

Journey Through the Bible

Part 13 (2 Kings 1-9)

Elisha: Man of God

Bible Readings:
2 Kings
Matthew



Elijah, Ahab, Jezebel

- Confrontation on Mount Carmel (Kings 18-19)
- Who is the God who answers prayer? The God of Israel or Baal?
- God sends fire from heaven in answer to Elijah's prayer.



Elijah, Ahab, Jezebel

- Ahab tells Jezebel all that happened.
- Jezebel threatens to kill Elijah.
- Elijah runs away into the desert.
- He thinks he has failed and asks God to take his life.
- God has not finished with Elijah.



Elijah's 3 Tasks (1 Kings 19:9-18)

- 40 days journey in the desert to Mt. Sinai.
1. Anoint Hazael to be king of Syria.
 2. Anoint Jehu to be king of Israel.
 3. Anoint Elisha as prophet to succeed him.





- “So Elijah went from there and found Elisha son of Shaphat. He was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen, and he himself was driving the twelfth pair. Elijah went up to him and threw his cloak around him. Elisha then left his oxen and ran after Elijah. “Let me kiss my father and mother good-by,” he said, “and then I will come with you.” “Go back,” Elijah replied. “What have I done to you?” So Elisha left him and went back. He took his yoke of oxen and slaughtered them. He burned the plowing equipment to cook the meat and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he set out to follow Elijah and became his attendant.” (1 Kings 19:19-21)

Call of Elisha (1 Kings 19:19-21)

- Elisha came from a wealthy family (ploughing with 12 pairs of oxen)
- Elisha leaves his life as a wealthy farmer to serve Elijah.
- He sacrifices his oxen and burns his plough symbolically ending his old life.



Elijah confronts Ahab and foretells his death

Have you not murdered a man and seized his property?' Then say to him, 'This is what the Lord says: In the place where dogs licked up Naboth's blood, dogs will lick up your blood—yes, yours!'
(1 Kings 21:19, NIV84)



Elijah confronts Ahab and foretells his death

“And also concerning
Jezebel the Lord says:
‘Dogs will devour
Jezebel by the wall of
Jezreel.’
(1 Kings 21:23, NIV84)



The Death of Ahab

“But someone drew his bow at random and hit the king of Israel between the sections of his armor. The king told his chariot driver, “Wheel around and get me out of the fighting. I’ve been wounded.” All day long the battle raged, and the king was propped up in his chariot facing the Arameans. The blood from his wound ran onto the floor of the chariot, and that evening he died. As the sun was setting, a cry spread through the army: “Every man to his town; everyone to his land!” So the king died and was brought to Samaria, and they buried him there. They washed the chariot at a pool in Samaria (where the prostitutes bathed), and the dogs licked up his blood, as the word of the Lord had declared.” (1 Kings 22:34–38, NIV84)



Elijah Is Taken Up To Heaven

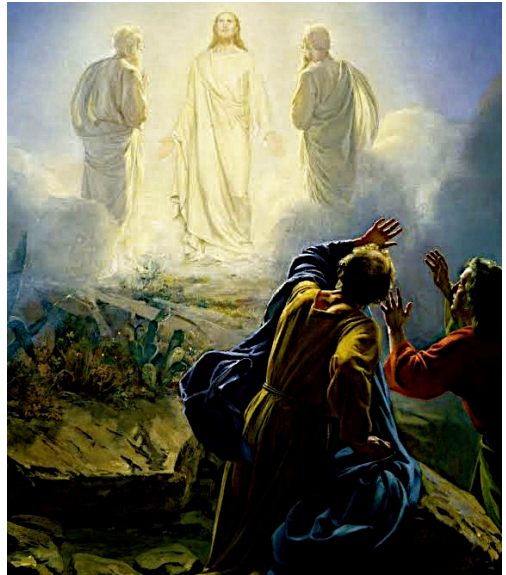
2 Kings 2

- “As they were walking along and talking together, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated the two of them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind.”
2 Kings 2:11
- Note: Elijah was not taken up in the chariot but a “whirlwind”.



Elijah Appears with Moses talking to Jesus - Transfiguration

- “About eight days after Jesus said this, He took Peter, John and James with Him and went up onto a mountain to pray. As He was praying, the appearance of His face changed, and His clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning. Two men, Moses and Elijah, appeared in glorious splendour, talking with Jesus. They spoke about His departure, which He was about to bring to fulfilment at Jerusalem.”
(Luke 9:28–31, NIV84)



2 Kings 2-9 Elisha the Prophet of God



- Elisha was filled with God's power and did many signs and wonders.
- Healing of Jericho's drinking water. (2:19)
- Multiplying the widow's oil. (4:1)
- Dead child restored to life. (4:8)
- Multiplies food to feed 100 men. (4:42)
- Heals Naaman the Syrian army commander of leprosy. (5:1-14)
- Caused an iron axe head to float.(6:6)
- Temporarily blinded the eyes of the Syrian army. (6:18)

The Unfinished Work of Elijah Completed by Elisha

- **Task One: Anoint Hazael king of Syria.**

“Elisha answered, “Go and say to him, ‘You will certainly recover’; but the Lord has revealed to me that he will in fact die.” He stared at him with a fixed gaze until Hazael felt ashamed. Then the man of God began to weep. “Why is my lord weeping?” asked Hazael. “Because I know the harm you will do to the Israelites,” he answered. “You will set fire to their fortified places, kill their young men with the sword, dash their little children to the ground, and rip open their pregnant women.” Hazael said, “How could your servant, a mere dog, accomplish such a feat?” “The Lord has shown me that you will become king of Aram,” answered Elisha. Then Hazael left Elisha and returned to his master. When Ben-Hadad asked, “What did Elisha say to you?” Hazael replied, “He told me that you would certainly recover.” But the next day he took a thick cloth, soaked it in water and spread it over the king’s face, so that he died. Then Hazael succeeded him as king.”

(2 Kings 8:10–15, NIV84)

The Unfinished Work of Elijah Completed by Elisha

- **Task Two: Anoint Jehu king of Israel. 2 Kings 9:4-13**
- Ahab's son Joram was king of Israel. Jezebel was the Queen Mother (and probably the real ruler of Israel.)
- Jehu was the dynamic and powerful army commander.
- Elisha sends a young prophet to anoint Jehu king.



The Unfinished Work of Elijah Completed by Elisha

- Jehu shoots from his chariot and kills Joram with an arrow.
- Jehu drives to Jezreel to confront Jezebel.
- 2 Kings 9:30-37
- Jezebel dies.
- God's word is fulfilled through Elisha.



Learning from Elisha

- Elisha never had a public ministry like Elijah yet he changed nations.
- Elisha worked through others while remaining in the background.
- The Lord needs both sorts of people: those who are highly visible “up front” and those who quietly serve and pray in the background.

