

Wednesday, September 7, 2022 ▫ Read 2Kings 2:1–18

Questions from the Scripture text: What was Yahweh about to do (v1)? By what? From where did Elijah go? With whom? What does Elijah tell Elisha to do (v2)? Why? How does Elisha vow in response? What does he vow not to do? What do they do? Who come out to whom in v3? What do they ask him? How does he answer? What does he tell them to do? Who speaks to whom in v4? What does he tell him to do? Why? How does Elisha vow in response? What does he vow not to do? What do they do? Who come out to whom in v5? What do they ask him? How does he answer? What does he tell them to do? Who speaks to whom in v6? What does he tell him to do? Why? How does Elisha vow in response? What does he vow not to do? How many of whom face them from a distance (v7)? What does Elijah take and roll up (v8)? What does he do with it? what happens to the Jordan? Where do they arrive in v9? What does Elijah now tell Elisha to do? For what does Elisha ask? What does Elijah call this request (v10)? What does he say will indicate whether or not Elisha receives his request? What appears in v11? What do this chariot and horses do them? Where does Elijah go? By what? Who sees it (v12)? What does he do? What does he call Elijah in relation to himself? What does he call Elijah in relation to Israel? What did Elisha do no more? How does he respond to this? What does he take up instead (v13)? Where does he go? What does he do with the mantle there (v14)? What does he ask? What does he do to the water? Then what happens to the water? What does Elisha now do? Who see him in v15? What do they say? What do they do? What do they propose to do in v16? Why? How does Elisha answer? How do they proceed in v17? Until what happens? Who go, do what, for how long? With what results? Where do they return in v18? What does Elisha ask them then/there?

What hope do God's people have when the greatest of them leave this world? 2Kings 2:1–18 looks forward to the first serial reading in morning public worship on the coming Lord's Day. In these eighteen verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **God's power persists, even when His servants pass from one generation to another.**

God keeps calling new servants. There is something here analogous to the transition from Moses to Joshua. Moses had seemed to be so great as to be irreplaceable. But in Joshua 1, the Lord repeatedly assures Joshua that He will be with him as He was with Moses.

Now in 2Kings 2, although everyone knows that Elijah is about to be taken (and the Lord tells us that that's the occasion of this passage in v1), the story of the passage is not the loss of Elijah but the retention of the Spirit Who sustained him.

For his part, Elisha knows the value of Elijah. He refuses to leave his side, especially because he is about to be taken. To Elisha, Elijah has been like a father in the ministry (v12). And Elisha knows that to Israel, Elijah is the true defense of the nation—its chariot and horsemen (v12).

But Elisha also knew what gave Elijah value: the Spirit of Yahweh. He asks for a double portion of the Spirit in v9, and when the mantle has passed on to him, his question is, "Where is Yahweh, God of Elijah?" (v14).

But we tend to want to hang on to men whom God has used, even when we know the Lord has taken them from us. Even after recognizing that Elisha can now do the Elijah things (v15), the sons of the prophets who had earlier been so insistent that Elijah was going to be taken (v3, 5) suddenly want to form a search party to retrieve him. But the outcome of the search party request/question is actually to establish Elisha's word over-against their folly (v17–18).

There is an important balance here. We ought to honor those whom the Lord raises up and uses among us. But we must depend not upon the men but upon God's Spirit Himself—God's own power and God's own Word. God keeps calling new servants.

What servants has the Lord used in your life that were taken away? What servants is He using now? How do you go about honoring them while depending upon God Himself, His Spirit, His Word?

Sample prayer: Lord, forgive us for esteeming too little the value of the servants that You choose and use. We often reject their good counsel, congratulating ourselves on our independent thought. And forgive us for when we depend too much upon their persons, rather than upon You, Lord, who use them. We forget that it is Your Spirit and Your word that we must have. But we thank You that You Yourself have come as the Servant, the great and last Prophet. Forgive us and sanctify us, we ask in His Name, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP72A "God, Give Your Judgments to the King" or TPH72B "O God, Your Judgments Give the King"

For more Hopewell @Home devotionals, please visit bit.ly/harpCHAH

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Second Kings 2 versus 1 through 18. These are God's words and it came to pass when you all play was about to take up a large end to heaven by a whirlwind. The Elijah went with Elisha, from Gildahl, the largest said to Elisha. Stay here, please. For y'all way, has sent me on to Bethel, but Elisha said as Yahwe lives and is your soul lives.

