

He confronted (Ahab) who had robbed Naboth of a piece of property. Elijah said "I am not your enemy, I am your friend." He did not ask any questions about the difficulty but went to his job.

On (Mount Carmel) he stood alone in obedience unto God

4. His God. He takes up the mantle and returns to Jericho and there states "Where is the Lord God of Elijah?" He not only has Elijah's mantle but he has his God. He folds it up as his master before him had done. The Lord was the (best portion) of Elisha's inheritance. Thus Isaac inherited a portion of his father, Abraham, and to Jacob God declared himself as the God of Abraham and Isaac - and so Old Testament saints when praying directed their petitions to Jehovah as the God of their Fathers.

And (to whom do we direct our prayers?) To God manifest in the flesh. We can pray with a confidence that we know He will hear us. Where is the (God of Marthe) and (Mary) and (Lazarus?) Where is the God of (Paul?) Where is the Lord who, after his resurrection, said "I am the way."

Surely it is something very great that we are permitted to call upon the God who has favored all of these saints. Where is the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ? And shall it ever cease. Of course not.

Mendelssohn began work on the Oratorio of Elijah in 1845. Completed it nine years later. It was produced for the first time in Birmingham, England. He was then 37 and died a year later. The Oratorio begins with a passage of music wherein the clamor of Jezebel is heard and Elijah is seen under the Juniper bush. Then Mendelssohn, through the Angel's song puts hope in the heart of the prophet. (Oh rest in the Lord and wait patiently for Him.)

"THE LEGACY"

II Kgs. 2:1-15

So. Mex. - June 7, 1953 P.M.
W. T. A. B. July 11, 53 - 77
So. Mex. Dec. 11, 1955 P.M.
So. Mex. Nov. 16, 58 A.M. - 80

Intro: This centers around the ascension of Elijah as he is translated from this life into immortality. This also reflects something of the Christian's future.

I. The request V. 9

Chx - Ahab - said - Hual -

Elisha requested a double portion of his spirit. These two men were gone over Jordan, and Elijah asked what he might do for him. This was a worthy request, however lofty it may sound, we are sure that it proceeds from an humble spirit. He could think of (nothing that would compare with Elijah) and the spirit of God.

"Thou hast asked a hard thing, but the (sign will) be, if he is present, when Elijah is translated." It is a (rare favor) perhaps, as we think of gifts that people pass on through death one to another.

1 Cor. 12:31 - Count But Gifts.

1 K. 3:5-14 - Solomon Request not earthly goods.

II. The ascension V. 11

It is in the closet we find God in prayer

They were in a solitary region. God did not select a marketplace with a lot of idlers, but a secluded spot where these two men were talking. He sends down a chariot to receive him, and Elijah shakes the dust of the earth from his feet.

Perhaps it would be hard to describe the feeling that of Elisha, as he seems to be a forsaken man, he probably wonders whether it's a vision, but his friend and spiritual father has been taken up in a chariot. Elisha knew his worth, for he had known Elijah in public and private life. He knew of his courage, as he had had to stand before Ahab.

14

III. The Legacy

1. His office. Elijah had not commenced his prophetic course under such favorable circumstances. He had entered upon a waste of moral decay and fallow ground. This was a real (search for lost humanity). Like Elisha many of us are called to a new work or a new experience. He was now to be the successor of Elijah. Elisha stood and watched him go up.

He was to stand in his place and to carry on his work. These two men loved one another. They had a common task a common work and a common aim. They were bound together like David and Jonathan, like Paul and Timothy in their friendship. So when they had crossed the Jordan they must part company and the (bulk of the work falls upon the younger man's) shoulders.

A minister of the gospel ought to see his advantages in accepted the care of the church however small their number they are capable of extension. A church that is rich in the word of God is rich indeed. It has the key and the weapon and the remedy against every evil.

He was to go into this field to (work among men) to promote (education) to (preach) and to serve his generation.

