

BOOK OF 2 KINGS
AFTER ELISHA'S DEATH
2 KINGS 13:20-25

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Introduction

Let's begin by reading these verses that we will deal with tonight.

Now, we saw back in the second Chapter of this book how that when the **Prophet ELIJAH** was caught up to heaven in a whirlwind in a chariot of fire, the young **Prophet ELISHA** was there as an **eager and willing replacement** to fill **ELIJAH'S** shoes as the foremost prophet of God in Israel!

ELISHA wanted to have a **DOUBLE PORTION** of what was on **ELIJAH!** And we've seen how the **LORD** did bless him in that way! But here, his life on earth was over and let's note some things.

I. WE SEE NO REPLACEMENT MENTIONED FOR ELISHA!

(Vs 20a)

As **ELISHA** gives up the ghost on his deathbed, **there was no one standing there with that same enthusiasm to pass the mantle on to!**

No doubt the **RIGHTEOUS REMNANT** in Israel wondered **who would be the next "prophet of God" to "man up" and stand in the gap against SIN and the WICKED LEADERSHIP in the nation of Israel and also stand up against Israel's other enemies!**

(Now remember that we have seen repeatedly how that **the GREATEST ENEMY of Israel wasn't Syria or Moab or any other nation! Her GREATEST ENEMY was her SINS— especially her SIN of IDOLATRY!**

God wanted to bless Israel, but time and time again we have seen **how her DISOBEDIENCE to the LORD held back the FULLNESS of God's GRACE and BLESSING and in its place brought His CHASTISEMENT and JUDGMENT and their DEFEAT instead!**

Now let me remind you that the reason the LORD included these things we find in the Old Testament Scriptures are NOT JUST for historical purposes! They are here for OUR LEARNING and OUR ADMONITION! All that we've been studying is for OUR benefit!

*Romans 15:4 – "For whatsoever things were written aforetime **were written for our learning**, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope."*

*1 Corinthians 10:11 – "Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are **written for our admonition**, upon whom the ends of the world are come."*

*2 Timothy 3:16 – "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is **profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:**"*

We need to always remember that the LORD has something here in His Word for us in whatever we are studying, even when it may not be readily apparent to us! That is why we STUDY!

So, what happens when great men of God with backbone and character, who are not afraid to speak boldly for the LORD die and there is no one seemingly with similar character to replace them?

I can imagine that the **RIGHTEOUS REMNANT** in Israel longed for another **ELIJAH** or **ELISHA** to help turn the nation back to the **LORD** and His righteousness!

But listen, even as great as both **ELIJAH** and **ELISHA** were for the **LORD**, **all of their preaching and prophesying fell on deaf ears and their ministry, on the surface, seemed to accomplish nothing!**

The nation of Israel and its leaders hardened their hearts against the LORD and the spiritual state of Israel does not appear to have changed for the better at all! But they spoke anyway! Why? Because that is what the LORD called them to do, that's why!

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Let's just pause here for a moment and think of our own dear nation.

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There have been some great men of God in the past whom I have had the privileged to hear their teaching and preaching and even sit up under some of them as my own Pastor! Many of them cried out in their time for a return to the LORD in our land—for TRUE REVIVAL!

Right now, the voices of many preachers across our land are still calling for our nation to return to the LORD! That's the only remedy for the apostasy that we see! The only remedy other than judgment!

And yet, by-and-large, our nation—leaders and citizens alike—have chosen to harden their hearts against the LORD and continue in ways that ultimately will bring ruin to our nation!

For the last 36+ years I have given my life to the ministry of teaching and preaching the Word of God! A rather large portion of my own teaching and preaching has fallen on deaf ears! It can be discouraging!

In fact, I have seen many of my fellow preachers get discouraged to the point that they just quit on God and gave up on the ministry that God gave them! *(Remember when Elisha got to that point after Jezebel threatened him, but God wouldn't let him quit!)*

But the answer is **NOT TO QUIT!** But rather, it is to **CONTINUE** until the LORD carries us home to be with Him! We are to **CONTINUE** even when many don't want to hear and obey the truth in these last days! *(Out of season!)*

The LORD said this time was going to come, but we are asked to **CONTINUE to preach and plod along in ministry in spite of a lack of results!**

Back to **ELIJAH** and **ELISHA...these men of God left an influence in both the WORDS THAT THEY SPOKE and the WORKS THAT THEY DID!**

That was in spite of looking like failures when you judge based on lasting results or even just results period!

