

2 Kings Chapter 02 Verses 01-14 Bible Study

2Ki 2:1 ¶ "And it came to pass, when the LORD would take up Elijah into heaven by a whirlwind, that Elijah went with Elisha from Gilgal. 2 And Elijah said unto Elisha, Tarry here, I pray thee; for the LORD hath sent me to Bethel. And Elisha said unto him, As the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee. So, they went down to Bethel. 3 And the sons of the prophets that were at Bethel came forth to Elisha, and said unto him, Knowest thou that the LORD will take away thy master from thy head today? And he said, Yea, I know it; hold ye your peace."

This is a most amazing occurrence going on. Elijah, Elisha, and many others, know that this is the day that God will take Elijah from the earth. Elijah tries to persuade Elisha to remain at Gilgal, while he went to be received into heaven. Elisha knowing what is happening will not be persuaded to leave Elijah. This brings to remembrance the scripture in **Lu 9:62 "And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."** Reminding us that when we are born again, we are to turn our backs upon the inherited sin nature and follow the leading of the new nature of Christ in us.

When the sons of the prophets tell Elisha what is happening, Elisha tells them, he knows what is happening. Some people will say that no one knows when they are going to die, to which I reply, some people do. We knew a woman, Sister Lucile Johnson, a member of Bethesda PB Church, who told her son one morning, "I am going home to heaven today." That evening she passed from this life to her eternal home with Jesus. And I have heard of others, who knew they were going to pass at a certain time, and it happened. God can reveal to his people when they are going to pass from this life, just as God made it known to Elijah, Elisha, and many others, revealed in this chapter.

4 "And Elijah said unto him, Elisha, tarry here, I pray thee; for the LORD hath sent me to Jericho. And he said, As 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 from thy head today? And he answered, Yea, I know it; hold ye your peace."

Elisha refuses to stop and they go on together to Jericho, where the sons of the prophets tell him the same thing. Again, he tells them that he already knows what is happening.

6 "And Elijah said unto him, Tarry, I pray thee, here; for the LORD hath sent me to Jordan. And he said, As 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 to view afar off: and they two stood by Jordan. 8 And Elijah took his mantle, and wrapped it together, and smote the waters, and they were divided hither and thither, so that they two went over on dry ground."

Elijah tells Elisha that the LORD has sent him to Jordan, and Elisha tells Elijah that he will not leave him. Elijah has been under the tutelage of Elijah and is showing his loyalty to his master.

When they come to Jordan, Elijah takes his mantle and smites the waters of Jordan, which part and they go over on dry land. This is the second time that we know of in scripture that the waters of Jordan have parted for the Israelites. The first time being when they entered into the land of promise.

On an aside, have you noticed in scripture that it is recognized as a "**land of promise?**" As the land of promise was for Israel, so the New Testament Church is for us today, a "**land of promise.**" This world is not our home. We have an eternal home, which is the place Jesus has gone to prepare for us, but here in time, we just have the promise of that eternal abode in Christ, and we sojourn in a "**land of promise,**" which is the New Testament Church.

The happenings of this chapter are one of the reasons that people speak of passing from this life as crossing over the river Jordan. Why? Because just as Israel had to cross over Jordan to enter the land of promise, we must pass through the river of death to enter our eternal home, except that Jesus return first and then we shall be changed.

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 a double portion of thy spirit be upon me."

10 And he said, Thou 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 a 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, My 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 rent them in two pieces."

When they have passed through Jordan, Elijah asks Elisha what Elisha wants him to do for him before Elijah is taken away. Elijah asks for a double portion of the spirit that is upon Elijah to be upon himself. Elijah tells him that if you see me when I am taken up it shall be so. Why would Elisha ask for this gift? Elisha was aware of the law seen in *De 21:17* "**But he shall acknowledge the son of the hated for the firstborn, by giving him a double portion of all that he hath: for he is the beginning of his strength; the right of the firstborn is his.**" Which gave him the right to claim to be the firstborn son of Elijah, as Elijah had already cast his mantle upon him. Elisha is just asking for what he needs to fulfill the work of God. He even claims Elijah as his father seen verse 12 "**My father, my father, the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof.**" Elisha rends his own clothes as a sign of mourning for the passing of his master.

Elijah's ascension into heaven is a prophetic picture of the ascension of Christ back to heaven after his resurrection. Elisha was granted the privilege of seeing this event, and thus secured the double portion of the spirit of God upon himself. We also see the prophetic picture of Christ sending the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, to take his place on earth, and continuing the ministry of God.

There is another scene that has this same principle in the New Testament in *Ac 1:8-9; 8* "**But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. 9 And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.**" Just as God gave Elisha the gift, of the power of God to be upon him, as he had requested, so Jesus gave his disciples the gift of the power of God to be upon them.

13 ¶ "He took up also the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and went back, and stood by the bank 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, they parted hither and thither: and Elisha went over."

Elisha takes up the mantle of Elijah, which was left behind, and returns to Jordan. Elijah smites the waters of Jordan with the mantle just as Elijah did, and then he asks the question "**Where is the LORD God of Elijah?**" This question is directed to God, requesting that God affirm to him that his request of a double portion of the spirit of God that was upon Elijah, had truly been gifted to him. When Elijah smote the waters they parted before him, just as they did for Elijah, and he returned to the other side.

Note that the last miracle performed by Elijah, is the first miracle performed by Elisha. This tells us, Elisha is just continuing the work that God had required of Elijah, and now God requires the same service of Elisha. This is prophetic of the power of Jesus placed upon his disciples, who were also enabled to perform miracles. The power of miracles was also given to the twelve apostles.