



The Test of Transitions • Part 1

Lesson 25 • 2Kings 2

2Kings 1	2Kings 2	2Kings 3
The LORD Is TRUST-Worthy!	The LORD's Prophet Is LOYAL but Not Sinless!	The LORD's Word Will WIN in the End!!
REMAIN LOYAL in TIMES of APOSTASY!		

Two Facts About Elijah's Translation

FACT #1 It Was a Time of TENSION for God's People.

- Elijah was **GOING UP**: *Would God and His blessings leave with him?*

Elijah takes a "Farewell Tour" that is a **REVERSAL** of the Conquest by Joshua and Israel.
*He and Elisha travel from **Gilgal** to **Bethel** to **Jericho** to the other side of the **Jordan**— after parting the waters and walking across on dry land!*

- Elisha was **STEPPING UP**: *Would God and His blessings be with him like they were with Elijah?*

Elisha Retraces Their Steps and **RETURNS** with Elijah's Mantle and a Double Portion of His Spirit.
*Elisha retraces their steps from the other side of the Jordan—after parting the waters and walking across on dry land—to **Jericho** to **Bethel** and then on to **Mount Carmel** and back to **Samaria**.*

FACT #2 It Was a Time of TRANSITION for God's People.

- As godly as Elijah was as a **MAN** of God, he was not *indispensable*. *1Kings 19:15-18*
- As great as Elijah was as a **PROPHET** of God, he was not *irreplaceable*. *1Kings 19:19-21*
- As glorious as Elijah's translation was, the LORD's **PRESENCE** in the transition was *more desirable*.

"Where is the LORD, the God of Elijah?" 2Kings 2:14

Three Truths About Times of Transition

TRUTH #1 Transitions Always Test Our LOYALTY to the LORD

Who Do We Trust **MORE**: *The Man of God or the God of the Man?*

TRUTH #2 Transitions Are Times of TESTING for God's people.

*The Lord uses them to **test** our loyalty **TO HIM** above all others, while the Enemy uses them to **tempt** us to question the Lord's loyalty **TO US**.*

Four Responses in Times of Transition

1. We Can Be DISTANT Observers Like the Sons of the Prophets.

- Taking a **WAIT-AND-SEE** approach. *(3-7)*
- Seeking to **BRING BACK** the past. *(15-18)*

2. We Can Be SELFISH Consumers Like the Citizens of Jericho.

- Wanting the LORD's BLESSINGS more than LORD Himself. (19-21)
- Failing to see transitions as opportunities to DRAW CLOSER to the LORD by His Word. (22)

3. We Can Be HARDENED Scoffers Like the Young Men of Bethel.

- Mocking the outcome, having already FALLEN AWAY from the LORD. (23)
- Rejecting the LORD and paying the CONSEQUENCES. (24)
Loyalty to the LORD brings covenant blessing and disloyalty to the LORD brings covenant cursing.

4. We Can Be LOYAL Followers Like Elisha the Prophet.

- TRUSTING that the LORD is still on His throne even in times of transition. (9, 12-15)
- REMAINING loyal to the LORD no matter what and at any cost.

- 1) **Stay focused** on following the LORD and not forsaking His Word. (2-12)

Jesus Christ Is the GREATER PROPHET Who Says to Us:

"Deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow Me!"

- 2) **Desire a double portion** of God's powerful presence in your life more than anything else. (9-10)

Jesus Christ Is the GREATER KING Who Says to Us:

*"In Me the Father has blessed you with every spiritual blessing! I am the firstborn among many brethren!
You are co-heirs with Me and more than conquers in Me!"*

- 3) **Keep God and His blessings** in proper perspective.

As they were going along and talking, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire and horses of fire which separated the two of them. And Elijah went up by a whirlwind to heaven. Elisha saw it and cried out, "My father, my father, the chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" And he saw Elijah no more. Then he took hold of his own clothes and tore them in two pieces. He also took up the mantle of Elijah that fell from him and returned and stood by the bank of the Jordan. 2Kings 2:11-12

- Elisha **honors** Elijah's character: *Who he was and what he meant to Israel in God's redemptive plan.* (12)
- Elisha **laments** Elijah's departure: *Knowing what it means for the coming judgment on both Israel and Judah.* (12)
- Elisha **continues** Elijah's ministry: *Picks up the mantle and re-enters the Land to have an even greater ministry.* (14)
- Elisha **remains loyal** to Elijah's God: *More than anything else Elisha wants the God of Elijah more than Elijah himself.* (14, 25)

"Where is the LORD, the God of Elijah?"

