

What a Way to Go

Message Companion

2 Kings 2:1-14

Elijah Goes to Heaven

Pastor Ron Laney



Contents

Contents

This is a Message Companion to Pastor Ron's sermon entitled,

Elijah - Part 11 - What a Way to Go

Read: 2 Kings 2:1-14

Take some time to go to our podcast "[Good News from The Grove](#)" and listen to this teaching. You can also go the Teachings page on our website www.PleasantGrove.info to access message. This is Part 11 of the series, Elijah: Someone Like Me

Message Companion includes:

- Main Scripture
- Message Recap
- Devotions
- Questions for Thought
- Additional Scriptures

Grace & Peace!



Main Scripture

2 Kings 2:1-14 (NKJV)

1 And it came to pass, when the LORD was about to take up Elijah into heaven by a whirlwind, that Elijah went with Elisha from Gilgal. 2 Then Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here, please, for the LORD has sent me on to Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives, and as your soul lives, I will not leave you!" So they went down to Bethel. 3 Now the sons of the prophets who were at Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that the LORD will take away your master from over you today?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent!" 4 Then Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here, please, for the LORD has sent me on to Jericho." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as your soul lives, I will not leave you!" So they came to Jericho.



2 Kings 2:1-14

5 Now the sons of the prophets who were at Jericho came to Elisha and said to him, "Do you know that the LORD will take away your master from over you today?" So he answered, "Yes, I know; keep silent!" 6 Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here, please, for the LORD has sent me on to the Jordan." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as your soul lives, I will not leave you!" So the two of them went on. 7 And fifty men of the sons of the prophets went and stood facing them at a distance, while the two of them stood by the Jordan. 8 Now Elijah took his mantle, rolled it up, and struck the water; and it was divided this way and that, so that the two of them crossed over on dry ground. 9 And so it was, when they had crossed over, that Elijah said to Elisha, "Ask! What may I do for you, before I am taken away from you?" Elisha said, "Please let a double portion of your spirit be upon me." 10 So he said, "You have asked a hard thing. Nevertheless, if you see me when I am taken from you, it shall be so for you; but if not, it shall not be so."

2 Kings 2:1-14

11 Then it happened, as they continued on and talked, that suddenly a chariot of fire appeared with horses of fire, and separated the two of them; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. 12 And Elisha saw it, and he cried out, "My father, my father, the chariot of Israel and its horsemen!" So he saw him no more. And he took hold of his own clothes and tore them into two pieces. 13 He also took up the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and went back and stood by the bank of the Jordan. 14 Then he took the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and struck the water, and said, "Where is the LORD God of Elijah?" And when he also had struck the water, it was divided this way and that; and Elisha crossed over.



