 [Read] And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth." 4 These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands standing before the God of the earth. 5 And if anyone wants to harm them, fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies. And if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this manner. 6 These have power to shut heaven, so that **no rain falls** in the days of their prophecy; and they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire. 7 When they finish their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them. 8 And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. 9 Then those from the peoples, tribes, tongues, and nations will see their dead bodies three-and-a-half days, and not allow their dead bodies to be put into graves. 10 And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them, make merry, and send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth. 11 Now after the three-and-a-half days the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them. 12 And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." And they ascended to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies saw them. 13 In the same hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell. In the earthquake seven thousand people were killed, and the rest were afraid and gave glory to the God of heaven.

SUMMARY Elijah and Elisha Lifted Up

II. Words

19 Then the men of the city [Jericho] said to Elisha, "Please notice, the situation of this city *is* pleasant, as my lord sees; but the water *is* bad, and the ground barren."

Elisha not top Prophet for 5 minutes before being called to work

- **Great City/Bad water**
 1. Ground is not producing crops
 2. Everything that begins to grow dies

20 And [Elisha] said, "Bring me a **new bowl**, and **put salt** in it." So they brought it to him.

Elisha's Second Miracle: Healing of the Water

- **Bring NEW bowl**; i.e. vessel

1. **Our bodies:** Paul was a chosen vessel
2. Potter makes vessels of honor
3. We are vessels filled with Holy Spirit

2 Corinthians 4:7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.

Bring me a New Bowl; never used

Matthew 9:16 No one puts a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment; for the patch pulls away from the garment, and the tear is made worse. 17 Nor do they put new wine into old wineskins, or else the wineskins break, the wine is spilled, and the wineskins are ruined. But they put new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved."

Jesus: I have come to do something brand new

I'm going to make you new and do a new work through you. No more dead/fruitless religion

- Jesus doesn't take our old lives and restore them, polish up [Reform/Rehabilitate? No]
- Jesus says I'm going to make you new /do something new through you [Regenerate]

Bring me a New Bowl... and put salt in it

- **Salt**
 1. Preserves things from decaying
 2. Adds flavor to what is dull

21 Then he went out to the source of the water, and cast in the salt there, and said, "Thus says the Lord: '**I have healed this water;** from it there shall be no more death or barrenness.' "

Throws Salt from a New Bowl at the source of the problem ...and heals the community

- **Cure for dying/barren community/family?**
 1. More dead than alive
 2. No fruit

Cure for dying/barren community/family? Throw salt at it!

Matthew 5:13 "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.

- **How do I salt my community, my home?**

Colossians 4:6 Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.

- Utilize your new bowl; new life: Use it or lose it. Don't let your salt lose its flavor
- How? **Speak grace into peoples lives and bring healing**

1. Watch fruit begin to grow in family/community
2. Watch life become abundant those who are encouraged...

Proverbs 18:21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit.

Ecclesiastes 10:12 The words of a wise man's mouth are gracious

Ephesians 4:29 Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.

- **Pour salt out at the source:** Dads

Change the direction of your family and next generation

22 So the water remains healed to this day, according to the word of Elisha which he spoke.

- Elisha leaves Jericho after healing
- **Heads to Bethel;** i.e. House of God now place of Idolatry/demonic activity

23 Then [Elisha] went up from there to Bethel; and as he was going up the road, some youths came from the city and mocked him, and said to him, "Go up, you baldhead! Go up, you baldhead!"

First and only "Youth Group" in Scripture

- Mocked Elisha thus they...
- Mocked the Prophet of God thus they...
- Mocked the God of the Prophet

Go up like Elijah Baldy!!!

- **Bald:** Lit. When your face is so good looking it is taking over the rest of your head.
- Actually, not youth but Young men
 1. 18-25 yrs. Doesn't say how many total
 2. Students of false-prophets of Bethel
 3. Scoffing at those who said Elijah ascended
- Apostle Peter prophesied scoffers in our day...

2 Peter 3:3 [Know this first] ...scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation."

- Scoffing will be prevalent in last days as we look forward to Jesus return
 1. **Scoffing:** *em-pī'k-tās*; Lit. Mocking. From root "to play with, trifle with, delude"
 2. Walk according to their own lusts; i.e. not according to faith in Word
 3. Deny Jesus Words and attempt to invalidate the promise of His return

4. "Same old, same old; Never going to happen" but forgot about flood

Scoffing God, God's Promises or God's Prophet's is not taken lightly by the Lord

- **Young men mock Prophet Elisha:** Go up baldy like you say your buddy Elijah did!

24 So he turned around and looked at them, and pronounced a curse on them in the name of the Lord. And two female bears came out of the woods and mauled forty-two of the youths.

- Turned/Looked/Cursed...in the Name of the lord
- **2 Female Bears come out of woods:**
 1. Protecting cubs?
 2. Mauled forty-two youths; Lit. cut up, possibly not to death
 3. 42 out of how many?
- God is Holy
- Mocking God/ Things of God/People of God is a serious offence to God

Matthew 12:33 [Read] [If you are a New Vessel...speak like it] "Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or else make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for a tree is known by its fruit. 34 Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For **out of the abundance of the heart** the mouth speaks. 35 A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things

- Encouragement
- Hope
- Edification: Goal to improve/help
- Life giving Word of God

35b...and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things.

- Gossip
- Slander
- Scoffing
- Mocking

Sometimes we just let words pour out of our mouths like puke
... not grasping the impact, repercussions, conquests to us, families, our walk

36 But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. **37 For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."**

- We don't realize what the damage our words cause till too late...

May I say that after the bears did their work, nobody else around Bethel ridiculed Elisha...you may be sure of that. [JV McGee]

25 Then [Elisha] went from there to Mount Carmel, and from there he returned to Samaria.

- Bethel to **Mt. Carmel**: Scene of Elijah's Showdown with False-Prophets of Baal
- **Back to Samaria**: Capital of Northern Kingdom, Idolatry rampant

SUMMARY Words: Produce fruit/Life or a situation hard to bear