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Part of ELISHA'S work was training the next generation of Prophets in the same manner that ELIJAH had trained him! It is easy for us to look for that next booming voice of a Prophet to replace **ELISHA** and when we don't find one blame **ELISHA** for that. But we would be wrong in doing that!

Even though we don't see that next booming voice of a Prophet of the LORD in the northern kingdom, there were prophets who were speaking out though their names aren't given to us!

And, just because the prophets that followed **ELISHA** weren't exactly the same as **ELIJAH** or **ELISHA**, we might be tempted to think that somehow that they weren't doing their job right!

(e.g. Even today, if you are a man of God preaching the Word in the grace that the LORD gives, you can be criticized for not being like some other preacher or preachers!)

Listen to me, God uses individuals as He has made them! He has not called us to imitate the style of some other preacher or preachers!)

Now, when we get to **chapter 17** we'll see that the **LORD** still called and sent Prophets in His name even though their names aren't given to us. **And the LORD used them and still held Israel and its leaders responsible for the messages delivered to them by these men of God and how they treated these men of God!**

So, what else do we see here other than there was no named replacement for **ELISHA**?:

II. WE SEE THE ATTACKS OF ENEMIES CONTINUED!
(Vs 20b and Vs 22a)

When the righteous man of God died, the kingdom Israel continued in her sin and so the attacks of her enemies continued!

The Moabites were a cursed race of people because of their origin:

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Lot's daughters incestuous relations with their drunken father!

But the LORD used them as instruments of his chastisement against His own people!

III. WE SEE ONE LAST MIRACLE OF THE LORD USING ELISHA'S BONES! (Vs 21)

The question that comes to our mind is, "*Why?*" Amen!

Understand that we are NOT told "*why*" and the LORD doesn't owe it to us to tell us "*why*", but until we see the LORD and can ask Him, let me offer a couple of possibilities.

A. Some Believe It Was To Complete The Request Of The Prophet ELISHA That Was Promised To Him By ELIJAH!

ELISHA asked for and had been promised by **ELIJAH** that he would receive a "**DOUBLE PORTION**" of **ELIJAH'S SPIRIT** upon him if he saw him when he was taken by the **LORD**.

Some say that **ELISHA** was one miracle shy of twice the miracles of **ELIJAH** at the time of his death and this final miracle would fulfill the promise of the "**DOUBLE PORTION**."

Well, I've seen different folks count these two prophets miracles in different ways, so I guess it depends on one's definition of what constitutes a miracle.

I'm not saying that's what it is, I just throw it out there to tell you that is the thinking of some.

B. Some Believe That This Was To Refocus The Nation Of Israel!

Here we see some men of Israel were burying their dead comrade when they saw a band of Moabites coming at them.

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In their haste to avoid their enemy, they just cast the body of their fallen friend into the sepulchre of **ELISHA**. When the man's body touched the bones of **ELISHA**, the man revived and stood to his feet!

What an amazing site that must have been! You think that might have stirred the fear of God in those that witnessed this? That would work for me!

So in doing this, some believe that the **LORD** was letting the Israelites know that if they would place their faith once again in the "**The LORD God of Israel**," then he would give them power to overcome their enemy in the same way that he gave the dead man power over the enemy of death here!

It is better to "*fear God*" than to "*fear the enemy!*"

We need that message in these last days! There are a growing number who enemies who oppose us in this world, but our fear must be of God and not of those who oppose us!

C. Some Believe That It Is To Show The Great Power Of Our God To Give Life To Those Who Are Dead!

After all, it wasn't **ELISHA**, but rather the **LORD** who caused this man to live again! He still causes men, women, and boys, and girls who have believed on Him to live again!

Ephesians 2:1 "And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;"

1 Thessalonians 4:16-"For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel..."

IV. WE SEE THE LORD WAS GRACIOUS TO ISRAEL AND HAD COMPASSION ON THEM AND ALLOWED JOASH TO BEAT SYRIA THREE TIMES LIKE HE HAD TOLD JOASH BY THE MOUTH OF ELISHA! (Vs 23-25)

Next week, LORD willing, we go back to the Southern Kingdom of Judah and pick up with the reign of **AMAZIAH** where we left off!