Message Recap

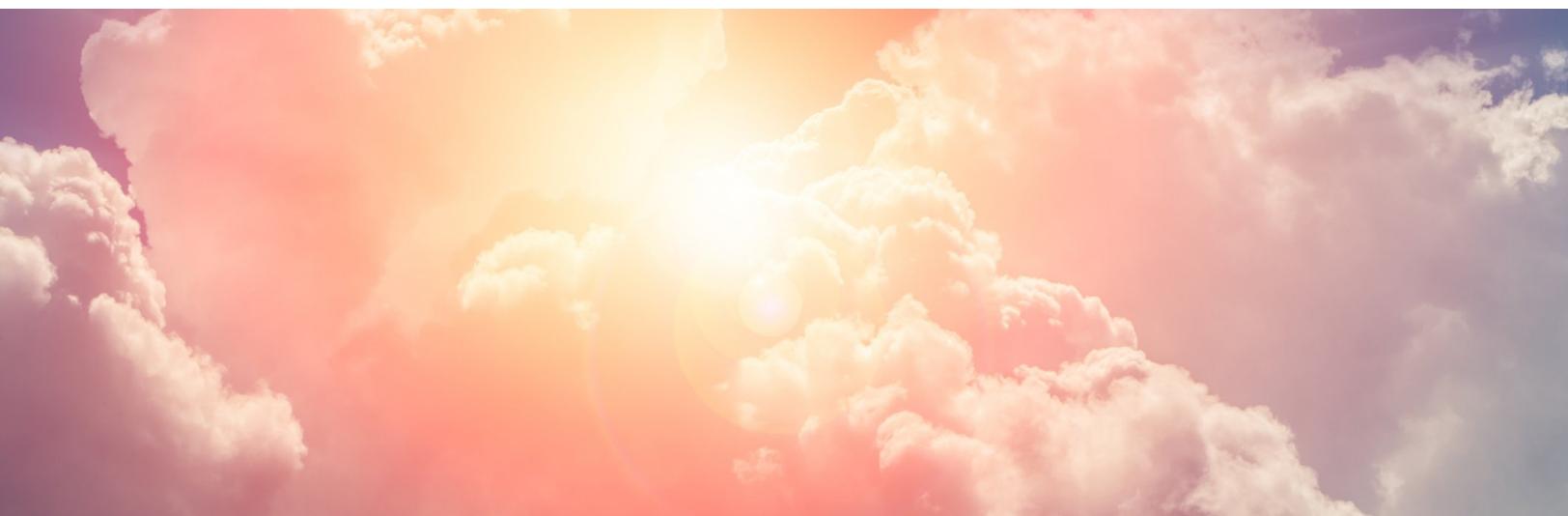
Message Recap

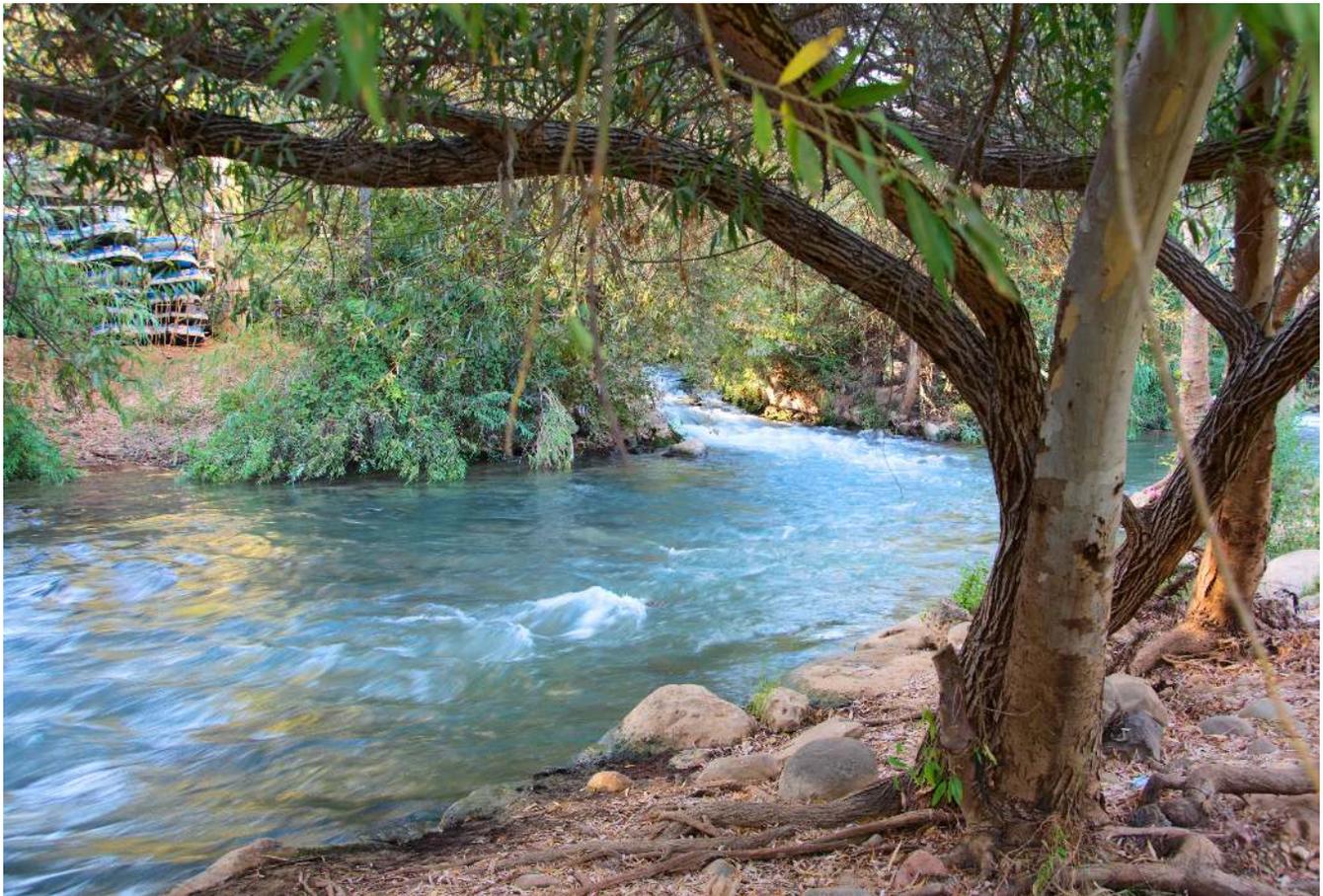
Text: 2 Kings 2:1-14

What a Way to Go

Few stories are as captivating as the final chapter of the life of the Prophet Elijah. His last day on earth offers meaningful lessons about legacy, faith, and the continuing of God's work from generation to generation.