I will not leave you so they went down to Bethel. Now, the sun's of the prophets who were a bit though came out to Elisha and said to him, Do you know that you also will take away your master from over you today? And he said, yes, I know.

Keep silent than Elijah said to him. Elisha stay here. Please for y'all who has sent me on to Jericho, but he said, as y'all play lives and as your soul lives, I will not leave you. So they came to Jericho now, the sons of the prophets who were at Jericho came to Elisha and said to him, Do you know that y'all?

I will take away your master from over you today, So, he answered, yes, I know. Keep silent a little I just said to him. Stay here. Please for you. Always send me onto the Jordan. What he said is Yahweh lives. And is your soul lives? I will not leave you.

So the two of them went on and 50 men of the sons of the prophets went and stood facing them at a distance while the two of them stood by the Jordan. Now Elijah took his mantle rolled a top and struck the water and it was divided this way and not so that the two of them crossed over and dry ground and so it was when they had crossed over that.

Elijah said to Elisha ask, what may I do for you before? I'm taking away from you. Well, I just said, please. A lot of double portion of your spirit. Be upon me. Elijah. So he said, you have asked a hard thing. Nevertheless, if you see me when I'm taken from you, and so be, so for you, but if not, it shall not be.

So Then it happened as they continued on and talked that suddenly a chariot of fire appeared with horses of fire and separated, the two of them. And Elijah went up by a whirlwind and to have and Elijah saw it. And he cried out My father, my father, the chariot of Israel and it's horseman.

So he saw him no more and he took hold of his own clothes and tore them into two pieces. He also took up the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him and went back and stood by the bank of Jordan. Then he took the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him and struck the water and said, where is Yahweh?

God of Elijah. And when he also had struck the water, it was divided this way and that, and Elisha crossed over. Now, when the sums of the prophets who are from Jericho, saw him they said, the Spirit of Elijah rest and Elisha and they came to meet him and bowed to the ground before him.

Then they said to him. Look. Now, There are 50 strong men with your servants. Please let them go and search for your master less. Perhaps The spirit of Yahweh is taken up him up and cast him upon something about her into some valley. He said you shall not send anyone but when they urge him until he was ashamed, he said send them.

Therefore, they sent 50 men and they searched for three days but did not find him. And when they came back to him for he had stayed in Jericho, he said to them, Did I not say to you? Do not go So far. The reading of God's inspired had to dare to Word.

Well, one of the things that we see in this passage or see an example of in this passage is that God keeps calling new servants and our dust into dust. They shall return. After the fall, must leave this world, Although part of the grace of God, the grace of God is in part.

Displayed here. As Elijah is the second man to not die. You remember Enoch was the first, He walked with God, 300 years after becoming the father with his loan that he was not forgot. Took him and Elijah, here is taken up. And to have an alive, a reminder that God has provided a redeemer and that the Lord Jesus would come and he would die the death that we deserved.

So that the deaths of believers are like a falling asleep. In the Lord, they are not punitive, but become the means the mechanism, by which we are made perfect and holiness and immediately pass into glory and their bodies are. So said to rest in their graves that the scripture calls it sleep, although it is the sleep of death as the Lord.

Jesus makes clear when he says our friend laws or sleeps, and he means death, and this happens, like, oh well, then he'll get better, and then Jesus tells them plainly. No Lazarus is dead Although he was going to get better. So, there's a reminder of that and all, I just being taken up about Moses died and Joshua came after him and the Lord had to command him multiple times to be strong and courageous.

Because the Lord would be with him as he had been with Moses and there's something similar here. Elijah. There's about to be taken away. And everybody knows it the school of the Prophets at Bethel, know it, the school of the Prophets Jericho know it and when they ask Elisha about it turns out Elisha knows it.

And so the question is, how will the work of God by the Word of God continue? Because things are not going well in the northern kingdom. And the only thing they have going for them is that the Lord Is that the Lord is patiently persisting with them by his word and particularly his word on the mouth of the prophets.

Well, Elisha seems to know although he has a great esteem for Elijah. First of all, he's gonna spend every last second with Elijah that he can Elijah keeps giving him instructions to go away. And he keep saying no, not if I have any choice in the matter, I'm gonna spend every moment I can with you and we find out I think in part.

Why? Because when all I just taken up, Elisha says two things first, he says my father, my father Elijah had come to him to be near as a father to him and was minister really speaking. As far as discipling him and the apprenticing him a father in the Lord.

Very similar to how Paul refers to Timothy. Yes, it's on in the Lord and a son and the ministry. The second thing, the second way that we see, how much or in what way Elisha esteems. Elijah Z says the chariot of Israel and it's horseman. He was of the opinion that it was not the armies, that the kings were marshaling, that were the protection of Israel.

