



19-Minute Bible Study

2 Kings 2

VERY IMPORTANT CHAPTERS

Genesis 1	Creation
Genesis 2	Marriage
Genesis 3	Fall into Sin
Genesis 4	Cain and Abel
Genesis 6-9	The Flood (2)
Genesis 11	Tower of Babel
Genesis 12	Abraham
Genesis 19	Sodom and Gomorrah
Genesis 22	Abraham Tested
Genesis 28	Jacob's Ladder
Genesis 37	Joseph's Coat of Many Colors
Genesis 41	Joseph Rules
Exodus 2	The Baby Moses
Exodus 3,4	The Burning Bush
Exodus 12	The Passover
Exodus 20	The Ten Commandments
Joshua 6	Jericho's Walls Come Tumbling Down
1 Sam. 17	David and Goliath
2 Sam. 11,12	David and Bathsheba (2)
1 Kings 3	Solomon's Wisdom
2 Kings 2	Chariots of Fire
Psalms 23	The "Good Shepherd" Psalm
Psalms 121	The "Hills" Psalm
Isaiah 53	Christ Our Substitute
Matthew 5-7	The Sermon on the Mount (2)
Matthew 18	Church Discipline
Luke 2	Christmas
Luke 10	The Good Samaritan
Luke 15	The "Lost" Chapter
Luke 19	Palm Sunday
Luke 22,23	Maundy Thursday/ Good Friday (2)
Luke 24	Easter
John 2	Jesus' First Miracle
John 17	Christ's High-Priestly Prayer
Acts 1	Ascension
Acts 2	Pentecost
Acts 9	Saul's Conversion
Acts 16	Paul in Philippi
Romans 3	Righteous through Faith
Romans 8	More than Conquerors
Romans 13	Government
1 Corin. 13	"Agape Love" Chapter
1 Corin. 15	Paul's Great "Resurrection" Chapter
Ephesians 5	Marriage
2 Thess. 2	The Antichrist
Hebrews 11	Heroes of Faith
2 Peter 3	Christ's Second Coming
Rev. 21	Heaven

Eight and a half centuries before the birth of Christ, God sent the prophets Elijah and his successor, Elisha, to minister to the people of Israel. This was a time when God's people had fallen into great apostasy. Because the apostasy was so grave and persistent, God empowered his prophets to perform great miracles to demonstrate that their message was indeed from the Lord himself. Second Kings 2 is the account of Elijah's last day on earth and the confirmation of Elisha as his successor.

"When the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. ²Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; the LORD has sent me to Bethel." But Elisha said, "As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. ³The company of the prophets at Bethel came out to Elisha and asked, "Do you know that the LORD is going to take your master from you today?" "Yes, I know," Elisha replied, "but do not speak of it." ⁴Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here, Elisha; the LORD has sent me to Jericho." And he replied, "As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you." So they went to Jericho. ⁵The company of the prophets at Jericho went up to Elisha and asked him, "Do you know that the LORD is going to take your master from you today?" "Yes, I know," he replied, "but do not speak of it." ⁶Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; the LORD has sent me to the Jordan." And he replied, "As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you." So the two of them walked on. ⁷Fifty men of the company of the prophets went and stood at a distance, facing the place where Elijah and Elisha had stopped at the Jordan. ⁸Elijah took his cloak, rolled it up and struck the water with it. The water divided to the right and to the left, and the two of them crossed over on dry ground. ⁹When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me, what can I do for you before I am taken from you?" "Let me inherit a double portion of your

spirit," Elisha replied. ¹⁰"You have asked a difficult thing," Elijah said, "yet if you see me when I am taken from you, it will be yours—otherwise not." ¹¹As they were walking along and talking together, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated the two of them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind. ¹²Elisha saw this and cried out, "My father! My father! The chariots and horsemen of Israel!" And Elisha saw him no more. Then he took hold of his own clothes and tore them apart. ¹³He picked up the cloak that had fallen from Elijah and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. ¹⁴Then he took the cloak that had fallen from him and struck the water with it. "Where now is the LORD, the God of Elijah?" he asked. When he struck the water, it divided to the right and to the left, and he crossed over. ¹⁵The company of the prophets from Jericho, who were watching, said, "The spirit of Elijah is resting on Elisha." And they went to meet him and bowed to the ground before him. ¹⁶"Look," they said, "we your servants have fifty able men. Let them go and look for your master. Perhaps the Spirit of the LORD has picked him up and set him down on some mountain or in some valley." "No," Elisha replied, "do not sent them." ¹⁷But they persisted until he was too ashamed to refuse. So he said, "Send them." And they sent fifty men, who searched for three days but did not find him. ¹⁸When they returned to Elisha, who was staying in Jericho, he said to them, "Didn't I tell you not to go?"

1. How did Elijah and Elisha demonstrate the strong feelings they had for each other and the close relationship they shared?

2. How did Elisha express his sorrow over Elijah's departure? Can such sorrow on the part of God's people ever become sinful? If so, when?

3. In asking for *a double portion of [Elijah's] spirit*, Elisha was asking to be Elijah's successor, the leader in the ministry of the prophets. How did God confirm that he had indeed chosen Elisha to be Elijah's successor?

4. In what way(s) is every believer's departure from this earthly life like that of Elijah's? In what way(s) is it different?

5. By training a successor, Elisha, and various other prophets, Elijah saw to it that the Lord's work would continue after he was gone. What provisions might we make as a synod so that the Lord's work will continue? What provisions might we make as a congregation? as individuals?

Closing Prayer:

Lord God, because of Jesus our Savior, we look forward without fear to the day when we will depart this life, knowing that it will be the day when we will enter the eternal pleasures of heaven. Until that day, move us to support faithfully and to work diligently on behalf of the ministry of the gospel. Amen.

Helps

(1) Knowing that the sight of his own departure would cause Elisha pain, Elijah tried to persuade Elisha to stay behind. Elisha, however, refused, wanting to be with Elijah as long as possible. (2) Elisha's sorrow was so deep that he could not bear to speak to the companies of prophets about Elijah's departure. He also demonstrated his deep sorrow by tearing his clothes. Believers' sorrow can become sinful when, as Saint Paul said in 1 Thessalonians 4:13, they grieve like unbelievers *who have no hope*. (3) God confirmed that Elisha was the leader of the prophets and Elijah's successor by empowering him to perform miracles. (4) While all believers, unlike Elijah, will experience physical death, their departure from this earthly life is no less glorious an event. Through Jesus, the Savior, they can look forward to the day of their death with joy, confidence, and anticipation, knowing that Christ has made death the door to heaven. (5) Various answers might be given, among them the following: continued support of the WELS worker training program; support of youth ministries; encouraging our youth to consider the full-time ministry; congregational scholarship funds for those training for the ministry; enhancing our personal, congregational, and synod-wide ministries of outreach.