

**People of the Promise:  
Elisha: Double Portion  
2 Kings 2-9, 13:14-21**

**Introduction**

Elijah had a dramatic ministry of confrontation of idolatry and the wickedness that came from it. His name meant "Yahweh is my God." Baal, whom many of his countrymen worshiped, was not.

*But Elijah leaves this earth in 2 Kings 2. What then? Who will take his place?*

Elisha—"My God is salvation."

2 Kings 2:9-14

<sup>9</sup> When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Ask what I shall do for you, before I am taken from you." And Elisha said, "Please let there be a double portion of your spirit on me." <sup>10</sup> And he said, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it shall be so for you, but if you do not see me, it shall not be so." <sup>11</sup> And as they still went on and talked, behold, chariots of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them. And Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. <sup>12</sup> And Elisha saw it and he cried, "My father, my father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" And he saw him no more. Then he took hold of his own clothes and tore

them in two pieces. **13** And he took up the cloak of Elijah that had fallen from him and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. **14** Then he took the cloak of Elijah that had fallen from him and struck the water, saying, "Where is the LORD, the God of Elijah?" And when he had struck the water, the water was parted to the one side and to the other, and Elisha went over.

This miracle recalls the parting of the Jordan River in flood season so that Israel could cross into the Promised Land in the early days of conquest under Joshua. Elijah had just done this very miracle earlier in the day. God indeed gave Elisha a double portion of the spirit of Elijah. In fact, the Scriptures record seven of Elijah's miracles and fourteen of Elisha's.

In the history of God's people, not every season has many obvious miracles. God most often works in the unseen, in natural rhythms and set patterns, like the growth of a seed into tree with its fruits, alternating day and night, the yearly transition of seasons, the development of a child in the womb and once born, growth into manhood or womanhood. But some eras stand out—Moses and Joshua; Elijah and Elisha; the early apostolic decades—generally times of significant transitions and spiritual battles between God and idols. In smaller settings today, you hear

of miracles in regions where the gospel is driving out witchcraft. And prophecies talk of miracles yet to come in the days of the two witnesses and the 144,000.

Parting the Jordan  
Healing the undrinkable water  
Bears' attack on 42 mocking boys  
Victory over rebelling Moabites  
Supply of the widow's oil (and livelihood)  
Son for the Shunammite woman  
Resurrection of the Shunammite woman's son  
Purification of the deadly stew  
Feeding of 100 men  
Healing of the leper Naaman (Syrian)  
Recovery of the floating axe head  
Fiery protection from siege (horses and chariots of fire)  
Blinding of the Syrian troops  
Sudden end of the siege and hunger (lepers)  
Restoration of the Shunammite's land  
Anointing of Hazael  
Anointing of Jehu  
Resurrection of body that touched Elisha's bones

*Miracles from God, like those in the lifetime of Elisha, tell us about Elisha's God and the kinds of areas over which He exercises power—whether it be through a miracle everyone can see or through the normal processes God has put in place. He has everything at His disposal. He is King of*

Creation and Lord of History. What He does should move us to seek Him (Acts 17).

### **Bears' attack on 42 mocking boys**

#### **2 Kings 2:23-25**

<sup>23</sup> He went up from there to Bethel, and while he was going up on the way, some small boys came out of the city and jeered at him, saying, "Go up, you baldhead! Go up, you baldhead!" <sup>24</sup> And he turned around, and when he saw them, he cursed them in the name of the LORD. And two she-bears came out of the woods and tore forty-two of the boys. <sup>25</sup> From there he went on to Mount Carmel, and from there he returned to Samaria.

### **Supply of the widow's oil (and livelihood)**

#### **2 Kings 4:1-7**

<sup>1</sup> Now the wife of one of the sons of the prophets cried to Elisha, "Your servant my husband is dead, and you know that your servant feared the LORD, but the creditor has come to take my two children to be his slaves." <sup>2</sup> And Elisha said to her, "What shall I do for you? Tell me; what have you in the house?" And she said, "Your servant has nothing in the house except a jar of oil." <sup>3</sup> Then he said, "Go outside, borrow vessels from all your neighbors, empty vessels and not too few. <sup>4</sup> Then go in and shut the door behind yourself and your sons and pour into

all these vessels. And when one is full, set it aside." <sup>5</sup> So she went from him and shut the door behind herself and her sons. And as she poured they brought the vessels to her.

<sup>6</sup> When the vessels were full, she said to her son, "Bring me another vessel." And he said to her, "There is not another." Then the oil stopped flowing. <sup>7</sup> She came and told the man of God, and he said, "Go, sell the oil and pay your debts, and you and your sons can live on the rest."

**Fiery protection (horses and chariots of fire); blinding of the Syrian troops  
2 Kings 6:15-23**

<sup>15</sup> When the servant of the man of God rose early in the morning and went out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was all around the city. And the servant said, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?" <sup>16</sup> He said, "Do not be afraid, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them." <sup>17</sup> Then Elisha prayed and said, "O LORD, please open his eyes that he may see." So

the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw, and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha. <sup>18</sup> And when the Syrians came down against him, Elisha prayed to the LORD and said, "Please strike this people with blindness." So he struck them with blindness in accordance with the prayer of Elisha. <sup>19</sup> And Elisha said to them, "This is not the way, and

this is not the city. Follow me, and I will bring you to the man whom you seek." And he led them to Samaria.

**20** As soon as they entered Samaria, Elisha said, "O LORD, open the eyes of these men, that they may see." So the LORD opened their eyes and they saw, and behold, they were in the midst of Samaria. **21** As soon as the king of Israel saw them, he said to Elisha, "My father, shall I strike them down? Shall I strike them down?" **22** He answered, "You shall not strike them down. Would you strike down those whom you have taken captive with your sword and with your bow? Set bread and water before them, that they may eat and drink and go to their master." **23** So he prepared for them a great feast, and when they had eaten and drunk, he sent them away, and they went to their master. And the Syrians did not come again on raids into the land of Israel.

1. God exercises control over nature.
2. God judges rebellious mockers.
3. God judges greedy deceit.
4. God exercises power over the nations and their armies.
5. God sets up kings and takes them down.
6. God cures disease.
7. God raises the dead.
8. God cares for people in their needs.
9. God protects His servants.

*Elisha's career was less about Elisha than it was about God. He is the one with the wisdom and the power from one generation to another. Where is the God of Elijah? Or the God of Elisha? Still here. Still ruling all things according to His perfect plan.*