

GOD'S WORD

FOR LIFE



Success in
Succession

I Kings 19:19-20

Elijah and Elisha

TRUTH ABOUT GOD:

- Yahweh desires each new generation to follow His calling.

TRUTH FOR MY LIFE:

- I will not be discouraged from pursuing God's call.

SERIES OVERVIEW:

- God used Elijah to work a miracle for a widow, and then He used Elijah to call down fire from Heaven. After Elijah anointed Elisha to follow him, God used Elisha to work a miracle for a Syrian soldier. Like Elijah, let us be courageous and stand for God. Like Elisha, let us hear and follow God's call in our lives.

THE TEXT: I KINGS 19:11-21; II KINGS 2:1-14



ELIJAH CHOSE ELISHA

¹¹ Then He said, "Go out, and stand on the mountain before Yahweh." And behold, Yahweh passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before Yahweh, but Yahweh was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but Yahweh was not in the earthquake; ¹² and after the earthquake a fire, but Yahweh was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice. ¹³ So it was, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave. Suddenly a voice came to him, and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"



¹⁴ And he said, "I have been very zealous for Yahweh, Elohim of hosts; because the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your Prophets with the sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life." ¹⁵ Then Yahweh said to him: "Go, return on your way to the Wilderness of Damascus; and when you arrive, anoint Hazael as king over Syria. ¹⁶ Also you shall anoint Jehu the son of Nimshi as king over Israel. **And Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel Meholah you shall anoint as Prophet in your place.** ¹⁷ It shall be that whoever escapes the sword of Hazael, Jehu will kill; and whoever escapes the sword of Jehu, Elisha will kill. ¹⁸ Yet I have reserved seven thousand in Israel, all whose knees have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."

- What can we do to help a younger person grow in God?

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. ²⁰ And he left the oxen and ran after Elijah, and said, "Please let me kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow you." And he said to him, "Go back again, for what have I done to you?" ²¹ So Elisha turned back from him, and took a yoke of oxen and slaughtered them and boiled their flesh, using the oxen's equipment, and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he arose and followed Elijah, and became his servant.

- Aside from sins and weights, what else might we need to remove from our lives in order to fully embrace God's call?

THE MANTLE PASSED TO ELISHA

And it came to pass, when Yahweh was about to take up Elijah into Heaven by a whirlwind, that Elijah went with Elisha from Gilgal. ² Then Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here, please, for Yahweh 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. ³ Now the Sons of the Prophets who were at Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that Yahweh will take away your master from over you today?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent!"

⁴ Then Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here, please, for Yahweh 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. ⁵ Now the Sons of the Prophets who were at Jericho came to Elisha and said to him, "Do you know that Yahweh will take away your master from over you today?" So he answered, "Yes, I know; keep silent!"

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

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?" Elisha said, "Please let a double portion of your spirit be upon me." ¹⁰ So he said, "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." ¹¹ **Then it happened, as they continued on and talked, that suddenly a Chariot of Fire appeared with horses of fire, and separated the two of them; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.**

- What would you like God to do for you that goes beyond the ordinary and would be a great leap of faith?



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. 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. ¹⁴ Then he took the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and struck the water, and said, "Where is Yahweh, Elohim of Elijah?" And when he also had struck the water, it was divided this way and that; and Elisha crossed over.

- What do you need to do to accept God's timing in your life?

OUR PRAYER FOCUS:

- To actively pursue the call of God.
- To be discipled by someone and to disciple someone.