

WHERE IS THE GOD OF ELIJAH?

Scripture: 2 Kings 2:1,2,4,6,8,11-15

SUNDAY MAY 27, 2007

. . . and he taketh the robe of Elijah that fell from off him, and smiteth the waters, and saith, 'Where [is] Jehovah, God of Elijah -- even He?' and he smiteth the waters, and they are halved, hither and thither, and Elisha passeth over. 2 Kings 2:14 (YLT)

A FEW OBSERVATIONS

1. When Elijah's mantle fell Elisha was present because he had stuck with Elijah all the way.
2. After the mantle fell Elisha was the same person he had been before; the only difference was,
HE HAD THE MANTLE!
3. When Elisha says, "Where now is the God of Elijah?" he is not questioning God's existence, ability or faithfulness. What I hear him saying is, "Is God here right now in this circumstance?" and "Will he do for me the same as He did for Elijah?" "It worked for Elijah; will it work for me?"
4. The power that divided the waters was obviously not in the mantle but from God Himself; the mantle served simply as a representation and a reminder of God's divine anointing on His servant.
5. When Elisha used the mantle to divide the waters, he was not employing God's power for his own selfish ends; he was on his way to a work assignment.
6. Crossing the Jordan represents the passage into a calling or a new assignment; something that can be accomplished only through the power of God's anointing and grace.
7. Israel had never been in worse spiritual condition (gross idolatry, sinfulness, unbelief and rebellion) than during the ministries of Elijah and Elisha but through these two men God raised up a powerful witness to Himself in the most challenging of times.
8. The answer was overwhelming—God was as present as He had ever been and was doing the same things He had always done—He was just working through a new messenger.
9. Wherever the mantle is passed, ministry continues.

RESPONSIVE READING

2 KINGS 2:1,2,4,6,8,11-15

When the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; the LORD has sent me to Bethel."

But Elisha said, "As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel.

Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here, Elisha; the LORD has sent me to Jericho." And he replied, "As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you." So they went to Jericho.

Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; the LORD has sent me to the Jordan." And he replied, "As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you." So the two of them walked on.

Elijah took his cloak, rolled it up and struck the water with it. The water divided to the right and to the left, and the two of them crossed over on dry ground.

As they were walking along and talking together, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated the two of them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind.

Elisha saw this and cried out, "My father! My father! The chariots and horsemen of Israel!" And Elisha saw him no more. Then he took hold of his own clothes and tore them apart.

He picked up the cloak that had fallen from Elijah and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. Then he took the cloak that had fallen from him and struck the water with it.

"Where now is the LORD, the God of Elijah?" he asked. When he struck the water, it divided to the right and to the left, and he crossed over.

The company of the prophets from Jericho, who were watching, said, "The spirit of Elijah is resting on Elisha." And they went to meet him and bowed to the ground before him.