

# Elijah to Elisha - Passing the Mantle

II Kings 2:1-14



4/23/2023 AM

## Introduction:

### I. WE MUST RECRUIT THOSE WHO SHOW AN INTEREST IN MINISTRY (vs. 1-2)

A. This needs to happen before the previous generation passes. (vs. 1b)

“And it came about when the LORD was about to take up Elijah by a whirlwind to heaven...”

B. There needs to be a desire on the part of the candidate. (vs. 2a)

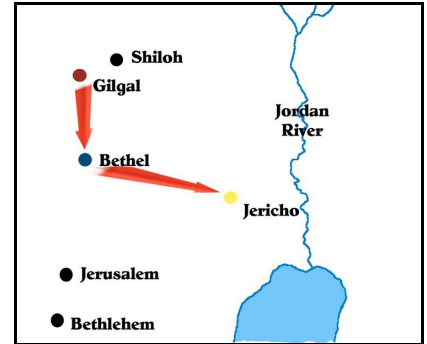
“Elijah said to Elisha, ‘Stay here please, for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel.’ ”

“But Elisha said, ‘As the LORD lives and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.’ ”

C. This is best accomplished through a mentor/disciple relationship.

“Elijah went with Elisha from Gilgal.” (vs. 1a)

“So they went down to Bethel.” (vs. 2b)



### II. WE MUST TRAIN THOSE WHO HAVE POTENTIAL FOR LEADERSHIP (vs. 4-8)

A. They are described as “the sons of the prophets”. (vs. 3 *et al.*)

“the sons of the prophets who were at Bethel...”

B. They were gathered in groups for training. (vs. 3, 5)

- they were an institution in various parts of Israel
- “the wives of the sons of the prophets” (4:1)
- supported by wealthier people (5:22)
- had common lodging (6:1)
- they were sent out on ministry missions for the prophets/teachers (9:1)

C. They traveled, worked, and studied together. (vs. 7)

“fifty men of the sons of the prophets went and stood opposite them at a distance”

D. They learned by observing the prophets/teachers. (vs. 7-8)

“Now fifty men of the sons of the prophets went and stood opposite them at a distance, while the two of them stood by the Jordan.”

“Elijah took his mantle and folded it together and struck the waters, and they were divided here and there, so that the two of them crossed over on dry ground.”

### III. WE MUST CHALLENGE THOSE WHO WILL PROVIDE LEADERSHIP (vs. 9-14)

#### A. It may require difficult favors on our part. (vs. 9-10)

“When they had crossed over, Elijah said to Elisha, ‘Ask what I shall do for you before I am taken from you.’”

“And Elisha said, ‘Please, let a double portion of your spirit be upon me.’ ”

“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.”

#### B. There will come the time when the mantle must be passed on. (vs. 11-12)

“As they were going along and talking, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire and horses of fire which separated the two of them.

“And Elijah went up by a whirlwind to heaven.”

“Elisha saw it and cried out, ‘My father, my father, the chariots of Israel and its horsemen!’”

“And he saw Elijah no more.”

“Then he took hold of his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.”

#### C. Only the best apprentices will be expected to lead. (vs. 13-14)

“He also took up the mantle of Elijah that fell from him and returned and stood by the bank of the Jordan.”

“He took the mantle of Elijah that fell from him and struck the waters and said, ‘Where is the LORD, the God of Elijah?’ ”

“And when he also had struck the waters, they were divided here and there; and Elisha crossed over.”

### Conclusion:

- 1) Our responsibility in this process stems from II Timothy 2:2 and Matthew 28:19-20.
- 2) The responsibility is shared by individuals, the local church, and institutions
- 3) Our responsibility goes beyond getting the next generation trained. We must also train ourselves and our children to follow that new leadership.

### Food for Thought:

- 1) Where should be put our strongest emphasis in the training of the next generation?
- 2) In counting the cost, what should we expect? What are we willing to give?
- 3) What training do you think is necessary? Where can/should that be gotten?
- 4) Who have you identified that is a godly candidate? What are you doing about it?