THE CHARIOOT OF GOD
2 Kings 2

MAIN THOUGHT Elijah passes on his mantel (Amos 3:3) to his successor Elisha before he “went up to heaven” (1 Thess. 4:16-17) by a CHARIOOT OF FIRE.

GOD VALUES HISTORY (1-5).

• It is good to REMEMBER (Psa. 48:12-13; 71:18). Elijah, with Elisha (1 Kings 19:16), would visit three prophetical schools founded by Samuel (1 Sam. 19:19-20):

  Gilgal (4:38) (1): first camp (Josh. 4:19-20) and circumcision (Josh. 5:2).
  Bethel (2:3) (2-3): Abraham’s altar (Gen. 12:8); Jacob’s stairway (Gen. 28:19).
  Jericho (2:5) (4-5): Joshua’s great victory (Josh. 6:20).

• Elijah stayed occupied (Luke 19:13 KJV) by ministering to his successors.

GOD REWARDS SERVICE (6-12).

• THE RIVER JORDAN (6): here Elijah replicated the miracle of Moses opening the Red Sea (Ex. 14:21-22) and Joshua the River Jordan (Josh. 3:17).

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<th>MOSES AND ELIJAH</th>
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<td>Both confronted wicked kings, opened bodies of water, called down fire from heaven, provided miraculous food, altered weather, heard from God on Mt. Sinai, unique deaths, the Mount of Transfiguration, the two witnesses of Revelation.</td>
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• Elisha was LOYAL to Elijah by sticking to him (Prov. 18:24).
• 50 (1:9, 11, 13) prophets (seminarians) witnessed the miracle from a distance.
• Elisha’s final wish from his spiritual father (12) as an inheritance (Deut. 21:17) – a double portion (as a firstborn son) of Elijah’s spirit. It would be granted.
• Suddenly (1 Cor. 15:52), the prophet of fire (1 Kings 18:38; 2 Kings 1:10, 12) went up into heaven in a CHARIOOT OF FIRE with HORSES OF FIRE in a whirlwind!
• Reminiscent of Enoch who walked with God and was no more (Gen. 5:24).
• Elisha took Elijah’s CLOAK (1 Kings 19:13, 19) — AUTHORITY (1 Sam. 15:27-28).

GOD HONORS FAITH (13-25).

• CROSSING THE RIVER (13-18): Elisha had followed Elijah across the Jordan in order to miraculously re-enter Israel on dry ground like Joshua (Heb. 13:7). The fifty thought the Holy Spirit had merely relocated Elijah (1 Kings 18:12).
• HEALING THE WATER (19-22): Jericho had been cursed (Josh. 6:26). Elisha used salt, a symbol of covenant faithfulness (13:23; Num. 18:19) to purify the spring (Elisha’s fountain there today) like Moses did at Marah (Ex. 15:23-25).
• JUDGING THE MOCKERS (23-25): Youths (12-30 yrs.) from Bethel, a cult center (1 Kings 12:28-29), mocked Elisha with “go on up” (like Elijah) “you baldhead (no power – 2 Sam. 14:26).” Two bears mauled 42 boys (Lev. 26:21-22; 2 Chron. 36:16)!

Moses and Elijah
Both confronted wicked kings, opened bodies of water, called down fire from heaven, provided miraculous food, altered weather, heard from God on Mt. Sinai, unique deaths, the Mount of Transfiguration, the two witnesses of Revelation.