

Elijah and Elisha

Quote: "Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off."

Romans 11:22

Bible Marking

Elijah and Elisha (1 Kings 19)

ELIJAH - Stranger among strangers

Bible Insert to put in 1 Kings 19

Elijah was a Tishbite of the inhabitants of Gilead, on the East of Jordan. His parents and childhood are unknown. He was contemporary with Ahab, Ahaziah, and Jehoram, kings of Israel.

His name means "Yahweh He is Ail" (see [1 Kg 17:1; 18:39](#)). He desired Israel to be turned from their wickedness to come to know Yahweh ([1 Kg 18:36-37](#)), a mission he is yet to accomplish ([Mal 4:5-6](#)).

His abrupt, unexpected, but appropriate appearance was necessary for the nation, for it had fallen to its lowest ebb of spirituality. ([1 Kg 16:30-34](#)). Elijah therefore appears on the scene suddenly and with a tempest (which was characteristic of the man). He presently disappears just as suddenly ([1 Kg 17:5; 19:3; 2 Kg 1:8](#)), finally going out with a whirlwind, so that some thought he was borne hither and thither by the Spirit ([1 Kg 18:12](#)).

His introduction: "Yahweh Elohim of Israel Liveth before whom I stand" ([1 Kg 17:1](#)) is a contrast to the nation which ignored both Yahweh's will and existence. It was an authoritative approach, reminding us of the authority with which the Lord spoke ([Matt 7:29](#)).

His outstanding reputation: Mentioned more frequently than other prophets in the NT: [Matt 11:14; 16:14; 17:3,4,10,11,12; 27:47,49; Mk 6:15; 8:28; 9:4,5,11,12,13; 15:35,36; Lk 1:17; 4:25,26; 9:8,19,20,33,54; Jn 1:21,25; Rom 11:2; Jas 5:17](#). He came on the scene at a time when there was conflict between true worship with its standards for holy living, and the worship of Baal with its immoral temptations. Elijah was a man of exceptional character who had an unwavering love for God even among such wickedness. He therefore fitly describes himself as standing before Yahweh ([1 Kg 17:1,18](#)).

THE EIGHT MIRACLES OF ELIJAH

The miracles of Elijah spoke of judgment — drought and fire from heaven — all in keeping with "wind, earthquake and fire", the symbols of God's determination to root out the unrighteous and fulfil his Word. It is not enough, however, to break down. One must also build up, or exploit the power of "the still small voice". Elijah was told that he had to go back, seek out the faithful remnant in Israel, and build them up with the Word of God.

Nº	Miracle	Reference	Spiritual Significance
1	The shutting of heaven	1 Kings 17:1	Spiritual drought (Amos 8:11).
2	Multiplication of oil	1 Kings 17:14	Food for the godly amidst drought.
3	Widow's son raised	1 Kings 17:22, 23	The resurrection
4	Fire from heaven	1 Kings 18:38	Vindication at judgment.
5	Rain	1 Kings 18:45	Outpouring of Spirit (Joel 2:23).
6	Destruction of fifty	2 Kings 1:10	Rejection at judgment.
7	Destruction of fifty	2 Kings 1:12	Rejection at judgment.
8	Waters divided	2 Kings 2:8	Dominion over symbolic water (cp. Rev. 17:15).

ELISHA - The Bearer of the Still Small Voice

Elisha was the son of Shaphat of Abel-Meholah (sig Meadow of Dancing), in the tribe of Issachar on the West of Jordan. He was contemporary with Ahab, Ahaziah, Jehoram, Jehu, Jehoahaz and Joash kings of Israel.

He declared the way of mercy and grace, and encouraged the small band of true disciples and worshippers that were in Israel. He was quieter and more gentle than his stern forerunner, a type of the Lord Jesus Christ. A double portion of the spirit of Elijah rested upon him (as seen in the miracles he performed).

Elisha was young, inexperienced, and wealthy, when Elijah first called him. He was of a privileged family, which owned considerable property. This he forsook to work in the field of God (1 Kg 19:19-21) - see lesson of Lk 9:51-62.

When the aged prophet came to anoint him, he found him in the fertile fields of his father, working with his eleven assistants, ploughing the field to prepare the soil for sowing. Though young, he was diligent and responsive, for his father had entrusted him with authority over his servants. This was a preparation for the work of guiding and directing those whom his Father in heaven would entrust to his care. He would employ the "still, small voice" of Divine guidance and direction, so that the field of Israel might produce fruit to God's glory. The still, small voice was to be accompanied by many miracles, and in all this, Elisha was proclaiming the salvation that God offered to the nation. His name indicated this. It means: "The Salvation of Ail." This power for salvation was revealed in the words and actions of the prophet.

THE SIXTEEN MIRACLES OF ELISHA

The miracles of Elisha spoke of mercy — healing, God's Providence, encouragement in the life of faith, warnings against sin, the certainty of judgment, and above all, God's determination to save those who trust in Him — all in keeping with "the still small voice". The extension of this mercy was dependent upon a prior acknowledgement of God's justice and judgment, as seen in the first miracle done by him. It was not the smiting of the waters with the mantle of Elijah that divided the waters, but his recognition of, and his calling upon, the power of God (2 Kg 2:14).

Nº	Miracle	Reference	Significance
1	Waters divided	2 Kings 2:14	The mantle of Elijah rests on Elisha.
2	Waters healed	2 Kings 2:21	Healing through "the salt of the covenant" (Lev. 2:13; Num. 18:19).
3	Bears destroy mockers	2 Kings 2:24	Punishment of all mockers and rejecters of God.
4	Water in a barren land	2 Kings 3:20	God's providential care amidst a barren world.
5	Oil for the widow	2 Kings 4:1-7	An unending supply of God's Word to sustain those who trust in Him.
6	The gift of a son	2 Kings 4:16-17	Loving service yields a Divinely- given seed.
7	Raising the dead son	2 Kings 4:35	Resurrection of the God-given seed.
8	Healing the food	2 Kings 4:41	To add to God-given food results in "death in the pot", but contentment with "our daily bread" gives health.
9	Bread multiplied	2 Kings 4:43-44	Even amidst drought, God will supply "the bread of life" to all who come to Him.
10	Naaman healed	2 Kings 5:10-14	Belief and burial in water cleanses from sin and leads to newness of life.
11	Gehazi smitten	2 Kings 5:27	To covet the riches of this world is to court the judgment of God.
12	Iron made to float	2 Kings 6:6	Those who are lost (the iron) can be recovered through the impact of the Cross (the stake cut down and cast into the water).
13	Sight to the blind	2 Kings 6:17	Faith enables God's people to see His providential care of them.
14	Syrians smitten with blindness	2 Kings 6:18	The same Providence operates to protect God's people from those who would destroy them.
15	Restoration of sight	2 Kings 6:20	It is only when we are led captive by God that wars will cease and we will find true peace.
16	Life through death	2 Kings 13:21	Jesus Christ "through death, destroyed him that had the power of death" (Heb. 2:14) and contact with him results in resurrection.