

## 1. The successor of Elijah

I Kings 19:16 Also, anoint Jehu son of Nimshi king over Israel, and anoint Elisha son of Shaphat from Abel Meholah to succeed you as prophet.

→ God's elect : Elisha was given the office of the prophet

The anointing, signifying the gift of grace, was first instituted for the priests (Exodus 40:15; Numbers 3:3); next it was extended to the royal office, and became, in common parlance, especially attached to it. The prophetic office, as the third great representative of the power of Jehovah, might well be hallowed by the same ordinance,

## 2. Elijah found Elisha

I Kings 19:19 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. 20 Elisha then left his oxen and ran after Elijah. "Let me kiss my father and mother goodbye," he said, "and then I will come with you." "Go back," Elijah replied. "What have I done to you?" 21 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 servant.

Elijah ... cast his mantle upon him—This was an investiture with the prophetic office. It is in this way that the Brahmins, the Persian Sufis, and other priestly or sacred characters in the East are appointed

→ God's calling and obedience

- 1) The prophet Elijah, acting on God's command, found Elisha.
- 2) The prophet Elijah threw his cloak over Elisha, thereby conferring upon him the office of prophet.
- 3) Elisha immediately left his work and followed Elijah to serve him.

## 3 The day of Elijah went to heaven

- 1) All the prophets knew the day when the prophet Elijah would be taken up to heaven.
- 2) The prophet Elijah was guided by God to Bethel and Jericho.
- 3) Elisha refused to leave the prophet Elijah.

But Elisha said, "As surely as the Lord lives and as you live, I will not leave you v2,4,6

2 Kings 2:7 Fifty men from the company of the prophets went and stood at a distance, facing the place where Elijah and Elisha had stopped at the Jordan. <sup>8</sup> Elijah took his cloak, rolled it up and struck the water with it. The water divided to the right and to the left, and the two of them crossed over on dry ground.<sup>9</sup> When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me, what can I do for you before I am taken from you?" "Let me inherit a double portion of your spirit," Elisha replied.<sup>10</sup> "You have asked a difficult thing," Elijah said, "yet if you see me when I am taken from you, it will be yours—otherwise, it will not."<sup>11</sup> 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.

→ Elisha sought to fulfill his calling as a prophet. [As Elijah's successor]

**“Let me inherit a double portion of your spirit,”**

“let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me” —This request was not, as is commonly supposed, for the power of working miracles exceeding the magnitude and number of his master's, nor does it mean a higher endowment of the prophetic spirit; for Elisha was neither superior to, nor perhaps equally great with, his predecessor. But the phrase, “a double portion,” was applied to the first-born [Deu 21:17], and therefore Elisha's request was, simply, ***to be heir to the prophetic office and gifts of his master.***

→ Elijah's answer “yet if you see me when I am taken from you, it will be yours”

Elisha kept watching Elijah until the very moment he is taken up into heaven.

Words spoken at a time when it was unknown when he would be taken up, or how he would be taken up.

4. “The spirit of Elijah is resting on Elisha.”

2 Kings 2:12 Elisha saw this and cried out, “My father! My father! The chariots and horsemen of Israel!” And Elisha saw him no more. Then he took hold of his garment and tore it in two.<sup>13</sup> Elisha then picked up Elijah's cloak that had fallen from him and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. <sup>14</sup> He took the cloak that had fallen from Elijah and struck the water with it. “Where now is the Lord, the God of Elijah?” he asked. When he struck the water, it divided to the right and to the left, and he crossed over.<sup>15</sup> The company of the prophets from Jericho, who were watching, said, “The spirit of Elijah is resting on Elisha.” And they went to meet him and bowed to the ground before him.

#### Application

1. You have been chosen for God's purpose.

Everyone has been called to fulfill the Lord's Great Commission.

John 15:16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.

2 Let us respond to God's call. “Let us serve the Lord.” “Let us devote our time to the Lord.”

➤ When Elisha was appointed a prophet by Elijah, he left his work behind to serve the Lord.

➤ When Peter was called by Jesus, he left his work—his nets—behind to serve the Lord.

→ Who do you serve? How do you serve Jesus?

→ How do you spend most of your day? On social media? At your secular job? Pursuing your hobbies? Evangelizing? Praying?

3. Let us earnestly seek spiritual gifts to fulfill for God's calling. “Let us pray and ask.”

➤ We have been given the privilege of prayer: Whatever we ask for in prayer for the Lord's work will be granted. Luke 11:9 Ask, seek and knock !!!

➤ We have been given the privilege of the gifts of the Holy Spirit:

➤ Elisha earnestly sought to become the successor to the prophet Elijah.

➤ Elisha never left the prophet Elijah's side—neither physically nor spiritually.

➤ Peter and the disciples earnestly sought the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

→ **What is it that you are earnestly seeking? Is it money? Time for yourself? Work? Material possessions? Family?**

→ **Is there anything in your heart that is more important to you than Jesus?**

4 Let us live a life focused on the Lord's work. May our lives not be our top priority, but may the Lord be first.

➤ Even if we have received a calling and work for that calling, if our hearts are not with the Lord, our work will become fleshly and religious.

➤ If our hearts are always with Jesus, we can carry out the Lord's work through the guidance of the Holy Spirit.