Elijah's final day takes he and Elisha through four significant locations: **Gilgal, Bethel, Jericho, and the Jordan River**. Each stop is overflowing with meaning, serving as a powerful history lesson for his successor, Elisha, and for us today.





Gilgal reminds us of God's covenant with Abraham, the promise of a land for His people. It's a call to remember our spiritual roots and the promises God has made. In a world that often tries to rewrite history and disconnect us from our faith heritage, Gilgal stands as a testament to God's faithfulness and our need to stay grounded in His promises.

Bethel, "House of God," echoes Jacob's encounter with God. It's the place of Jacob's Ladder, where heaven touched earth. It's where promises were renewed, and commitments were made. As we journey through life, we need our own "Bethel moments" - times of reconnecting with God, renewing our vows to Him, and experiencing His presence in tangible ways.

Jericho represents victory through supernatural means. It's a reminder that our battles are not won by our might or power, but by the Spirit of the Lord. In our battles we are called to rely on God's strength, not our own. Jericho teaches us that sometimes, victory comes through unconventional means and unwavering faith.

The Jordan River, where Joshua led the Israelites into the Promised Land, symbolizes stepping out in faith and entering into God's promises. It challenges us to be like Joshua - strong and courageous - as we lead others into the fullness of what God has for them.

As Elijah's time draws to a close, he offers Elisha a parting gift - anything he desires. Elisha's request for a "**double portion**" of Elijah's spirit reveals a heart that is hungry for God's presence and power. It's a challenge to us: Are we content with spiritual mediocrity, or do we long for a greater measure of God's Spirit in our lives?

Elijah's response is telling: "**You have asked a hard thing.**" The path of spiritual power is not an easy one. It comes with a price - often isolation, persecution, and great responsibility. Are we willing to pay that price? Are we ready to stand firm in the face of modern-day Ahabs and Jezebels, speaking truth to power regardless of the cost?

The climax of Elijah's departure is nothing short of spectacular. A chariot of fire and horses of fire appear, separating the two prophets. Elijah is taken up in a whirlwind, leaving behind his mantle - a symbol of authority and anointing - for Elisha.

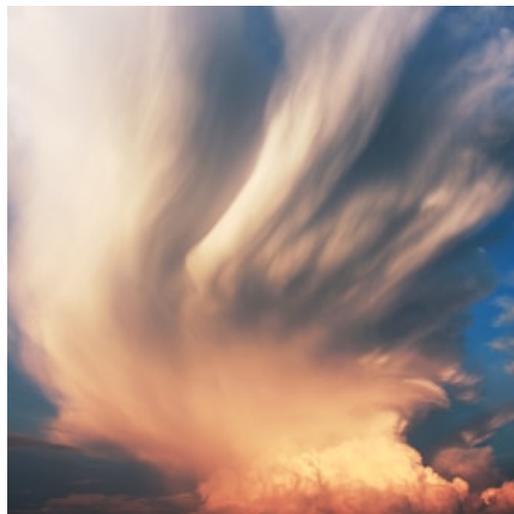


As Elijah departs, Elisha picks up the mantle and immediately puts it to use, parting the waters of the Jordan just as Elijah had done. His cry, "**Where is the LORD God of Elijah?**" is not just a question, but a declaration of faith and a call to action.

This moment challenges us to consider: Are we content to read about the great moves of God in the past, or are we crying out for Him to move in our day? Where is the God who empowered Elijah to stay faithful in a faithless generation? Where is the God who answers by fire? Where is the God who gives courage and boldness in the face of great opposition? In a modern-day since: Where is the God who brought revival through preachers like Billy Graham, healing through ministers like Oral Roberts, or profound teaching through expositors like Charles Stanley and Adrian Rogers? Thank God for what He did through others in times passed. But we need our own witness of God's strength and power in our day! Where is the LORD God of Heaven & Earth? LORD, please do a great & mighty work in our day!

The passing of the mantle from Elijah to Elisha reminds us that while individual servants of God may come and go, God's work continues. One generation exits, receiving their heavenly reward, while another rises to take their place in the ongoing story of redemption.

This dramatic exit serves as a powerful picture for the Christian Hope. As believers, we don't face death in the traditional sense. Jesus promised in John 8:51, "Most assuredly, I say to you, if anyone keeps My word he shall never see death." This doesn't mean we won't physically die, but rather for those who are in Christ, death is not an end but a transition. Like Elijah, we will be "taken up" - not by death, but by God Himself.



