



Seen No More

Main Truth

We cannot truly serve God as a spectator on the sidelines. If we wish to believe and proclaim His Word, listen to His quiet promptings and walk in the “good works” He has prepared, *we need to get in the game.*

Scripture

2 Kings 2:1–14

Background

At the bidding of Yahweh, Elijah has already (by the time of 2 Kings) anointed Elisha to “serve as prophet” in his stead. After several years of service under his teacher, they both know that the end of Elijah’s career now approaches.

Elijah was not a bystander. He was not a prophet who came to deliver God’s words only to go back home to “life as usual.” Along with the miracles, there was the dirty work. He got mixed up in the soil of it all—the thirst and the hunger, the bloodshed and the grief. Along with the words of his God, there was the commitment. He did not deflect, as we sometimes do, saying, “I’m just doing what the boss said.” He was part of the fabric of judgment and the faith of dependence. He waited for ravens to deliver his meat and the widow’s jar to refill for just one more meal.

It is not surprising that he participates in the final drama. His end (that we know about) is much like his career—enveloped in the tempest of God, swept away in the power of the Almighty’s fiery chariot without a backward look.

Reflect

- Why did he go?
- Have you thought of how you will end your career?
- Will it be a blaze of glory?

- Will you leave the legacy of your spirit?
- Will you say with the apostle Paul that you have “fought the good fight” (2 Timothy 4:7)?

Exercise

- Which miracles of Elijah were similar to those in the past?
- Which are similar to those performed after Elijah?
- What do you think is the significance of these similarities?

For Discussion

Elisha asks for a double portion of Elijah's spirit and his request is granted.

Why do you think it was granted?

Does this remind you of another request made by a newly anointed king? Is there a similarity in the two requests?

Going Deeper

Where is Elijah?

I have always believed that God's fiery chariot whisked Elijah off to a heavenly realm. After further study, I am thinking...probably not! To help you ponder this, we can start out with the sons of the prophets and their point of view.

What they knew by divine revelation:

- Elijah would leave Elisha and be taken away (2 Kings 2:3)
- Elisha had inherited the spirit of Elijah (2 Kings 2:15)

What they expected:

- God would deposit Elijah's body on earth and within Israel (2 Kings 2:16)

This is not our frame of reference, and we often forget that ours is different than the expectation of Israel.

Last January, as the Foothills group toured the Temple Institute, our guide reminded us how Israel looks forward to their kingdom on earth and their role in ruling and teaching the nations (of that day) the precepts of God. They are the “priestly nation.” The sons of the prophets had that kingdom and destiny in mind when they went looking for the body of Elijah.

Verses for further study

- Genesis 1:20 (Can heaven mean the atmosphere of the earth?)
- John 3:13 (Of those earthbound, who has, to date, gone to the celestial realm?)
- Hebrews 11:13, 37 (The patriarchs and the prophets died.)
- 2 Chronicles 21:12–15 (Elijah writes a letter after being taken in the tempest?)