

Week 12 Elijah the Prophet.

Wednesday Bible Study

Elijah and the Chariot of Fire. 2 Kings 2:1-18

1. Preparing to leave. 2 Kings 1:1-6

Elijah and Elisha have been together for between 6 and 10 years. Elijah has been Elisha's mentor and teacher. They have travelled together and now Elijah is determined to make a few visits before the Lord takes him to heaven. Gilgal, Bethel, and Jericho were all towns that had schools for the prophets. The places Elijah and Elisha are visiting were all significant to the children of Israel entering the promised land— including the Jordan River. (*Josh 3*). This walk is to prepare everyone for the end of this chapter in their earthly lives. I'm sure Elijah is reflecting on His life— the ups and downs of it all. Elisha is processing this change that is going to occur and doesn't want to discuss it with others. (*2 Kings 2:3,5*)

When in a context where grieving we should be careful of our words. For the believer it is a sacred time, a holy time. When a person is passing from this life to the next, time is recognized as being brief. We would do well to know when to speak and when not to speak. (*Ecc. 3:7b.*)

2. Crossing the Jordan. 2 Kings 2:7-10

Note that it is not Elijah's choice to go— it is God's choice. Elijah is going to be taken by the LORD. His time of service on earth is on "pause". Before He is taken he asks Elisha if there is anything he can do for Him— Elisha wants a double portion of his spirit. (OT law indicated a firstborn son inherited a double portion of His father's Estate) Elisha had walked away from his family to be a servant of Elijah and ultimately of the Lord— Elijah's greatest possession was His relationship to, calling and power from God. What was this spirit? We read of it in regard to John the Baptist. (*Luke 1:16-17*).

3. Separation— Elijah takes a ride on a whirlwind-chariot. 2 Kings 2:11-18

Elijah is one of only two people that we know of who never died. Elijah and Enoch both escaped the earth without walking through the valley of the shadow of death. (*Gen 5:21-24; Heb 11:5-6*). Elijah, just like Enoch could not be found! He was taken! Elijah's rapture as well occurred in the same area as where Moses died. (*Deut. 34:5-12*) (Please note in particular vs. 10-12)

4. The Coming Separation. The rapture of the Church 1 Thes. 4:13-18

There will be many more people who escape physical death when the church is "taken away". When her time of service is done on the earth, and a new chapter begins with God's restoration of Israel through the great tribulation. (*1 Thes 4:13-18*). This is the rapture of the church. There are many Christians who do not believe in the rapture, but I do for the Bible addresses it! In *1 Thess. 5:1-11*. We should heed these words and walk in the light. How reassuring to us that we will escape the coming wrath of God on the earth. The church will be taken away. (*Matt. 24:36-40*).

5. Elijah's Earthly Ministry Resumes— The Two Witnesses. Rev. 11:1-14

From the way these men are described they are probably Elijah and Moses or Elijah and Enoch. They still have work to do before this present age is complete. We have work to do now— we will have work to do in the new kingdom. We will serve the Lord forever! Let us serve today with joyful hearts.