2. His mantle. This is very interesting as the prophet goes up in the chariot his mantle floats down upon the shoulders of Elijah. With his mantle Elijah has thrown off the burden of his commission and cast it upon the younger man. His mantle is called upon to take a great place in the master's work. There was (a commission) with it. It no longer belonged to the reformer for ~~him~~ he had gone on to heaven. It would serve to remind him of the kindness and love of God to sinful men. It would contribute to refresh the spirit of Elisha in his office. It would serve to identify him as a messenger of peace.

It carried with it a (significance) as on the first occasion when Elijah cast it over his shoulders while ~~him~~ he labored in the fields and called him to follow. Every missionary, every clergy, ought to feel that he has received a commission from heaven. He felt his call is of God.

In this present day people commonly make mantles for themselves. They take it up as just a profession or just as a pleasure. Sometimes the parents decide that a child ought to enter the ministry.

Servant worthy of his hire - I preach not for money, called & know God will provide. I want no church to be divided over salary they pay me, rather increase it - it's responsibility to provide for them who have & will never beg or plead for increase, thus far I have never asked once for a raise in salary - Not just a profession with me or salary teaching but call. Man without call is doomed to fail - & carry God's people into ignorance.

A great number go to the University without any counsel from God.

Elijah now would be clothed with immortality going to a world where he would not need the mantle to adorn him nor to shelter him from the weather. Elisha loved the mantle ever since the time it was first cast over him.

I Kings 19:19

XXX

3. His spirit. He had a requested (a double portion) of his spirit and the sign would be that if he saw him go he would have assurance that his prayer had been answered. He does not say "Ask me when I get into heaven" but "Ask me before I go." Elijah having this opportunity to enrich himself prays for a double portion of his spirit. He (does not ask for wealth) or for (honor) or to be (exempt from trouble) but (to be qualified for the service of God). He knew that God could give him the spirit. He was to be a prophet and to carry on the prophet's work and more would be expected of him now. This predecessor had set a high example.

He asked as an (humble and a contrite person). There was no doubt that he had received a divine call to the office because he had received the same power. The natural man receiveth not the things of God and when the son of the prophet saw him they said "The spirit of Elijah doth rest on Elisha." He was the spiritual image of an Abraham.

WHY? Was the spirit of Elijah? As we trace his life we see that it was the spirit of (unhesitating faith) for he trusted God and God was real to him. That's the kind of spirit and victory that this young man wanted. It was the spirit of John Knox, the spirit of Luther.

2- For another thing, it was the (spirit of obedience). When God gave him a command to go on an errand, he went.

That is what Elisha must do. Wait upon his God.

That we might know God. (Horace Bushnell) on the faculty of Yale was a powerful personality. He was an unbeliever, an agnostic. He taught this in his classroom. A man does not have to say anything to destroy his family but ignore it all like Samson and the temple will crumble in. The preacher sensed it and said "Mr. Bushnell, I have found out the situation. These men follow you and if the things that I have been preaching are true, you had better give attention to them. The professor replied, "If they are true, I have utterly missed the way and have no way of finding the truth." The minister said "You can call to God through the darkness to light." The professor said ~~XXX~~ "I do not know that there is a God to call to." "Suppose we work on the basis that there is a God and you pray 'God if there be a God I want light' and if you will give it to me I will follow it." Three days later he came back and stood on the platform in Yale chapel and said "Men, I have been in utter darkness - I have come through to the light. Jesus is my personal Saviour.

If men would (pay the price to know God) they shall know Him. We cannot get on without God. How our hearts are purred out when our (Elijah's leave us but Elijah's God does not leave. Elijah's source of strength is ours and so He comes back to the river and before ~~the same month~~ in the same manner came back to the river and called upon God to open the way. It is God that we must have. Everything else is vain without God. All of the mantles are valueless without the divine touch.

(Who
is the God of Elijah?) He is the God who will work miracles through this new prophet. He is the God who will hear and answer prayer. He will send rain upon the earth. Elijah was transplanted in one moment into heaven. We die like we live.

empt - ? (is He your God?)