

The Ascension of Elijah

2 Kings 2:1-18

“Jesus B.C.”

Overview

1. The Figure of Elijah
2. The Work of Elijah
 - i. The Work Completed
 - ii. The Work Continued
 - iii. The Work Commanded
3. The God of Elijah

Symbols

1. Jordan River-death/baptism
 - Entering God’s promised blessing and power
 - Joshua entered it
 - Christ entered it
2. Chariots-Conquest
3. Double Portion-inheritance of the firstborn son—**Deut. 21:17**
4. Mantle-Office, power, authority from God
5. Wind and Fire-spiritual power—angels, breathe, God’s Spirit
 - In 2 Kings 2, the whirlwind and fire swept *upward*
 - In Acts 2, the whirlwind and fire swept *downward*

The Figure of Elijah (who foreshadows Christ)

- Sent by God— “He sent Me.”
- Burst on the scene— “then Elijah the Tishbite”; “behold the Lamb of God!”
- Mighty man of prayer
- Stood alone against corruption—driving out money-changers
- Opposed religious and political leaders
- Persecuted for righteousness
- Moved by the Spirit (wind)
- Jealous for God’s glory and worship—Mount Carmel
- Fasted 40 days in the wilderness

- Ministered to Gentiles—widow of Zarephath, woman of Samaria
- Performed miracles (raised dead, multiplied food and oil, rain, outrunning chariots)
- Obeyed God's voice— "I have done all this at your word"
- Proclaimed judgment—Naboth's field, "woe to you, Capernaum"
- Called his successor— "follow me," (1 Kings 19:19)
- Instructed disciples— "sons of the prophets"
- Ascended into heaven
- No tomb

The Work of Elijah

1. The Work Completed—ascended to heaven in victory
2. The Work Continued—left his mantle as an inheritance to Elisha
3. The Work Commanded—Elisha fulfills the office to which he was called

The Work Completed (v.11)

Jn. 19:30: When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is **finished**," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Rev. 3:21: The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also **conquered** and **sat down** with my Father on his throne.

Heb. 10:12: But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he **sat down** at the right hand of God

Eph. 2:6: and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus

The Work Continued (v.12-14)

As Elijah's successor, Elisha was

1. Called—1 Kings 19:19
2. Tested— "as the LORD lives and as you yourself live, I will not leave you."
3. Equipped—double portion of spirit
4. Sent

Jn. 20:21-22: Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.” And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.

Q: Do you believe you have been given the same mission and same mantle as Jesus Himself?

The Mantle of the Spirit

Acts 2:33: Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, Jesus has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing.

Rom. 8:11: If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

- You can’t achieve the mission without the mantle.
- You can’t wear the mantle if you won’t tear your old clothes.
- You can’t wear the mantle if you don’t choose to pick it up.
- You can’t wear the mantle if you don’t believe it belongs to you.

The Work Commanded is:

1. Not delayed—same day, same Jordan
2. Not new—ministry in the image of Elijah

1 Jn. 4:17: By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world.

3. Not speculative (**v.15-18**)—where will he land?
4. Not fruitless—Elisha performed double the miracles that Elijah did

Jn. 14:12: “Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.

The Ascended Lord has given us a mission and a mantle!

Matt. 28:18-20: And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all

nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Acts 1:8: But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

The God of Elijah (v.14)

What’s missing from our ministry?

We know the mission, but have we taken the mantle?

1. The mantle is a Person
2. The mantle is a Promise
3. The mantle is received by faith, not by feelings
4. The mantle is given to be used
 - Without hesitation
 - Without doubt
 - Without relenting till our dying day

“If you see me as I am taken up, it shall be so for you.” (2 Kings 2:10)

To see the Ascended Lord is to receive the fullness of His beauty and blessing.

1 Jn. 3:2-3: Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

2 Cor. 3:17-18: Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.