

Elijah 6 – Departure

These are the leaders notes from the Kielder Bible Study Group for the meeting that was held on 26th June 2012

We continue our Studies – on the life and times of Elijah – A Man of faith, fire and power, loosely following the relevant chapters in 2 Chronicles 21 and 2 Kings 2

Last time if you recall Elijah had given a pretty dramatic prophesy to king Ahaziah Ahab's son

He also was instrumental in God destroying by fire a captain and fifty of his guard (twice) when they came to try and hold him hostage.

So we now come to the final passages on Elijah – looking at 2 Chronicles, 2 Kings, Matthew 17 and Malachi 4

The first passage we are going to look at is a prophecy that Elijah wrote down and left for a future

To put this into context Jehoshaphat had a period of co-regency with his son and it is highly unlikely that Jehoshaphat would have allowed his son to act wickedly during co-regency, keeping in mind that Jehoshaphat was considered to be a good king '...doing that which was right in the sight of the LORD...'

Also Jehoram became king around 848 BC – Elijah is taken to heaven by God around 853-852 BC

2 Chronicles 21

1-3

4-5 Q How does Jehoram deal with any potential rivals? A kills them all.

6-7

8-11 Jehoshaphat (God loving) had defeated the Edomites but wicked Jehoram is defeated by them..

12-15

Q So what do we think about Elijah's prophecy?

16-20

v 20 He passed away, to no one's regret I think says it all.. What an epitaph.

The scholars don't really seem to know why Elijah wrote this prophecy but it is recorded so we have looked at it.

So moving back to Kings – Elijah has been running his school with Elisha as his assistant for prophets for around 6 years.

2 Kings 2 1-2

Elijah evidently has an inkling that his time on this earth is coming to an end and wants to be left in peace but Elisha is having none of this.

V3 – Q what do the company of prophets say? A Elijah was going to God

v4-5

Q What happens at Jericho?

Q What do we think is happening here? A Elijah is visiting/saying goodbye to the prophets in the prophet school

v 6 Q what else has happened at the Jordan

Lets look at Joshua 3 to remind ourselves what happened when they were at the River Jordan before

Joshua 3 - 1-4, 5-8,9-13, 14-17

The process was quite complex and involved all the tribes of Israel

Now going back to Kings and Elijah

v6-8

Q Why do we think the prophets followed along? - A witness to what was going on – curiosity?

Q Why was the crossing this time so different to that of Joshua?

9-10

Q What does Elisha ask for? A double portion – This refers to Jewish inheritance law, and is expressing his desire to carry on with Elijahs ministry. Comes from Deuteronomy 21 v17

Q Why does Elijah say it is a difficult thing in answer to Elisha? A It is not really up to him but up to God, so if God allows Elisha to see Elijah going to heaven then he will get his wish. He was leaving it in God's hands.

11-12

Q What do we think the words Chariots and Horsemen might mean in v12 A It is suggested that they might symbolise the true strength of the nation – ie

Elijah was the real king of the country at that time..

13-14

Q What does Elisha do? - A Strike the river Jordan and it separates similar to Elijah?

15-18

Q What do the prophets think about this. A They are a witness to God now working through Elisha in a similar way to Elijah

The next few verses highlight the next miracle that God performs through Elisha

19-22

Can we think of where else Elijah is mentioned – in the new testament – the transfiguration

Matthew 17 1-9

If we say that Moses was the symbol of the law, Q what was Elijah A- The symbol of the prophets.

Malachi 4 v5 & 6 refers to these verses.

These are some of the foundations of the Jewish faith.

So can we think of anyone else in the old testament where it is recorded that they did not die?

Enoch – An ancestor of Noah we read about him in Genesis 5 v 21-24

These are examples of faith in action, and the writer of the Hebrews goes on to talk about this in Hebrews 11 v1-6

The same applies to us today.

So this is the end of our exploration of Elijah – What things stood out for you about his life.

The key one for me was how the Holy Spirit worked in his life and gave him immense power.