

Beyond Anything in the Past



David Wilkerson (1931-2011) October 23, 2018

As the old prophet Elijah pondered his last day on earth, he invited his servant, Elisha, to go along with him as he visited the towns of Bethel and Jericho. On this “teaching journey,” they arrived at the bank of the Jordan River where Elijah removed his mantle — a wide, loose-fitting garment or gown — and smote the water with it. Supernaturally, the waters parted and the two men crossed over on dry ground (see 2 Kings 2:8).

On the other side of the river, Elijah turned to his servant and said, “Ask! What may I do for you, before I am taken away from you?” (2 Kings 2:9). Without hesitation, the younger man replied, “Please let a double portion of your spirit be upon me” (same verse).

Elijah appeared surprised by Elisha’s response: “You have asked a hard thing. Nevertheless, if you see me when I am taken from you, it shall be so for you; but if not, it shall not be so” (2:10). Elijah was saying, “If you see me as the Lord is taking me away, your desire will be fulfilled, but if you miss the action, you’ll have to go home disappointed.”

As they walked, suddenly a chariot appeared out of heaven and in a flash, Elijah was taken up. Elisha witnessed the whole scene and he cried out, “My father, my father, the chariot of Israel and its horsemen!” (2:12). Elijah was gone but his mantle dropped to the ground. Elisha picked it up and placed it on his own back. Then he returned to the Jordan and did just as his master had done: he struck the water with the mantle and immediately the waters parted and he walked over on dry ground. Thus began the young prophet’s remarkable ministry.

What does this passage have to say to us today? I believe God wants to do greater things with each succeeding generation. He wants to perform miracles and provide more of his Spirit for his people beyond anything seen in the past. He longs for us to prepare our hearts and see the Lord do a new thing in these last days.

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