



# **Wearing Elijah's Mantle**

**2Kings 2:9-14**

# Brief Biography Of The Prophet Elijah

- Elijah is from Eliyahu, meaning “My God is Yahweh” or Jehovah
- “Elijah the Tishbite of Tishbe in Gilead.” Tishbe is sometimes interpreted as “stranger,” so that the verse might read “Elijah, a stranger among the strangers in Gilead.”
- No background for the person of Elijah is given in scripture or in history. His parents are unknown.

# Brief Biography Of The Prophet Elijah

- Scholars and historians are divided over whether or not Elijah was an Israelite. His homeland was at the northeastern edge of what could be considered the territory of Naphtali, but he was a Tishbite of Gilead
  - 1Kings 17:1 - “And Elijah the Tishbite, of the inhabitants of Gilead, said to Ahab, As the LORD God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, except at my word”
  - Judges 12:4 - “Now Jephthah gathered together all the men of Gilead and fought against Ephraim. And the men of Gilead defeated Ephraim, because they said, You Gileadites are fugitives of Ephraim among the Ephraimites and among the Manassites.”

# Brief Biography Of The Prophet Elijah

- There were other non-Israelite prophets: Balaam
- The lack of tribe or parentage is rare for an Israelite.
- He was a prophet from the north, sent exclusively to the northern ten tribes of Israel; we do not read of him prophesying in Judah
- A prophet ranked with Moses
  - Matt. 17:3 - “And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him.”

# Brief Biography Of The Prophet Elijah

- Elijah travels to Mount Horeb, the first to do so after Moses left.
- Elijah is present for the first instance of raising the dead recorded in Scripture.
- Elijah begins his conversation with King Ahaziah with a blunt, impertinent question: “Is it because there is no God in Israel that you are sending to inquire of Baalzebub, the god of Ekron?” - 2Kings 1:6

# Brief Biography Of The Prophet Elijah

- Elijah, in company with Elisha, approaches the Jordan. He rolls up his mantle and strikes the water (2Kings 2:8). The water immediately divides and Elijah and Elisha cross on dry land, the first to do so since the Exodus.
- A chariot of fire and horses of fire appear and Elijah is lifted up in a whirlwind, the first to do so in the history of the world.

# Elijah's Successor, Elisha

- The man who would follow what may arguably be the greatest prophet between Moses and Christ; Elisha must follow Elijah
- Elisha was a farmer in Israel
  - 1Kings 19:19-21 - “So he departed from there, and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen before him, and he was with the twelfth. Then Elijah passed by him and threw his mantle on him. 20 And he left the oxen and ran after Elijah, and said, Please let me kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow you. And he said to him, Go back again, for what have I done to you? 21 So Elisha turned back from him, and took a yoke of oxen and slaughtered them and boiled their flesh, using the oxen's equipment, and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he arose and followed Elijah, and became his servant.”

# Elijah's Successor, Elisha

- Elisha asked and received a double-portion of Elijah's spirit
  - 2Kings 2:9-15

## Elisha's Miracles While Wearing Elijah's Mantle

- Parted the waters of the Jordan River - 2Kings 2:14
- Sweetened the waters of Jericho - 2Kings 2:19-22
- Cursed irreverent youths from Bethel - 2Kings 2:23-25
- Foresaw the flood from Edom - 2Kings 3:16-17
- Foresaw Israel defeating the Moabites - 2Kings 3:18
- Increase of the widow's oil - 2Kings 4:1-7
- Conception of the Shunammite woman's son - 2Kings 4:8-17
- Resurrection of the Shunammite woman's son - 2Kings 4:18-37

## Elisha's Miracles While Wearing Elijah's Mantle

- Deadly stew purified - 2Kings 4:38-41
- Feeding of the 100 - 2Kings 4:42-44
- Healing of Naaman, the leper - 2Kings 5:1-19
- The cursing of Gehazi his servant for covetousness - 2Kings 5:20-27
- Floating iron ax head - 2Kings 6:1-7
- Warned Israel of the Syrian Army - 2Kings 6:8-12
- Vision of the horses and chariots of fire - 2Kings 6:13-17
- Syrian raiders blinded - 2Kings 6:18-23
- Prophecy of the end of Syrian siege of Samaria - 2Kings 6:24 - 7:20

## Elisha's Miracles While Wearing Elijah's Mantle

- Prophecy to the Shunammite woman to leave Israel during famine - 2Kings 8:1-6
- Prophecy of the death of Ben-Hadad and anointing of Hazael - 2Kings 8:7-15
- Prophecy of the anointing of Jehu as king of Israel and God's vengeance on Jezebel - 2Kings 9:1-3
- Prophecy of three defeats of Syria - 2Kings 13:14-19
- Resurrection at Elisha's tomb - 2Kings 13:20-21

# Lessons Learned

- God cares for His faithful people.
  - 1Peter 5:7 - “Casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you”

# Lessons Learned

- God preserves his people
  - 2Peter 2:9 - “The Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment”
  - Psalm 34:17 - “The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears, And delivers them out of all their troubles.”

# Lessons Learned

- God rules in the kingdoms of men.
  - Dan. 4:32 - “...the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses”
  - Rom. 13:1 - “Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.”

# Lessons Learned

- God requires obedience if we expect to receive His blessings.
  - Heb. 5:9 - “...He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him”

# Lessons Learned

- God will punish the wicked.
  - 1Cor. 6:9 - “Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God?”
  - Rev. 21:8 - “But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”

# Lessons Learned

- God provides encouragement through spiritual insight.
  - Rom. 8:31 - “What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?”
  - Psalm 118:6 - “The LORD is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me?”

# Lessons Learned

- God keeps his promises.
  - Psalm 111:7 - “The works of His hands are verity and justice; All His precepts are sure.”
  - 2Tim. 2:13 - “If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.”
  - Deut. 7:9 - “Therefore know that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments”

# Lessons Learned

- God has the power of life
  - John 11:25 - “Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.”
  - John 10:10 - “I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.”