Jesus Christ Is the GREATER PRIEST Who Says to Us:

*"I am the LORD! I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life! No one comes to the Father except through Me!
When you have Me, you have all you will ever need or want!"*

Transitions Test Whether We Trust the LORD More Than Anyone or Anything Else!

Because the LORD remains loyal to His covenant promises and people in times of transition, we should too!

ELIJAH'S TRAVELS ALL THE WAY to HIS TRANSLATION and the TRANSITION to ELISHA

- 1 Leaves his home in Tishbe to confront King Ahab in Samaria: 3 1/2 year drought *BEGINS!*
- 2 Leaves Samaria for the Brook Kerith to be fed by ravens.
- 3 Leaves Kerith for Zarephath to be fed by a Baal-worshipping widow.
- 4 Leaves Zarephath to confront Ahab again but meets Obadiah on the way. Sends Obadiah to summon Ahab and Elijah orders Ahab bring all the prophets of Baal and all of Israel to Mt. Carmel.
- 5 Goes to Mt. Carmel for the spiritual smackdown where fire consumes the water-soaked sacrifice and altar. Israel: "Yahweh, He is God!"
- 6 Israel seizes the prophets of Baal and Elijah slays them at the Brook Kishon.
- 7 Elijah returns to the top of Mt Carmel and prays 7x for rain: The 3 1/2 year drought *ENDS!*

- 8 Elijah out runs Ahab's chariot to Jezreel in the pouring rain!
- 9 Flees in fear of Jezebel and frustration with the Lord to the edge of the Promise Land and goes one days journey into the wilderness, where he asks the LORD to let him die.

The Angel of the LORD feeds him 2x and Elijah travels 40 days & nights to Mt Horeb/Sinai and dwells in "the Cave" (where the LORD hid Moses and revealed the backside of His glory to Moses?!)

Encounters the LORD but the LORD is not in the whirlwind, the earthquake, or the fire. Instead, the Voice of the LORD speaks to Elijah after the profound silence.

The LORD tells him there is no "Plan B" and to get back into the game but also to "anoint" his replacements: King Hazael of Aram, King Jehu of Judah, and Elisha the Prophet.

- 10 Elijah goes to Abel-meholah to "anoint" Elisha by throwing his mantle over him. Elisha sacrifices his oxen, burns the yokes, and never looks back from following and serving Elijah, the man of God with the Word of God.

NOT ON MAP – Elijah goes to Samaria to confront Ahab after he and Jezebel have Naboth murdered in Jezreel, so Ahab could steal Naboth's vineyard. The LORD's damnation is declared on him and his household and the dogs will lick up their blood of the both Ahab and Jezebel.

- 11 **SEE SHADED BOX** – Elijah leaves for his "Farewell Tour" from Gilgal to Bethel to Jericho to the bank of the Jordan River. Elisha refuses to be left behind and lets nothing distract him following and not forsaking Elijah, the man of God with the Word of God!

Elijah parts the Jordan River by striking it with his mantle. The two of the cross over on dry land. Elisha asks for a double portion of Elijah's spirit and will receive it if he sees Elijah taken up into heaven.

While they are walking and talking, the fiery chariot & horses of the LORD separate them and Elijah is taken up to heaven in a whirlwind. Elisha exclaims: "My father. My father, the chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" and sees him no more!

Elisha picks up Elijah's mantle and returns to the bank of the Jordan, strikes it with the mantle and asks:

"Where is the LORD, the God of Elijah?!"