Some Key Takeaways:

1. Remember your spiritual heritage. Like Elijah walking Elisha through Israel's history, we need to stay connected to the faith of our fathers, anchoring ourselves in God's unchanging Word and promises.
2. Seek a greater measure of God's Spirit. Elisha's bold request challenges us to desire more of God's presence and power in our lives, recognizing that it comes with great responsibility.
3. Live with an awareness of the spiritual realm. Elijah's ability to see what others couldn't reminds us to cultivate spiritual sensitivity, living with an acute awareness of God's presence and activity around us.
4. Be ready to take up the mantle. God's work doesn't end with the passing of great leaders. We're called to pick up where others left off, continuing the work of the Kingdom in our generation.
5. Cry out for God to move today. Like Elisha's impassioned plea, we should be asking, "**Where is the Lord God of Elijah?**" in our own time, expecting and calling for God to move powerfully in our day.
6. Live with the end in mind. Elijah's dramatic exit reminds us that for believers, death is not a dreaded enemy but a doorway to glory. We can live and die with the confidence that Jesus Himself will come for us.

Be inspired by Elijah's legacy and Elisha's passion. May we, like them, live lives fully aware of God's presence, unafraid to stand for truth, and eager to see God's saving power manifested in our generation. The God of Elijah is still alive and active today. May we have the faith to believe it, the courage to declare it, and the commitment to experience it.

Grace & Peace!

Pastor Ron



Devotions

Devo #1

Be Strong & Courageous

Joshua 1:8-9

8 "This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. 9 "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

As Joshua launches out into what God has called him to do, God gives him so advice. Joshua is to take in God's Word on the daily and obey it. He is to be strong & courageous knowing that God is with him every step of the way.

You have an important work to do for God. Embrace these truths from Joshua 1:8-9 for your life and calling. Stay in God's Word, do what He says, and remember that Jesus has promised to never leave you or forsake you. This is our path to a successful life.



Devo #2

Far Better

Philippians 1:21

For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

Elijah faced his final day without fear or worry, knowing something far better awaited him. Paul echoes this truth for believers in Jesus, declaring "to live is Christ and to die is gain." We must live with this eternal perspective. While we may love living now, we know that what God has in store for us in eternity is far better. It's actually far better than we can imagine.

How does this eternal perspective change the way we approach our daily lives? Reflect on areas where you might be too focused on temporary concerns. Ask God to help you live today with eternity in mind, finding purpose in serving Him and others.



Devo #3

Power in Your Prayers

James 5:16-18

16b The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. 17 Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. 18 And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.

Elijah's life demonstrated the power of prayer, and here, James reminds us that we have access to the same God as Elijah. Elijah was human like us and yet God used His prayers to accomplish great things. God can use your prayers! Your prayers can make a big difference! Understanding this truth will not only change your life, but it can impact others for generations to come.

Consider the areas in your life that need God's intervention. Spend time in focused prayer, believing that the "prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."

How might God be calling you to persist in prayer for seemingly impossible situations? God wants to use you to make a difference!



Questions for Thought

Questions for Thought

How might our lives change if we truly lived with the perspective that 'to live is Christ and to die is gain'?

How can we maintain a connection to our spiritual heritage while also seeking fresh encounters with God for our present day?

What might it look like for us to 'lead people back to God' in our current cultural context?

How can we develop the kind of faith and courage that Elijah demonstrated in confronting the cultural and spiritual challenges of his time?

What does it mean to ask for a 'double portion' of someone's spirit, and how might this apply to our spiritual growth today?

How can we cultivate a greater sense of God's presence and power in our prayer lives, as James encourages us to pray like Elijah?

In what ways can we prepare ourselves spiritually for our own 'last day,' whatever form that may take?

In what ways can we, like Elijah, leave a spiritual legacy for those who come after us?

How can we cultivate a greater awareness of the spiritual realm in our daily lives, as Elijah did?

What does it mean to 'number our days' as mentioned in Psalm 90:12, and how can this practice lead to wisdom?



Additional Scriptures

For Further Study

Additional Scriptures

- Psalm 90:12
 - Philippians 1:21
 - Joshua 1:8-9
 - James 5:16-18
 - John 8:51
-

Spiritual Warfare and Standing Firm:

1. Ephesians 6:10-18
 2. 2 Corinthians 10:3-5
-

Living with an Eternal Perspective:

1. Colossians 3:1-4
 2. 2 Corinthians 4:16-18
 3. Romans 8:18-25
-

Hope of Resurrection and Eternal Life:

1. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
2. 1 Corinthians 15



Good News

from

The Grove

with Pastor Ron



Deeply Rooted
Growing Strong
Producing Fruit

Pleasant Grove Church
PleasantGrove.info

[Our Podcast - Spotify, Apple Podcasts, Podbean App](#)



Join us! Sundays 11am, Wed 6pm



Bible Study ACADEMY

(Coming Soon)



Pleasant Grove CHURCH

Deeply Rooted | Growing Strong | Producing Fruit

www.PleasantGrove.info