

LIFE OF ELIJAH: A Study by Bill Jones

“The End of the Journey”

(2 Kings 1 and 2)

I. The Word of God clearly delivered.

(2 Kings 1:1-8)

A. God uses our circumstances to get our attention.

(2 Kings 1:1-2)

B. Seeking wisdom apart from God is a vain effort.

(2 Kings 1:2, 1 Corinthians 3:18-20, James 1:5-8)

C. God is displeased with any occult involvement.

(2 Kings 1:2-4, Leviticus 19:31, 20:6,27, Deuteronomy 18:9-15, Matthew 12:22-28, 1 Corinthians 10:19-21)

D. God is dishonored with any specific pursuit of the future not sourced in His Word.

(1 Samuel 28:3-25, 1 Chronicles 10:13-14, Isaiah 47:11-14, Jeremiah 10:1-2)

II. The Word of God is challenged and defied.

(2 Kings 1:9-12, Deuteronomy 4:24, 9:3, Galatians 6:7-8, Hebrews 10:31, 12:29)

A. Others are affected when one person sins.

(2 Kings 1:10,12, 1 Corinthians 12:26)

B. Defiance toward God and failure to repent always results in judgment.

(2 Kings 1:9-12, Luke 13:1-5,6-9)

III. The Word of God is embraced and vindicated.

(2 Kings 1:13-17a)

A. So often we appeal to God with words and self-justification, when we should appeal to Him for mercy.

(Luke 18:9-14)

B. God honors humility.

(2 Kings 1:13-15, 2 Chronicles 7:14, 33:12-13, Psalm 51:17, Jeremiah 18:7-10, Joel 2:13, Matthew 23:12, Luke 13:6-9)

C. God is delighted when we turn to His Word and trust Him alone.

(2 Kings 1:15, Proverbs 3:5-8, Ephesians 6:10-17)

IV. The Journey and its analogy to our Christian journey.

(2 Kings 2:1-6)

A. First Gilgal.

1. Place of beginnings.

(Joshua 4:19-24, 1 Samuel 11:15, 13:14-15)

2. Place of security and safety.

B. Second Bethel.

1. Place of the altar.

(Genesis 12:8, 13:3-4, 28:10-22, 35:6-7)

2. Place of worship.

(Judges 20:26)

3. Place of surrender.

C. Third Jericho.

1. Place of battle or attack.

(Joshua 6)

2. Place of memories.

D. Fourth the Jordan River.

1. Place of endings.

2. Place of death.

V. It takes total commitment to serve the Lord and complete the journey.

(2 Kings 2:2,4,6, Matthew 16:24-27, Mark 8:34-35, 10:28-31, Luke 9:23-26, 14:25-33, John 12:25-26)

VI. Don't be afraid to ask big things of God along the way.

(2 Kings 2:9, Deuteronomy 21:17, Matthew 7:7-8, Luke 11:9-10, John 14:13-14, 15:16, Ephesians 3:20, James 4:2, 1 John 3:21-22, 5:14-15)

VII. During the journey our eyes must be focused on God to be empowered by Him.

(2 Kings 2:10, Romans 6:2,11, 1 Peter 2:24)

VIII. If our hearts are fully His, God's power is at work in us in all aspects of our life's journey.

(2 Kings 2:11, 2 Chronicles 16:9, Philippians 2:13)

IX. Though one journey ends, a new journey begins and God's kingdom endures forever.

(2 Kings 2:13-14, Psalm 9:7, 102:12 Daniel 4:3, Hebrews 12:28-29, 1 Peter 1:25, 2 Peter 1:10-11)

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For further study:

What three character traits of the prophet Elijah would you like to emulate in your personal walk with God and in your ministry to others?

Other Old Testament references to Elijah:

(2 Chronicles 21:12-15, Malachi 4:5-6)

Elijah in the New Testament:

(Matthew 11:13-14, 17:1-13, Mark 1:2-8, 9:2-13, Luke 1:13-17, 9:28-36, 54-56, John 1:19-21, Romans 11:2-6, James 5:17-18, Revelation 11:1-14)

Matthew 11:11

“Greater than John”

John in the spirit and power of Elijah. (Luke 1:17)

So we can have the power of Elijah if we are least. (James 5:17)

James 5:16

“Prayer that is energized.” Hebrew literally means “worked in.”

Secrets to Elijah’s power: a life of prayer and humble submission to the Holy Spirit.

We can experience this power. (Ephesians 3:20-21)

We must pray according to His will not according to our own selfish motives.

(James 4:2-3, 1 John 5:14-15)

The more we search the Word of God, the more we will discover the will of God.

Zechariah 4 and Revelation 11 may refer to Elijah and Moses.

Walter Kaiser

“Look at Elijah. He was generally regarded as a rustic, unkempt, unpolished man from the hills of Transjordan. He too had weaknesses, often in the very places where we are weak. He too was tempted with similar desires and passions as our own. He too knew what it meant to fail and to fail royally in front of the wicked queen herself. Yet that is not where he left the matter. Because God was strong in him, he rose to check the rising tide of idolatry. He found the strength and the purpose in life to go on in spite of his natural timidity. He trained a successor who accomplished every bit as much as he was able to do in his own lifetime. He trained more future disciples, teachers, and prophets in the colleges that he opened for teaching than any other Old Testament worthy.”

General notes:

Elijah was “a man of God.” (1 Kings 17:24, 2 Kings 1:9,11,13)

Elijah “served the living God.” (1 Kings 17:1, 18:15)

Elijah was a man of prayer. Every major miracle associated with Elijah’s life was also associated with prayer. His prayers were always with pure motives.

Rain stopping and starting. (James 5:17-18)

Healing the widow’s son. (1 Kings 17:17-23)

Fire on Mt. Carmel. (1 Kings 18:36-37)

Elijah was a man of God’s Word.

Each time God told Elijah to do something, he responded.

The ravine of Kerith

1 Kings 17:2 “The the word of the Lord came to Elijah.”

17:5 “So he did what the Lord had told him.”

The widow in Zarephath

1 Kings 17:8 “Then the word of the Lord came to him.”

17:10 “So he went.”

The confrontation with Ahab

1 Kings 18:1 “Then the word of the Lord came to Elijah.”

18:2 “So Elijah went.”

The call of Elisha

1 Kings 19:15 “The Lord said to him.”

19:19 “So Elijah went.”

The messengers of King Ahaziah

2 Kings 1:3 “But the angel of the Lord said to Elijah.”

1:4 “So Elijah went.”

The confrontation with King Ahaziah

2 Kings 1:15 “The angel of the Lord said to Elijah.”

1:15 “So Elijah got up and went.”