

Setting

Locate the following places on the Bible map:

- Gilgal
- Bethel
- Jericho
- Jordan River
- Mount Carmel
- Samaria

Key Terms and People

Elijah: Prophet of God from Tishbe. His name means “My God is Yahweh.”

Elisha: Successor to Elijah. His name means “My God is Salvation.”

Sons of the prophets: A group of students who follow a prophet and learn from him.

Story Moments

Passing the Mantle

2:1. What impending event is prophesied? _____

Where are Elijah and Elisha travelling from? (note the location on the map). _____

Note: See 1 Kings 19:19–21 for Elisha’s original call.

2:2–6. What does Elijah repeatedly ask Elisha? _____

How many times does he ask him? _____

How does Elisha respond to Elijah each time? _____

What question do the sons of the prophets in Bethel and Jericho ask Elisha? _____

How does Elisha respond to the sons of the prophets? _____

2:7–8. After Elijah and Elisha had separated themselves from the fifty sons of the prophets, they approach the Jordan River. What does Elijah do to cross over? _____

What previous miracles does this act parallel? _____

2:9–11. What does Elisha ask Elijah to do for him before Elijah’s departure? _____



Under what conditions does Elijah say Elisha will receive his request? _____

Describe the scene as Elijah is taken to heaven: _____

2:12–14. How does Elisha respond to Elijah’s departure? _____

What clothing does Elisha remove? What clothing does he put on? _____

How does Elisha use Elijah’s mantle (cloak)? _____

What does this miracle demonstrate about God’s presence with Elisha? _____

Searching for Elijah

2:15. What do the sons of the prophets recognize about Elisha when they see him? _____

What do they do when they come to meet Elisha? _____

2:16–18. What request do the sons of the prophets make of Elisha? _____

What is their concern? _____

Describe the results of their mission: _____

Elisha's Ministry Begins

2:19–22. What problem do the men of Jericho bring to Elisha? _____

How does the Lord use Elisha to solve their problem? _____

Who does Elisha say has healed the water? _____

What promise does he give concerning the water? _____

2:23–25. How do the young men of Bethel²⁷ treat the prophet of the Lord? _____

How does Elisha respond to their disrespect? _____

Cross References

1 Kings 19:19–21

¹⁹ So he departed from there, and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing *with twelve yoke of oxen* before him, and he was with the twelfth. Then Elijah passed by him and threw his mantle on him.²⁰ And he left the oxen and ran after Elijah, and said, "Please let me kiss my father and my mother, and *then* I will follow you." And he said to him, "Go back again, for what have I done to you?"

²¹ So *Elisha* turned back from him, and took a yoke of oxen and slaughtered them and boiled their flesh, using the oxen's equipment, and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he arose and followed Elijah, and became his servant.

1 Kings 12:25–29

²⁵ Then Jeroboam built Shechem in the mountains of Ephraim, and dwelt there. Also he went out from there and built Penuel.²⁶ And Jeroboam said in his heart, "Now the kingdom may return to the house of David:²⁷ If these people go up to offer sacrifices in the house of the LORD at Jerusalem, then the heart of this people will turn back to their lord, Rehoboam king of Judah, and they will kill me and go back to Rehoboam king of Judah."

²⁸ Therefore the king asked advice, made two calves of gold, and said to the people, "It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem. Here are your gods, O Israel, which brought you up from the land of Egypt!"²⁹ And he set up one in Bethel, and the other he put in Dan.

Note: the word *curse* in Hebrew "means 'punishment' or 'consequence' in the OT, not 'foul language' or 'magical incantation' as it often does in current common English usage."²⁸

What means does the Lord use to protect his prophet and judge the youths? _____

Ask Yourself

This passage seems to hint that Elijah struggles to be at peace with the transition to Elisha as the next prophet. Yet, he knows the work would continue through his successor. How can I embrace this same truth about my role in God's plan?

In what ways do people mock those who speak God's words today? How does this story demonstrate the importance of speaking and following the truth rather than the crowd?

Whom do I currently disciple (or invest in) to take my place when I am no longer here?

²⁷ Note: the city of Bethel had played an important part in the apostasy of Jeroboam the Son of Nebat (see 1 Kings 12:25–29). The Hebrew word "youths" (*na'ar*) describe the mob of young men who taunted Elisha for his appearance and can indicate anyone from age 12 to 30; however, paired with the Hebrew word for "small" (*qāton*), this passage seems to emphasize their youth.

²⁸ Paul R. House, *1, 2 Kings*, eds. E. Ray Clendenen and Kenneth A. Mathews, vol. 8 of *The New American Commentary*. (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1995), 316.