

## **God's Plans Always Come Together**

### **1 Kings 19:15-21**

15 Then the LORD said to him: "Go, return on your way to the Wilderness of Damascus; and when you arrive, anoint Hazael as king over Syria. 16 Also you shall anoint Jehu the son of Nimshi as king over Israel. And Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel Meholah you shall anoint as prophet in your place. 17 It shall be that whoever escapes the sword of Hazael, Jehu will kill; and whoever escapes the sword of Jehu, Elisha will kill. 18 Yet I have reserved seven thousand in Israel, all whose knees have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."

19 So he departed from there, and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen before him, and he was with the twelfth. Then Elijah passed by him and threw his mantle on him. 20 And he left the oxen and ran after Elijah, and said, "Please let me kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow you." And he said to him, "Go back again, for what have I done to you?" 21 So Elisha turned back from him, and took a yoke of oxen and slaughtered them and boiled their flesh, using the oxen's equipment, and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he arose and followed Elijah, and became his servant. NKJV

Do you remember that silly show that used to be on TV, The A-Team. I loved it when we came to that inevitable point in the show where Hannibal Smith would say, "I love it when a plan comes together." Each week they were the underdog in the proverbial contest. Out numbered and out gunned until things just seem to fall into place. Of course that is because the writers wrote the scrip that way.

Well in life, I hate to have to say it but there is another script writer. It is not that the Writer controls the actors but rather that in His infinite knowledge and wisdom, He knows what everyone is going to do. All He has to do is to tweak the script a little to bring the contest to His desired conclusion.

That is what Elijah had forgotten. Elijah ended up under the broom tree because first he thought that he was in charge and then he thought that Jezebel was in charge but he would find out that God was still in charge. And God had 7,000 faithful men.

Our biggest problem with all this is we wonder why God allows some things. Why does he allow Hamas to shoot hundreds of rockets into Israel? Why does He allow Russia to invade the Ukraine? Why does He allow ISIS to kill so many innocent people? Why does He allow our political system to destroy our nation?

God always has the option to intervene in the affairs of mankind but He also is not required to intervene. It is the same in the Bible as now. Sometimes God intervened and saved the people while at other times there was not salvation.

In the life of Elijah, God was going to intervene. He was going to vindicate His prophet and utterly destroy those who opposed Elijah.

So because I have determined to only spend a month on each character, we will be finishing up on Elijah today. But you read the whole story. Just read 1 Kings 18 - 2 Kings 2.

## I. A New Assignment

### A. There are always new assignments.

1. No matter how much or how often His servants fail Him, God is never at a loss to know what to do. Our job is to obey His Word and get up and do it!  
*Bible Exposition Commentary (BE Series) - Old Testament.*
2. And if you don't have any new assignments, then God might just take you home.

### B. What God will do.

1. He will anoint a new king of Syria.
  - a. God's right to rule goes beyond Israel.
  - b. Acts 17: 24 "God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. 25 "Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things. 26 "And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings.
  - c. Dan. 2:20 Daniel answered and said: "Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, For wisdom and might are His. 21 And He changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings and raises up kings;
  - d. So Hazael will reign in the place of Ben-Hadad, king of Syria, the long time enemy of Israel. 2 Kings 8
2. He will anoint a new king over Israel.
  - a. In the intervening chapters Ahab is killed in battle, his son Ahaziah reigned in his place but was wounded in battle.
  - b. Jehu, one of the commanders of his army, is anointed king over Israel. 2 Kings 9.
  - c. According to Elijah's prophecy, Jehu destroys all the descendants of Ahab and also fulfills Elijah's prophecy against Jezebel.
  - d. He also destroys all the worshipers of Baal and effectively brings a halt to Baal worship in Israel.

## II. A New Prophet

### A. There must be a successor.

1. No one generation can do everything, but each generation must see to it

that people in the next generation are called and trained and that the tools are made available for them to continue the work of the Lord. *Bible Exposition Commentary (BE Series) - Old Testament.*

2. Churches do not have to die. They die when they unconsciously decide to die. They never get out from under the Juniper Tree.

B. God picked Elisha to be the successor of Elijah.

### III. Still Used by God

A. But God was not done with Elijah.

1. God will use us as long as we are usable.
2. God will use us as long as we are willing.

B. He will once again confront Ahab concerning the murder of Naboth and his family so that king Ahab could have his land. 1 Kings 21

C. He is still used to confront Ahaziah for not seeking the Lord. 2 Kings 1

D. He calls fire from heaven to destroy those who would harm him.

### IV. Taken Home - 2 Kings 2

A. Elijah does not die.

1. Everyone you know either has died or will die.
2. Only Enoch and Elijah are exceptions to that rule.
3. What a blessed relationship he had with the Lord.

B. Elisha is present.

1. He is allowed to be the only witness.
2. The angels with their chariots of fire descend and take Elijah alive into heaven.
  - a. 2 Kings 2:11 Then it happened, as they continued on and talked, that suddenly a chariot of fire appeared with horses of fire, and separated the two of them; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. NKJV
3. No pains of death will close in on him.
4. The mantle of Elijah falls to Elisha
5. He strikes the waters of the Jordan and they part allowing Elisha to cross over.

### V. Elijah's future.

- A. Will he return?
  - 1. Mal 4:5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD.
  - 2. The ministry is not over.
- B. God is not done with you yet.
  - 1. He has some eternal plans for you.
  - 2. It will be great.