

Life-Study of 1 and 2 Kings Summaries - Messages 12-16

The Rapture of Elijah

Elijah and Elisha are both types with much spiritual significance. **Elijah is a type of the Old Testament age, and Elisha is a type of the New Testament age.** The age was changed by passing through four places. **Gilgal** was a place where God's people **dealt with their flesh**. **Bethel** is the place to give up the world and **turn to God absolutely**, taking God as everything. **Jericho** signifies the head of **God's enemy, Satan**. The **River Jordan** signifies **death**; their crossing using Elijah's mantle, the outpoured Spirit, signifies dealing with the river of death for Elijah and Elisha to cross over. In order for the age to be changed from the Old Testament to the New Testament, we must deal with our flesh, give up the world and turn to God, defeat Satan, and pass through death.

After Elijah was taken up, Elisha gained the double portion of the spirit of Elijah. The Spirit, who at Elijah's time performed great miracles such as shutting up the heavens, acted in a different way through Elisha. Elisha behaved in a way which was very similar to that of the Lord Jesus in the Gospels, doing many gracious and sweet things. Elijah's rapture typified the termination of the Old Testament age in God's economy. **We are now in the age of the New Testament of Christ, who did and is still doing everything graciously.**

Elisha's Ministry of Grace

Elisha was a type of Christ in doing miracles of grace in life. Grace is God doing everything for us by giving Himself to us as our enjoyment. This grace issues in the divine life, which is rich and high, even unto making us co-kings with Christ. Elisha healing the bad water at Jericho signifies the changing of death in to life. This is the governing principle of all the Lord's miracles in the Gospel of John. Next, Elisha called the things not being as being. Elisha also resurrected the dead from death. The Lord Jesus has resurrected millions of persons, including us. This is grace resulting in life unto the reigning in life as kings. Elisha nullified the poison of the wild gourds with flour and healed leprosy. Elisha floated with a wooden stick and axe head signifies Christ recovering with His cross, in resurrection, the power of sinners that had fallen into the death water.

In his ministry Elisha the prophet, as the man of God, behaved himself as God's representative, as the acting God, on the earth. As believers in Christ, we can be the same.

Types in the Books of Kings

In reading the history of the kings and considering what is portrayed by the types, the main thing we can see is division. Division comes out of people's ambition, the desire to be higher than others, to be the head, the ruler, and the king of the people. **In serving the Lord in the Body of Christ, our heart must be single and pure.** (Life-Study of 1 and 2 Kings – Messages 12-16).