

Elijah becomes Elisha's Father

1 Kings 19v19-21

19 ¶ So he departed thence, and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen before him, and he with the twelfth: and Elijah passed by him, and cast ^vhis mantle upon him.

20 And he left the oxen, and ran after Elijah, and said, ^vLet me, I pray thee, kiss my father and my mother, and ^{then} I will follow thee. And he said unto him, ^vGo back again: for what have I done to thee?

21 And he returned back from him, and took a yoke of oxen, and slew them, and boiled their flesh ^vwith the instruments of the oxen, and gave unto the people, and they did eat. Then he arose, and ^vwent after Elijah, and ^vministered unto him.

1 Kings 19v19-21

v19 Agricultural language used to remind us of Yahweh's purpose with Elijah to **sow** His Word into Israel's hearts in the Kingdom: **Jer 31v27-28**. We must allow God's Word to grow in our hearts now that it may bear fruit: **Hos 10v12; Mk 4v8; Gal 5v22-23; 6v8**. The **no. 12**, symbolises a **united** nation of Israel under Christ.

v21 Elisha ceremonially severs all connection with his previous occupation and way of life. It is a deliberate act to symbolise his **total dedication** to the work ahead. Jesus' disciples similarly "left their nets and followed him" **Matt 4v19-22; 6v24**.

Colour code: Blue (God & Jesus); Red (sin/devil/judgment of wicked); Green (Kingdom); Orange (important words & phrases); Purple (Israel & return of Jews to the land); Yellow (practical exhortation).
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This summary was prepared from notes by Bro John Martin and the SW08 notes.
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2 Kings 2v1-15

This is the first time the two are mentioned together since Elijah's call some 10 years earlier. In the meantime, Elisha had become known as Elijah's servant: **2 Kgs 3v11**. There is now a **very close friendship** between these 2 men.

"hold your peace" - ie. Shoosh! It was too painful for Elisha to discuss with them. He had an **emotional attachment** to Elijah and didn't want to see him go. Taking on Elijah's responsibility may also have been a daunting prospect. It is not easy to take on responsibilities. But God will be with us no matter how difficult it may be at the time

v3 Originated in the school of the prophets originally held at Ramah with Samuel presiding over them: **1 Sam 10v9-12; 19v19-20**.

v7 "Jordan" - This river was an apt symbol of the progress of mortality down to the grave. Jeremiah speaks of the "pride of Jordan", as it represented the flesh: **Jer 12v5; 49v19**. See Bro J Martin's notes for detail.

"they two" - Only used 9x in the Bible (of which 3 are in this chapter). Other examples are: Ruth and Naomi - **Ruth 1v29** David and Jonathan - **1 Sam 23v18** Husband and wife - **Eph 5v21**.

Wrested Scripture: 2 Kings 2v11: Neither **2 Kings 2** or **Matt 17** says that Elijah lived between being taken up and when he met Jesus at the Transfiguration in **Matt 17v3**. Moses was also present, but he had been dead: **Deut 34v5**. Moses and Elijah may well have both been raised for the occasion. Even if Elijah was miraculously preserved after he was caught up in a whirlwind, his experience offers no grounds for believers today to expect a similar privilege. There is also evidence that Elijah was back on earth after he was taken away in the whirlwind. It can be shown that a letter was received by Jehoram, King of Judah, from Elijah, after Elijah was taken. Elijah was most likely "caught away" in the same way Philip was in **Acts 8v39,40** and then returned to the earth.

Elijah is taken

CHAPTER 2.

¹ Elijah, taking his leave of Elisha, with his mantle divideth Jordan, ²¹ and is taken up by a fiery chariot into heaven. ²² Elisha, dividing Jordan with Elijah's mantle, is acknowledged his successor. ²³ Elisha healeth the unwholesome waters. ²⁴ Bears destroy the children that mocked Elisha.

AND it came to pass, when the LORD would ^vtake up Elijah into heaven by a whirlwind, that Elijah went with ^vElisha from ^vGilgal.

² And Elijah said unto Elisha, ^vTarry here, I pray thee; for the LORD hath sent me to ^vBeth-el. And Elisha said unto him, ^vAs the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee. So they went down to Beth-el.

³ And ^vthe sons of the prophets that were at Beth-el came forth to Elisha, and said unto him, Knowest thou that the LORD will take away thy master ^vfrom thy head to day? And he said, Yea, I know it; hold ye your peace.

⁴ And Elijah said unto him, Elisha, tarry here, I pray thee; for the LORD hath sent me to ^vJericho. And he said, ^vAs the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee. So they came to Jericho.

⁵ And the sons of the prophets that were at Jericho came to Elisha, and said unto him, Knowest thou that the LORD will take away thy master ^vfrom thy head to day? And he answered, Yea, I know it; hold ye your peace.

⁶ And Elijah said unto him, Tarry, I pray thee, here; for the LORD hath sent me to Jordan. And he said, ^vAs the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee. And they two went on.

