

WHERE NOW IS THE GOD OF ELIJAH?

(No. 1208 – 8/30/21 – DR Zoom Meeting)

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Elisha asks for a double portion (2 Kings 2:1-10):

¹When the **LORD** was about to take Elijah up to **heaven** in a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. ²Elijah said to Elisha, “Stay here; the LORD has sent me to Bethel.” But Elisha said, “As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you.” So they went down to Bethel. ³The company of the prophets at Bethel came out to Elisha and asked, “Do you know that the LORD is going to take your master from you today?” “Yes, I know,” Elisha replied, “but do not speak of it.” ⁴Then Elijah said to him, “Stay here, Elisha; the LORD has sent me to Jericho.” And he replied, “As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you.” So they went to Jericho. ⁵The company of the prophets at Jericho went up to Elisha and asked him, “Do you know that the LORD is going to take your master from you today?” “Yes, I know,” he replied, “but do not speak of it.” ⁶Then Elijah said to him, “Stay here; the LORD has sent me to the Jordan.” And he replied, “As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you.” So the two of them walked on. ⁷Fifty men of the company of the prophets went and stood at a distance, facing the place where Elijah and Elisha had stopped at the Jordan.

⁸Elijah 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.

⁹When 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. ¹⁰“You have asked a difficult thing,” Elijah said, “yet if you see me when I am taken from you, it will be yours--otherwise not.”

B. Background

1. Elijah had “anointed” Elisha with his cloak (1 Kings 19:16, 19-21)
2. This story foreshadows Christ’s ascension, Pentecost and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit

C. The company (lit. “sons”) of the prophets (vv.3,5,7,15)

1. They knew that God was going to take Elijah
2. They watched from a distance [lit “afar off”]

D. *What can I do for you?* (v.9)

1. Elisha had just seen Elijah strike the waters with his cloak and they miraculously parted (v.8)
2. Similar to Solomon (1 Kings 3:6)
3. He didn’t selfishly ask for a new car, etc.
4. What do WE want?

E. *Let me inherit a double portion of your spirit* (v.10)

1. “I want that anointing that is upon you!” [How many people say that about us?]
2. Elisha’s request sounded proud, greedy or selfish, but he understood what was about to happen (v.4) and he knew he was called to replace Elijah as prophet (1 Kings 19:16-21) – he needed a real anointing and power to bring glory to God in a time of spiritual darkness, apostasy, false religion, and famine
3. We are living in very similar times and God is wondering, “Where are those ‘Elishas’ who are hungry for My power & anointing and who long to see Me glorified among the nations?”

4. ***You have asked a difficult thing*** (v.10)
 - a) Difficult for Elijah, but not for God
 - b) [See Mat. 20:20-23]
 - c) There is a price to pay if we want a real anointing of God upon our life
5. One condition: ***If you see me when I am taken from you.***
 - a) Elisha had to “witness” Elijah’s “resurrection”
 - b) All of the apostolic leaders of the Early Church were “witnesses of Christ’s resurrection”

II. WHERE IS THE GOD OF ELIJAH? (2 KINGS 2:11-15):

¹¹*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.*

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 own clothes and tore them apart. ¹³He picked up the cloak that had fallen from Elijah and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. ¹⁴Then he took the cloak that had fallen from him 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. ¹⁵The 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.*

- A. Elisha saw Elijah taken to heaven and tore his own clothes (vv.11-12)
 1. A picture of Christ’s resurrection & ascension (Acts 1:9-11)
 2. Sign of humility & repentance – we need to put off the old man (Eph. 4:22-31) and “throw off” every sin, weight and hindrance (Heb. 12:1)

- B. Elisha then picked up Elijah's cloak that had fallen (v.13)
1. Elisha knew the mantle was a symbol of the prophetic call & anointing
 2. Same cloak Elijah had thrown around Elisha to "anoint" him (1 Kings 19:16, 19-21)
 3. A picture of the outpouring of the Spirit after Christ's ascension (Acts 2:1-4), which Jesus had described in Luke 24:49 as being **CLOTHED with power from on high**.
- C. Elisha struck the water with the cloak, crying: **Where NOW is the Lord, the God of Elijah?** (v.14)
1. This was not a question of doubt or unbelief – this was a cry of faith and expectation; Elisha wanted his own personal experience – he wanted something REAL! He wanted to know the 'God of Elisha' NOW!
 2. Are we satisfied just going through the religious motions, or is there a desperate cry deep within us that says, "I want to see the REAL power and glory of God!"
 3. Paul had no confidence in his own clever messages or sermons — he was looking for a **demonstration** of the Spirit's power (1 Cor. 2:4-5; 14:22-25)
 4. God honored Elisha's request: the waters parted!
 5. He received the double portion also: He did twice (16) as many miracles as Elijah (8), and one notable one after he was dead! (2 Kings 13:20-21)

D. God loved Elisha's zeal— it's OK to be asking . . .

1. Where is the God of **Moses**, who brought deliverance to God's people: LET MY PEOPLE GO SO THEY CAN SERVE ME!
 - a) We've heard about freedom long enough — the hour of deliverance has now come!
 - b) The anointing of God is breaking every yoke, bondage and oppression!
 - c) Shake off your sins and bondages and decide today to serve the Lord!
2. Where is the God of **David**, who slew Goliath with a sling and a stone, bringing victory to all Israel?
3. Where is the God of **Daniel** and the 3 Hebrews whom God delivered from the furnace and lions?
4. Where is the God of **Peter, Paul**, etc.

III. JESUS THE ANOINTED ONE IS HERE!

- A. There is One here today with a greater anointing than Elijah or Elisha – He is the only One to ever claim that Isa. 61 was fulfilled in Him (**Luke 4:18-19**):

*¹⁸The **Spirit of the Lord is on Me**, because He has **anointed Me** to preach good news to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, ¹⁹to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.*

- B. *Jesus Christ is the SAME yesterday and **today** and forever* (Heb. 13:8) [Note: We need a TODAY God, a NOW God, not a yesterday God!]
- C. *We have the SAME Spirit that raised Christ from the dead* (Rom. 8:11)
- D. Jesus promised that we would do the SAME works He did and even greater things! (John 14:12-14)

- E. He promised to back up His Word with signs following (Mark 16:15-20)

IV. CONCLUSION

- A. Have we “seen” Him ascended to heaven (do we believe He died, was buried and rose again for our salvation?)
- B. Have we torn off our old life, repented and surrendered to His call and will?
- C. Do we understand the times we are living in and our desperate need for the power of God in our lives?
- D. What do we really want from our Master, Jesus Christ? Can we say, “I want Your Spirit and anointing – I want to be like You!”
- E. Are we satisfied with the *status quo*, or do we long for a greater manifestation of God in our day?
- F. WE NEED A MOVE OF GOD (Isa. 64:1-4):

*¹Oh, that You would **rend the heavens and come down**, that the mountains would tremble before You!*

*²As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil, come down to **make Your name known to Your enemies and cause the nations to quake before You!***

*³For when You did awesome things that we did not expect, You came down, and the mountains trembled before You. ⁴Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen **any God besides You, who acts on behalf of those who wait for Him.***