

## INHERITING A MANTLE

**2 Kings 2:1-7** And it came to pass, when the LORD would take up Elijah into heaven by a whirlwind, that Elijah went with Elisha from Gilgal. And Elijah said unto Elisha, Tarry here, I pray thee; for the LORD hath sent me to Bethel. And Elisha said unto him, As the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee. So they went down to Bethel. And the sons of the prophets that were at Bethel came forth to Elisha, and said unto him, Knowest thou that the LORD will take away thy master from thy head to day? And he said, Yea, I know it; hold ye your peace. And Elijah said unto him, Elisha, tarry here, I pray thee; for the LORD hath sent me to Jericho. And he said, As the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee. So they came to Jericho. And the sons of the prophets that were at Jericho came to Elisha, and said unto him, Knowest thou that the LORD will take away thy master from thy head to day? And he answered, Yea, I know it; hold ye your peace. And Elijah said unto him, Tarry, I pray thee, here; for the LORD hath sent me to Jordan. And he said, As the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee. And they two went on. And fifty men of the sons of the prophets went, and stood to view afar off: and they two stood by Jordan.

ELI-JAH: “my God is Jehovah”

ELI-SHA: “my God is salvation” (the “double portion” prophet)

What set these prophets apart was the MANTLE they wore. Most men wore some kind of loose fitting outer garment, but prophets wore a certain mantle that identified them. (2 Kings 1:8).

Mantles were so important as protection from the cold at night that it was forbidden to take one as collateral beyond sunset of the same day. You couldn't keep someone else's mantle! (Exodus 22:26-27)

The mantle is not a type of the anointing of the Holy Ghost, which dwells inside; He is typified by oil that is poured into a vessel. **The mantle is an outer covering which protects the anointing within.** This mantle is our godly character and lifestyle, and it shows externally.

**Romans 13:14** But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.

Elisha was called to the prophetic ministry when Elijah threw his mantle over him as he was plowing (1 Kings 19:19-21). However, for Elisha to actually inherit the mantle, he had to set his heart to follow Elijah always. And he faced his greatest test the day the old prophet was taken away.

## GILGAL

- They started their journey at Gilgal, which means “the beginning point of commitment”
- First mentioned in Joshua 5:1-9, where Joshua could not lead the people into the Promised Land until the young men were sealed with circumcision, the sign of commitment to God
- We cannot live off someone else's commitment; we must take on the sign of separation!
- Elisha was willing to leave behind his plow, oxen and even his family

## BETHEL

- Bethel means “the house of God” – this is where Jacob had his vision of the angelic ladder, encountering the supernatural.
- But Bethel had been polluted by idolatry when the kingdom divided and Jeroboam set up a golden calf there so the people would not go down to Jerusalem to worship
- **DO YOU WANT TO TARRY IN THE PLACE OF HALF TRUTH?**

## JERICO

- Jericho was the first conquest of Israel when they entered their promised land – it was where they learned to depend on God's commandments instead of their own strategy!
- But Jericho was now barren and lifeless because a stream of poison had infiltrated the city's water supply
- **DO YOU WANT TO TARRY IN THE PLACE OF DEADNESS?**

## JORDAN

- They ultimately arrive at the Jordan, which means “descender” – this is where the mantle descends from Heaven on Elisha's life!
- The mantle falls when we no longer look to humanity for help, but to God alone (Elijah was gone) – the mantle really came from God!

**As Elisha retraced his steps, he saw God's power demonstrated!**

2:14 – JORDAN / “Where is the Lord God of Elijah?”

2:20 – JERICO / “Bring me a new cruse and put salt therein”

2:24 – BETHEL / “and cursed them in the name of the Lord”

Elisha became the double portion prophet (16 miracles) after his death!

**2 Kings 13:20-21** And Elisha died, and they buried him. And the bands of the Moabites invaded the land at the coming in of the year. And it came to pass, as they were burying a man, that, behold, they spied a band of men; and they cast the man into the sepulchre of Elisha: and

when the man was let down, and touched the bones of Elisha, he revived, and stood up on his feet.