But that Israel was protected by the fact that there was a faithful man in Israel who could call upon the name of God and do it speak God's Word and that God was preserving His people through the means of and for the sake of that man. And so, Elijah meant so much to Elisha that he refused to be parted from him and that's all good.

And well until God does the parting when a chariot of fire and comes and a separates him with horses of fire in verse 11, Then Elisha has no say in the matter. But he does see, Elijah get taken up in the whirlwind and it's interesting.

The that Elijah got taken up in the whirlwind for whatever reason, maybe I saw a picture or something, when I was a kid, I thought the chariots of fire in the horses of fire had taken a while away. But no, they separate the two prophets and the whirlwind takes them up, and he assumed gets hidden in the whirlwind.

But as mental falls down, and yet, for all of the esteem that Elisha had for Elijah. He knew that Elijah was not in himself goodness or the power that Elisha had. So come to appreciate but that it was the spirit of God and we know this in two different ways.

First, when Elijah asks him what he can do for him? Elijah says, I would like to have a double portion of your spirit. And if you add up actually, the miracles that Elijah is described as having performed and Elisha has is about to be described as performing. Elisha does do roughly and depending on any account them, exactly twice as many miracles.

But that assumes that we have recorded all of the miracles which is not necessarily the case but he asked for a double portion of his fears. So he knows that it's God, the Holy Spirit who is using Elijah. And and then the second way is when he has the mantle, he comes back to Jordan.

He asks where is Yahweh? The god of Elijah when he smacks the water with the mantle. And so he knows that the power is not in the man. Here's a great esteem for the man and yet he knows that they power is in the Lord so it doesn't trust in the man.

He doesn't open the man. Now, the profits, the school of the Prophets of Jericho, we're not. So spiritually. Well off as Elisha because even though they observe that a life that Jordan parted for Elisha, just like it had previously done for Elijah and they said, oh, Elisha has the spirit of Elijah.

They thought that even with the spirit has passed from Elijah to Elisha. Elijah, the such a great man in himself that they still needed him. And so, they're desperate to go on this wild goose chase, even though the one who now has the spirit of Yahweh, tells them not to go.

And keeps on telling them, not to go until they pastor him so much that he's just gives in. And let's their 50, strong men, you know, run all over the country for three days, looking for Elijah, and they come back and they say we didn't find him. And Eliza basically says, yep, told you so He said listen to me.

I'm a prophet but it's a reminder that as great a gift as those men him. God makes faithful are as great. A gift as those men whom God uses. Are it is God himself. Who is a great gift. And here's the one who uses them and when he takes one away, he will.

You start using another. God keeps calling new servants and he is the same God from one generation to the next. That's a great encouragement to us. Because like the man in Psalm 66 yesterday, who realized, the way that God was using his trouble, was the way that God had used the troubles of God's people in the past and that it was the same God at work in his own life.

Well, so also for us, We have the same God at work in our lives. That work in each of your lives at work in the ministry, here at the church. And Should he take me? So should he take someone else that that you have a greatest team for and even a properest team because of the grace sustained?

Faithfulness in the man or the way that God has used the man yet, he will still be the same God and He will still be working. And you may even look to him to make you a servant that he uses for a season until he takes you and calls and uses someone else.

It's a great. Great comfort and encouragement to know that it is Yahweh. The spirit of y'all way who head so used Elijah. And then who was willing to use a large shop, and even down to our day, still at work. Among us even as we just hurt and the Lord said morning sermon, this past Lord, let's pray and ask God to help us.

Our Father in heaven. We thank you and praise you. That we don't have Moses or Elijah. We have your son, our Lord Jesus. And we thank you that your son is poured out, your spirit that you are still using men on earth today. And we pray that you would be pleased to use us.

That your spirit would attend us that you would keep us faithful. That you would bless the work of our hands. Especially in spiritual things. We pray for Mr. Charles from the sauna today and the other man that you would cause the gospel that they hurt to persist with them until they are ashamed.

And give in that your spirit would give life and faith in Jesus Christ for eternal life, and we pray for us. Lord that we might be used a view and this season that you have given us to be on the earth and that you would make us to love and respect the men that you use in our lives.

Particularly to bring us your work, but that you would make us to know that it is. You upon whom we depend and to whom all the praise and the glory. Are you so that we might have hearts rightly turned to you and give all these things. We pray in Jesus name.

Amen.