**“Where now is the God of Elijah” New Hope Fellowship P. Joshua Brunette 3.1.2023**

**Key Scripture #2 1st Kings 19: 9-21**

1. **Elijah was discouraged in the wilderness, Elijah had finished His mission successfully.**

9There Elijah entered a cave and spent the night. And the word of the LORD came to him, saying, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”10“I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of Hosts,” he replied, “but the Israelites have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I am the only one left, and they are seeking my life as well.”

11Then the LORD said, “Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD. Behold, the LORD is about to pass by. “And a great and mighty wind tore into the mountains and shattered the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake.12After the earthquake there was a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire.

And after the fire came a still, small voice. 13When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave. Suddenly a voice came to him and said, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”14“I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of Hosts,” he replied, “but the **Israelites have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I am the only one left, and they are seeking my life as well.”**

1. **God corrects Elijah gently in the wilderness as He reveals His sovereign plan for Israel to His prophet.**

15Then the LORD said to him, **“Go back by the way you came,** and go to the Desert of Damascus. When you arrive, you are to anoint Hazael as king over Aram. 16You are also to anoint Jehu sonc of Nimshi as king over Israel and Elisha son of Shaphat from Abel-meholah to succeed you as prophet.17Then Jehu will put to death whoever escapes the sword of Hazael, and Elisha will put to death whoever escapes the sword of Jehu. **18Nevertheless, I have reserved seven thousand in Israel**—all whose knees have not bowed to Baald and whose mouths have not kissed him.”

1. **God’s chosen successor (Elisha), burnt the way of returning to a life of ordinary. Sometimes we have to burn our bridges of return. Elisha wasn’t planning on returning**

19So Elijah departed and found Elisha son of Shaphat. He was plowing with twelve teams of oxen, and he was with the twelfth team. Elijah passed by him and threw his cloak around him. 20So Elisha left the oxen, ran after Elijah, and said, “Please let me kiss my father and mother goodbye, and then I will follow you.” “Go on back,” Elijah replied, “for what have I done to you?” 21So Elisha turned back from him, took his pair of oxen, **and slaughtered them.** With the **oxen’s equipment, he cooked the meat and gave it to the people, and they ate.** Then he set out to **follow and serve Elijah.**

**Key Scripture #2 2nd Kings 2: 1-18**

1. **God will test our hearts in Transition to see if we will fulfill our desires or His.**

1Shortly before the LORD took Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal, 2and Elijah said to Elisha, **“Please stay here, for the LORD has sent me on to Bethel.”** But Elisha replied, “As surely as the LORD lives and as you yourself live, **I will not leave you.”**

So they went down to Bethel.3Then the sons of the prophets at Bethel came out to Elisha and said, “Do you know that the LORD will take your master away from you today? ”Yes, I know,” he replied. **“Do not speak of it.**”4And Elijah said to Elisha, **“Please stay here, for the LORD has sent me on to Jericho.** “But Elisha replied, **“As surely as the LORD lives and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.”**

So they went to Jericho. 5Then the sons of the prophets at Jericho came up to Elisha and said, “Do you know that the LORD will take your master away from you today?” **“Yes, I know,” he replied. “Do not speak of it.**

1. **Elisha doesn’t focus on what He is losing, He focuses on what He is about to gain**

6And Elijah said to Elisha, **“Please stay here, for the LORD has sent me on to the Jordan.”** But Elisha replied, “As surely as the LORD lives and as you yourself live**, I will not leave you.”** So the two of them went on.

1. **Elisha refuses Elijah’s request 3 times to stay behind, to remain in a comfortable place, to leave the ministry.**

7Then a company of fifty of the sons of the prophets went and stood at a distance, facing Elijah and Elisha as the two of them stood by the Jordan. 8And Elijah took his cloak, rolled it up, and struck the waters, which parted to the right and to the left, so that the two of them crossed over on dry ground. 9After they had crossed over, Elijah said to Elisha, **“Tell me, what can I do for you before I am taken away from you?”**

1. **Elisha asks to not only replace Elijah but to go further than Elijah. God doesn’t want us to only do what was accomplished but to expand His Kingdom even further.**

**“Please, let me inherit a double portion of your spirit,”** Elisha replied. 10“You have requested **a difficult thing,” said Elijah.**

1. **Elijah did valiant things for the Lord, the Holy Spirit anointed Elijah to do the work He was called to do. To go further would cost Elisha as well, He would have to deny himself as Elijah did. Elijah says it will be possible. We know all things are possible through God!**

“Nevertheless, if you see me as I am taken from you, it will be yours. But if not, then it will not be so.”11As they were walking along and talking together, suddenly a chariot of fire with horses of fire appeared and **separated the two of them,** and Elijah went up into heaven in a whirlwind.

**Elijah is taken from Elisha**

12As Elisha watched, he cried out, “**My father, my father,** the chariots and horsemen of Israel!” And he saw Elijah no more. So taking hold of his own clothes, he tore them in two. 13Elisha also picked up the cloak that had fallen from Elijah, and he went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. 14Then he took the cloak of Elijah that had fallen from him and struck the waters. **“Where now is the LORD, the God of Elijah?” he asked.**

1. **Behold the confidence of God’s servants. “Where now is the Lord the God of Elijah” Elisha knows what He is doing, He knows God responds to the prophets of Israel. Elisha is confident because He knows who God is and He knows the mission that is at hand.**

And when he had struck the waters, they parted to the right and to the left, and Elisha crossed over. Elisha Succeeds Elijah 15When the sons of the prophets who were facing him from Jericho saw what had happened, they said, **“The spirit of Elijah rests on Elisha.”** And they went to meet him and bowed down to the ground before him.

1. **The Spirit of Elijah & Elisha is The Holy Spirit who is now present here. Each person must choose to follow God even when those we have learned from leave us.**

16“Look now,” they said to Elisha, “we your servants have fifty valiant men. Please let them go and search for your master. Perhaps the Spirit of the LORD has taken him up and put him on one of the mountains or in one of the valleys.” **“Do not send them,” Elisha replied.**

17But when they pressed him to the point of embarrassment, he said, “Send them.” And they sent fifty men, who searched for three days **but did not find Elijah**. 18When they returned to Elisha, who was staying in Jericho, he said to them, “Didn’t I tell you not to go?”

1. **Do not look for God in the past, What He has promised is in the future, you must travel onward to receive it all. God equipped Elijah for His ministry. God Equipped Elisha differently for His ministry.**
2. **Why Did God take Elijah?** God worked so wonderfully through Elijah, and God probably will return Elijah as one of the two witnesses in Revelation. However, it is also possible that if God did not take Elijah the people would have turned Elijah into an idol as they were still seeking Him even after God took Him into Heaven.

**Conclusion: The God of Elijah and**