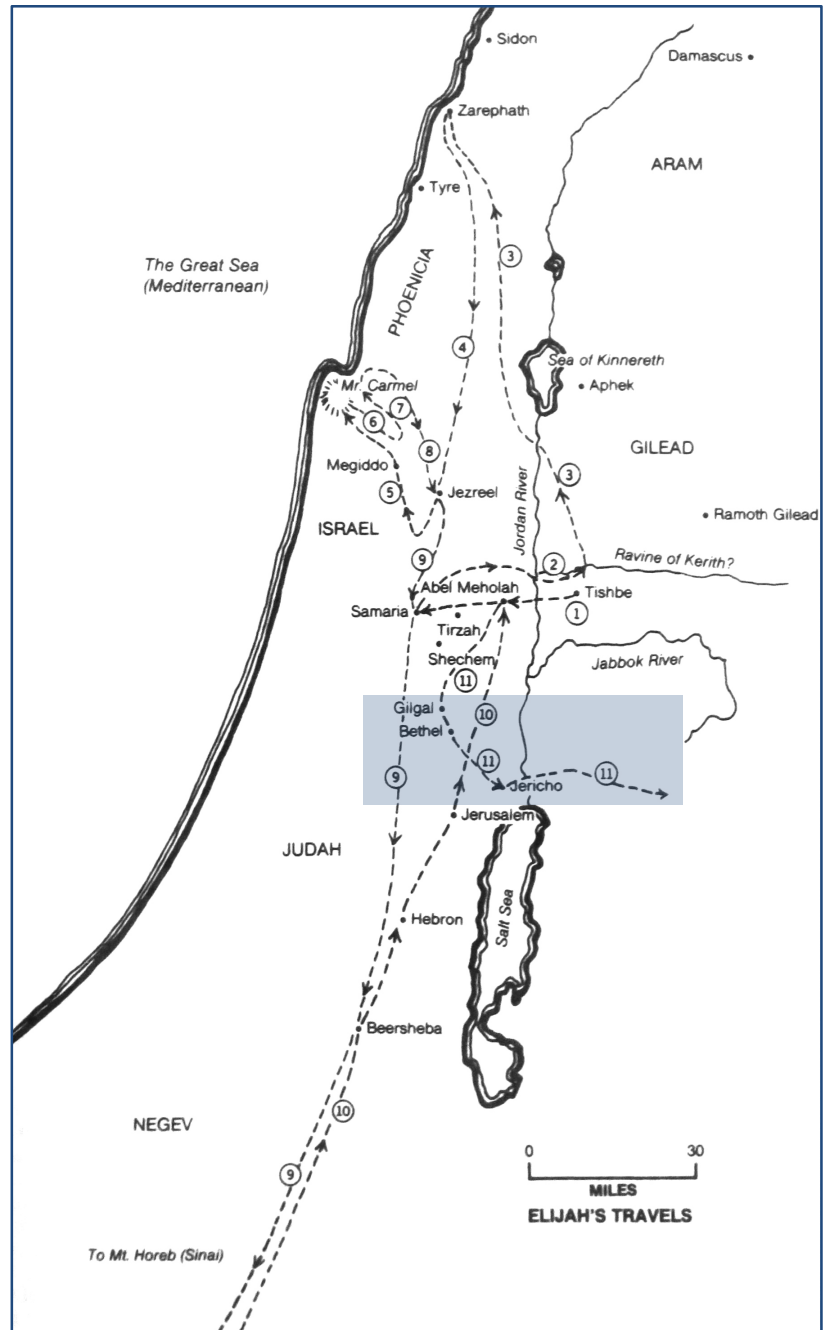
The Jordan is parted and Elisha returns to the Promise Land on dry ground. He retraces their steps to Jericho and Bethel before going to Mt Carmel and returning to Samaria. (Note: Elijah and Elisha may have originally left on Elijah's "Farewell Tour" from Mt. Carmel or Samaria.)

The Sons of the Prophets acknowledge that the spirit of Elijah rests on Elisha, who brings covenant blessings to the loyal and covenant curses on the disloyal.

He goes on to perform double the miracles as Elijah—and when he dies even his bones preform a miracle after he is buried!

Transitions Test Whether We Trust the LORD More Than Anyone or Anything Else!

Because the LORD remains loyal to His covenant promises and people in times of transition and apostasy, we should too!



**Loyalty in Times of Apostasy Is Possible,
When We Love the LORD with All Our Heart
and Follow Him with an Obedient Faith in His Word...
Even in the Worst of Times,
No Matter the Cost!**