

Elijah, the Tishbite

Conclusion
2 Kings 1, 2

Elijah leaves the cave . . .

- Calls Elisha — 1 Kings 19:16, 19–21
- “God had bidden Elijah anoint another to be prophet in his stead” (*PK 217.1*).
- “In his stead” means in the place of someone or something
- Prophet in thy room (v. 16), in place of, instead of
- Successor

Elisha son of Shaphat

Abel-meholah

- Elijah sets forth to obey God. The road he takes will probably lead east of the Dead Sea and up the river Jordan. In the highlands of Gilead he finds the farm of Shaphat at Abel-meholah. In the years of apostasy Shaphat and his wife have lived by faith in God. They named their son Elisha, which means God is my salvation. (Leslie Hardinge, *Elisha Man of God*, p. 7, slight edits)
- Twelve yoke of oxen — We must not assume that the 12 yoke of oxen were all hitched to one plow. Elisha had servants in the field with him, each with his plow, and the oxen were probably distributed to provide one pair for each plow (*SDA BC*).
- The prophetic call came to Elisha while, with his father's **servants**, he was plowing in the field. (*PK 218.1*)

Elisha's father was a wealthy farmer, a man whose household were among the number that in a time of almost universal apostasy had not bowed the knee to Baal. Theirs was a home where God was honored and where allegiance to the faith of ancient Israel was the rule of daily life. In such surroundings the early years of Elisha were passed. In the quietude of country life, under the teaching of God and nature and the discipline of useful work, he received the training in habits of simplicity and of obedience to his parents and to God that helped to fit him for the high position he was afterward to occupy. (*PK 217.2*)

He had taken up the work that lay nearest. He possessed both the capabilities of a leader among men and the meekness of one who is ready to serve.

Of a quiet and gentle spirit, he was nevertheless energetic and steadfast. Integrity, fidelity, and the love and fear of God were his, and in the humble round of daily toil he gained strength of purpose and nobleness of character, constantly increasing in grace and knowledge. While co-operating with his father in the home-life duties, he was learning to co-operate with God. (*PK 218.1*)

By faithfulness in little things, Elisha was preparing for weightier trusts. Day by day, through practical experience, he gained a fitness for a broader, higher work. He learned to serve; and in learning this, he learned also how to instruct and lead. The lesson is for all. **None can know what may be God's purpose in His discipline; but all may be certain that faithfulness in little things is the evidence of fitness for greater responsibilities.** Every act of life is a revelation of character, and he only who in small duties proves himself "a workman that needeth not to be ashamed" can be honored by God with higher service. 2 Timothy 2:15. (*PK 218.2*)

As Elijah, divinely directed in seeking a **successor**, passed the field in which Elisha was plowing, he cast upon the young man's shoulders the **mantle of consecration**. During the famine the family of Shaphat had become familiar with the work and mission of Elijah, and now the Spirit of God impressed Elisha's heart as to the meaning of the prophet's act. To him it was the signal that God had called him to be the successor of Elijah. (*PK 219.3*)

The call to place all on the altar of service comes to each one. We are not all asked to serve as Elisha served, nor are we all bidden to sell everything we have; but God asks us to give His service the first place in our lives, to allow no day to pass without doing something to advance His work in the earth.

He does not expect from all the same kind of service. One may be called to ministry in a foreign land; another may be asked to give of his means for the support of gospel work. God accepts the offering of each. It is the consecration of the life and all its interests, that is necessary. Those who make this consecration will hear and obey the call of Heaven. (*PK 221.3*)

For **several years** after the call of Elisha, Elijah and Elisha labored together, the younger man daily gaining greater preparedness for his work. Elijah had been God's instrument for the overthrow of gigantic evils.

The idolatry which, supported by Ahab and the heathen Jezebel, had seduced the nation, had been given a decided check. Baal's prophets had been slain. The whole people of Israel had been deeply stirred, and many were returning to the worship of God. As Elijah's successor, Elisha, by careful, patient instruction, must endeavor to guide Israel in safe paths. His association with Elijah, **the greatest prophet since the days of Moses**, prepared him for the work that he was soon to take up alone. (*PK 224.1*)

Elisha's life after uniting with Elijah was not without temptations. **Trials he had in abundance;** but in every emergency he relied on God. He was tempted to think of the home that he had left, but to this temptation he gave no heed. Having put his hand to the plow, he was resolved not to turn back, and through test and trial he proved true to his trust. (*PK 222.3*)

- Rebuked Ahab over Naboth
- The schools of the prophets, established by Samuel, had fallen into decay during the years of Israel's apostasy. **Elijah re-established these schools**, making provision for young men to gain an education that would lead them to magnify the law and make it honorable. Three of these schools, one at **Gilgal**, one at **Bethel**, and one at **Jericho**, are mentioned in the record. Just before Elijah was taken to heaven, he and Elisha visited these centers of training. The lessons that the prophet of God had given them on former visits, he now repeated. Especially did he instruct them concerning their high privilege of loyally maintaining their **allegiance** to the God of heaven. He also impressed upon their minds the importance of letting **simplicity** mark every feature of their education. Only in this way could they receive the mold of heaven and go forth to work in the ways of the Lord. (*PK 224.3*)

Elijah leaves the cave . . .

- Anoint Jehu son of Nimshi to be king over Israel—
1 Kings 19:16; 2 Kings 9:1–16, 20
- Jehu was really the grandson of Nimshi, being the son of Jehoshaphat, who was the son of Nimshi, but he is commonly known as the son of Nimshi. The Hebrew word for *son* may be used to designate grandsons or even more distant descendants.

Elijah leaves the cave . . .

- Anoint Hazael to be king over Syria—2 Kings 8:7–15

Message to King Ahab

Ahab & Jehoshaphat

The Intermission

- 1 Kings 22 — Battle at Ramoth-Gilead
- Prophet Micaiah
- Death of Ahab
- His son Ahaziah becomes King of Israel/King of Samaria

Ahaziah and Elijah

Fire from Heaven

- 2 Kings 1:2 — Ahaziah falls and is injured
- 2 Kings 1–8
- First captain with fifty men
- Second captain with fifty men
- Third captain with fifty men
- Ahaziah dies and Jehoram reigns

Elijah Leaves

Chariot from Heaven

- 2 Kings 2:1 — Elijah knows, Elisha knows, and the sons of the prophets at Jericho know the time is near.
- 2 Kings 2:12 — Elisha picks up Elijah's mantle
- 2 Kings 2:19–22 — healing the waters of Jericho
- 2 Kings 2:23–25 — the children and the she bear