

Old Testament 29
He Took Up...the Mantle of Elijah
(1 Kings 19; 2 Kings 2; 4-6; 8-9; 13)
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(This lesson shows how Elijah and Elisha **together** foreshadowed first (1) our latter-day work of preparing for Christ's Return and (2) Christ's Second Coming itself).

I. Elisha's life also had great meaning for us.

A. While Elisha as a real Biblical person has not played the same important role as Elijah did in restoring essential keys, **he was very important as a prophetic witness of the Savior and of His Second Coming.**

B. This is evidenced by the fact he not only performed all the miracles that Elijah performed, but **he performed many that exceeded those of Elijah.**

II. Elisha, coming after Elijah, taught of the wonders which will occur at Christ's Second Coming. (Remember that the physical works of Elisha's life cannot parallel exactly Christ's. Elisha's life could *only pre-figure* Christ's far more glorious acts. However, notice **that Elisha is credited with many works which can actually only be done by Jesus the Christ.**)

A. Elisha possessed a "double portion of [God's] spirit (2 Kings 2:9). (According to ancient Israelite law, **the birthright bearer received a double portion of the inheritance.** We know that Jesus Christ is the true "birthright bearer" of God's inheritance and that Jesus' spiritual powers far exceed that of any other mortal).

B. Elisha was Master of twelve yoke of oxen (1 Kings 19:19-21). (Jesus Christ is the **Master of Israel, symbolized by twelve oxen.** Elisha was said to have fed the people with the flesh of his oxen (v. 21). **Christ is nourishing all of mankind through His servants in Israel. This will occur even more openly in the Millennium).**

C. Elisha healed polluted waters, saying "I have healed these waters; there shall not be from thence anymore death or barren land" (2 Kings 2:21). (Waters throughout the world are terribly polluted now, even with nuclear fuel. It is gratifying to know that when Christ comes He is promising He will cleanse the polluted waters of the earth! More importantly, all Death and Drought will cease. Pure spiritual waters will also flow forth).

D. Elisha replaced poisonous food (2 Kings 4:39-41). (Christ will provide pure nourishment, **both physically and spiritually.** He will also destroy all wickedness that poisons the minds of people).

E. Elisha made life-giving oil "*never failing, especially for a widow. (Christ will bring never ending spiritual nourishment to all, especially once-widowed Israel)*" (2 Kings 4:1-7).

F. As Jesus did in His mortal life, Elisha multiplied small amounts of food into foods that would serve many, leaving much left over (2 Kings 8:42-44). (In the Millennium, there will no longer be any hunger. All shall be blessed with plenty, physically and spiritually).

G. Elisha restored life to one dead (2 Kings 4:8-37). **And, in fact, because of his death, another was brought back to life** (2 Kings 13:20-21). (Obviously, Christ's death and resurrection brought life to all others. **At His coming all the dead will arise.**)

III. Elisha's healing of Naaman from leprosy (2 Kings 5:1-14), has far deeper meaning than we realize. This event is most often given as an example of obedience, which is good. But it is also a story that testifies of the spiritually healing powers to be found in Israel through Christ's servants. **For it shows that sin and death, [symbolized by leprosy], can be cured only in the waters of Israel. This begins with baptism, but goes far beyond that.** For we should not overlook the description of that cleansing. His "flesh came again like unto the flesh of a little child" (v. 14). This is a witness of Jesus Christ, who is the ultimate fountain of Israel's living waters. He can wash away sin and death, restoring repentant men's flesh to that of a little child. But most particularly, **He will raise rotted flesh to a newness of life through the Resurrection. He will do this for believing Gentiles as well as for Israel.**

IV. Particularly powerful are several events which reveal what will happen at Christ's Second Coming.

- A. One of the most significant stories deals with Elisha when the enemies of Israel surround them. And Elisha's servant cries, "Alas, my master! How shall we do?" But Elisha's marvelous reply was, "Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them. And Elisha prayed, and said, Lord, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the Lord opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha" (2 Kings 6:16-17).

We should keep this in mind when we have our own trials. The Hosts of Heaven always surround us, ready to come to our aid, though in more subtle ways.

But we should also remember, from later, clearer prophecy, that in the very last days Israel will be surrounded by her enemies, whereby the Lord will suddenly appear with the hosts of heaven, and Israel will be delivered (Revelation 19:11-21). (And this prophecy applies to both branches of Israel).

- B. Another powerful witness of Christ, given through Elisha, relates to the overthrow of Jezebel (2 Kings 9:22-37).

Immoral Jezebel accused a vineyard's owner of blasphemy, then slew him, so she could grasp his vineyard. Christ showed how this very situation fit Himself. Just before His death He told the parable of the wicked husbandman, wherein a vineyard's heir was slain so that coveters could seize it for themselves (Matt. 21:33-41). Thus He spoke of those who coveted His kingdom, and would accuse Him of blasphemy and slay Him so that they could inherit it. And they did.

John's "Revelation" also relates this truth to Christ and describes the fall of the great whore (Extending the similitude/parable to all corrupt powers which obtained control over Christ's Kingdom after His death. Revelation 17-18). At Christ's coming, He will take back control of His Kingdom from any who have unrighteously usurped it!)

- C. Dogs ate Jezebel's flesh after her fall. The great harlot in Revelation suffers a similar fate after her fall (Revelation 17:16). (At Christ's coming those who claim to act in His name but are *false* ministers, will be removed).

V. **Elisha receives the mantle of authority** from Elijah (2 Kings 2:13-14).

A. Latter-day Saints should recognize these prophecies are another witness that the keys of the kingdom will be given up to Adam, and then from Adam to Christ upon His

return.

Summary: Both Elijah and Elisha were great prophets. But **their very lives were also prophetic, especially as seen together**. Here is an overview of those lives taken together, and the prophetic meaning, so the parallels can be seen more clearly.

Elijah the forerunner: His life prophesied of the ministry of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in preparing for Christ's Second Coming, by:

- Being nourished by the Holy Ghost in our work.
- Leading people back to the True God at newly restored altars.
- Turning the hearts of the Children back to God and to the promises made to their Fathers, that is, the promises of the Abrahamic Covenant.
- Spiritually visiting and nourishing "widowed Israel" and the fatherless of Israel.
- Redeeming the Dead.
- Spiritually sealing families in the Heavens.

Elisha, witnessed of the Savior who Will Come Next. His Second Coming will occur in these ways as shown:

- He will suddenly appear with great Hosts of Heaven to deliver His faithful who are surrounded by their enemies.
- He will overthrow the great harlot.
- He will make pure the waters and heal the land that it bear no more death nor barrenness.
- The nourishment He brings will be clean, spiritually nourishing, and never-ending.
- He will cleanse the unclean.
- The dead will arise at His coming.
- At His coming, all prophets will give unto Him their mantle of authority, and He will reign supreme.

All these marvelous parallels should cause us to have great hope and rejoice!