



Lesson 123

The Mantle is Passed to Elisha

Story Elements

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Text: 1 Kings 19:16-21; 2 Kings 2:1-18 • Setting: circa 847 B.C., between Gilgal and Jordan. • Main Characters: God, Elijah, and Elisha • Plot: Elijah is taken up to heaven, passing his ministry on to Elisha. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key word(s): “ _____ ” • Climax: 2 Kings 2:11 <i>And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven</i> |
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Elisha Recruited

1. (1 Ki. 19:16) After Elijah fled from Jezebel, shortly after the scene atop Mt. Carmel, he sojourned in the Sinai wilderness where he heard the LORD's still, small voice. In that experience he was instructed to do three things, one of which was to find _____ and anoint him as a prophet.
 - (a) (1 Ki. 19:19) Elijah found Elisha plowing with twelve yoke of oxen, and passing by him, Elijah put his mantle on Elisha, symbolizing his desire to pass on his _____ work to him.
 - (b) (1 Ki. 19:19-21) Elisha, accepted Elijah's call, but first he asked leave to return to his family and say his proper _____. Elijah granted him liberty, and Elisha returned to his house and hosted a going away feast for himself, after which he joined Elijah as his assistant.

Elijah Raptured

2. (2 Ki. 2:1-6) Years later, Elijah was told by the LORD that he will be raptured out of the world. The narrative then takes on a repetition of events as the pair journeyed from Gilgal, to Beth-el, to Jericho, and finally beyond Jordan.
 - (a) Three times Elijah asked his student to stay behind, and three times Elisha took a holy oath, saying, “*As the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not _____ thee.*”
 - (b) And twice, at Beth-el and then Jericho, a group of the sons of the prophets met the pair and told Elisha of his master's coming departure. Elisha responded both times with, “*Yea, I know it; hold ye your _____.*”
3. (2 Ki. 2:7-8) After leaving Jericho, the two came to the Jordan river, and the sons of the prophets from Jericho followed and observed. At the river Jordan, Elijah removed his _____ and struck the river, dividing it in two. The two passed over on dry ground and into the wilderness beyond.

4. (2 Ki. 2:9-10) Coming near to the place of his departure, Elijah asked Elisha if he desired any parting gifts or favors.
- (a) Elisha requested that his teacher give him a double portion of his spirit. This was not a request for a literal double amount of what Elijah had, “but the phrase, 'a double portion,' was applied to the _____ [De 21:17], and therefore Elisha’s request was, simply, to be heir to the prophetic office and gifts of his master.”¹
- (b) Elijah assured the younger prophet that his requested would be granted if he observed his heavenly departure.
5. (2 Ki. 2:11-13) Soon, Elijah was swept up into heaven by a whirlwind and fiery horses and chariots. Elisha cried out, “*My father, my father, the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof!*” This was Elisha's mournful cry that Israel's true protector and _____ was being taken away, not only from him, but from his nation. As he ascended, Elijah dropped his mantle, leaving his student the way that he found him years before – with his mantle around his shoulders.
6. (2 Ki. 2:14-15) After the grand scene, Elisha took up his master's mantle and returned to the Jordan river where he cried out “*Where is the LORD God of Elijah!*” as he smote the water as his master did.
- (a) This was Elisha's way of pleading for the LORD to _____ his ministry as he did his master's.
- (b) The dividing of the water showed Elisha, and the other observers, that Elisha indeed was _____ with carrying on his master's prophetic ministry.

Application

7. At their first meeting, Elisha wanted to say his goodbyes before leaving to follow Elijah. How is the situation similar and different than the one mentioned in Luke 9:59-62 and Matt. 8:21-22? _____
- _____

Notes: _____

Answer Key: Key word(s): “man of God” • 1. Baal-zebub; a) die; b) Elijah • 2. wrath; a) humility; b) Jehoram • 3. judgments • 4. souls • 5. We should act lovingly and patiently and bless when we are cursed.

How to use this worksheet for personal Bible study: (1) Read the Bible passage given in the **Story Elements** section. (2) Read through the worksheet and try to fill in the blanks without looking at the **Answer Key**. (3) Check your answers with the key and make the necessary corrections. Keep in mind that some answers are a matter of opinion, and often more than one answer is correct. (4) Write down your own thoughts, applications, and questions for further study in the **Notes** section.

¹ Jamieson, Robert, A. R. Fausset, and David Brown. *Commentary Critical and Explanatory on the Whole Bible*. Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997. Print.