⁷ And fifty men of the sons of the prophets went, and stood ^vto view afar off: and they two stood by Jordan.

II. KINGS 2.

up into heaven.

¹ 2 Kin. 2v. 19.

² ver. 24. Ex. 24. 22.

³ ver. 22. Gen. 5. 24.

⁴ Deut. 21. 17.

⁵ 2 Kin. 2v. 22.

⁶ ch. 4. 38. Josh. 5. 9.

⁷ Heb. Thou hast done hard in asking.

⁸ ver. 4. 6. Cp. Ruth 2. 15. 16.

⁹ Josh. 15. 6. 1 Kin. 4. 6.

¹⁰ ver. 4. 6. 2 Sam. 20. 3.

¹¹ ver. 5. 7. 15. ch. 4. 1. 38.

¹² & 5. 22 & 6. 1 & 9. 1.

¹³ 2 Sam. 20. 12.

¹⁴ 2 Kin. 2v. 22.

¹⁵ ch. 9. 4. Cp. Ps. 68. 17 & 104. 4.

¹⁶ ch. 4. 38. ch. 13. 14.

¹⁷ 2 Kin. 16. 34.

¹⁸ 2 Kin. 21. 20.

¹⁹ Heb. 2v. 22. Gen. 42. 17. Deut. 4. 46.

²⁰ Josh. 13. 9. 26. Ezek. 47. 7. 12.

²¹ Dan. 12. 5. 1 ver. 8.

²² ver. 7.

²³ Heb. in sight, or, over against.

²⁴ ver. 15. ch. 4. 25.

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⁸ And Elijah took ^vhis mantle, and wrapped it together, and smote the waters, and ^vthey were divided hither and thither, so that they two went over on dry ground.

⁹ ¶ And it came to pass, when they were gone over, that Elijah said unto Elisha, Ask what I shall do for thee, before I be taken away from thee. And Elisha said, I pray thee, let ^va double portion of thy spirit be upon me.

¹⁰ And he said, ^vThou hast asked a hard thing: nevertheless, if thou see me when I am taken from thee, it shall be so unto thee; but if not, it shall not be so.

¹¹ And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared ^va chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.

¹² ¶ And Elisha saw it, and he cried, ^vMy father, my father, the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof. And he saw him no more: and he took hold of his own clothes, and ^vrent them in two pieces.

¹³ He took up also the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and went back, and stood by the ^vbank of Jordan;

¹⁴ And he took the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and smote the waters, and said, Where is the LORD God of Elijah? and when he also had smitten the waters, ^vthey parted hither and thither: and Elisha went over.

¹⁵ And when the sons of the prophets which were ^vto view at Jericho saw him, they said, The spirit of Elijah doth rest on Elisha. And they came to meet him, and bowed themselves to the ground before him.

v8 Mantle a symbol of his prophetic office: **1 Kgs 19v13,19; Zech 13v4**.

v9 "double portion"- Reference to the Law of Moses, right of firstborn child: **Deut 21v17**. Elisha became like a **firstborn son** to Elijah.

v12 Key: At the end of Elijah's life, Elisha calls him "my father, my father" ie. Dad. Many years later, at Elisha's death, Joash King of Israel came to Elisha saying "my father, my father": **2 Kgs 13v14**. Elisha had learnt to also be a father in Israel. Do we develop relationships with those younger than us to guide them and nurture them? Do we give ourselves over to those in need? If so, then we may even be the answer to someone's prayers. But only if we allow **God to work** with us.

Elisha calls Elijah his **chariot**. The **cherubim** is often referred to as a chariot: **1 Chr 28v18; Psa 68v17 Isa 66v15; Ezek 1**. The saints are Yahweh's chariot that He rides. His character is revealed in people! In the Kingdom age, the saints will be called **Yahweh** because they will reflect perfectly the Divine nature, both morally and physically. Elijah has become like God. As such he will be ideally suited to become Yahweh's chariot in the Kingdom.

Horsemen: In **Rev 19v13-15** Christ and the Saints (the Cherubim) ride horses, as they **trudge under foot** the latter-day Jezebel (RC system).

Consider the following facts about 2 Kings 2v11:

- Elijah had been taken to heaven in a whirlwind (**2 Kings 2v11**).
- Elisha took over the duties of Elijah in the reign of Jehoshaphat (**2 Kings 3v10, 11**).
- Jehoram received a letter from Elijah, the prophet (**2 Chron. 21v1, 9-12**). King Jehoram reigned after Jehoshaphat. (**2 Chron. 21v1**).

Also, Elijah did not ascend the dwelling place of God since it is expressly stated that "no man hath ascended up to heaven" (**John 3v13**). Also, "No man hath seen God at any time" (**John 1v18**). He could not possibly have received immortality, because of "the prophets" it says that "these all.... received not the promise" (**Heb 11v13,32,39**).