

Elijah: Prophet of Fire

Part 5: On A Chariot of Fire

Context:

Prophesied death of Ahab (After incident at Naboth's vineyard) ...

King Amaziah, continued Baal worship, and Elijah's last task ...

Transition to a new prophet of God ...

2 Kings 2:1-8 (ESV)

¹ Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from **Gilgal**. ² And Elijah said to Elisha, "Please stay here, for the LORD has sent me as far as **Bethel**." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. ³ And the sons of the prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take away your master from over you?" And he said, "Yes, I know it; keep quiet." ⁴ Elijah said to him, "Elisha, please stay here, for the LORD has sent me to **Jericho**." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. ⁵ The sons of the prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take away your master from over you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know it; keep quiet." ⁶ Then Elijah said to him, "Please stay here, for the LORD has sent me to **the Jordan**." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. ⁷ Fifty men of the sons of the prophets also went and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. ⁸ Then Elijah took his cloak and rolled it up and struck the water, and the water was parted to the one side and to the other, till the two of them could go over on dry ground.

The **theology** of **geography**:

Significance of Gilgal:

Significance of Bethel:

Significance of Jericho:

Significance of Jordan:

Elijah blesses **Elisha**:

2 Kings 2:9-12 (ESV)

⁹ 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." ¹⁰ 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." ¹¹ 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. ¹² 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.

Twice the _____, twice the _____

Significance of Elijah's manner of passing:

Compare Elijah's call for his own death with God's plan for Elijah:

1 Kings 19:4 (NIV)

⁴ while he himself went a day's journey into the desert. He came to a broom tree, sat down under it and prayed that he might die. "I have had enough, LORD," he said. "Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors."

2 Kings 2:11-12a (NIV)

¹¹ 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. ¹² Elisha saw this and cried out, "My father! My father! The chariots and horsemen of Israel!" And Elisha saw him no more.

Some **highlights** of Elijah's life:

His _____ (1 Kings 21:17)

Defined as ...

Some examples of Elijah's faith:

His _____ from the world around him (1 Kings 18:17-18)

God will never use _____ to accomplish His purposes of redemption and reform.

You can't _____ the world and maintain a prophetic voice to the world.

You can't call others to _____ (critical to the Gospel) if you condone, endorse, or participate in their sin.

His _____ life (1 Kings 18:42, 19:8, 2 Kings 1:9, etc.)

The more time we spend in the _____ with God, the less we will be drawn to the world and its attractions.

His _____ (James 5:17-18, 1 Kings 17:19-20, 18:36,)

Prayer is what allows the frail and weak (us) to tap into the _____ of the Almighty (God).

Consider how the other characteristics of Elijah's life fuel and enable THIS characteristic:

Faith in God

Separation from the world

Spiritual vitality

His _____ (Prov. 28:1)

Biblical courage is ...

The fear of _____ makes men _____!

His _____ (1 Cor 10:12)

Elijah's life demonstrates the inherent human weakness of us all and our constant need for God's protection and provision.

A few life lessons to be learned ...