

# WHERE IS THE GOD OF ELIJAH?

2007 Mark Beaird

**Text: 2 Kings 2:1-14**

“He (Elisha) picked up the cloak that had fallen from Elijah and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. Then he took the cloak that had fallen from him and struck the water with it. ‘Where now is the LORD, the God of Elijah?’ he asked. When he struck the water, it divided to the right and to the left, and he crossed over.” NIV

I would venture to say that all of us here believe that God does miracles, that He answers prayers, and that He can and will do great things when people pray. But the question is, “Do you believe that He will do the same for you as He has for others?”

Here in our text, Elisha had been following the prophet Elijah for some time. Elisha was something of a personal assistant or prophet in training. It was evidently common knowledge that Elijah was going to be taken by God into heaven and Elisha was not about to leave his side.

**The scripture reads in 2 Kings 2:1**, “When the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal.” **It is at this point that Elisha’s commitment to remain with Elijah is challenged.**

**Note verse 2**, Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; the LORD has sent me to Bethel." But Elisha said, "As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you."

**Skipping to verse 4**, Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here, Elisha; the LORD has sent me to Jericho." And he replied, "As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you." So they went to Jericho.

**Now verse 6**, “Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; the LORD has sent me to the Jordan." And he replied, "As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you." So the two of them walked on.

**Finally in verse 7-10 we read**, “Fifty men of the company of the prophets went and stood at a distance, facing the place where Elijah and Elisha had stopped at the Jordan. Elijah took his cloak, rolled it up and struck the water with it. The water divided to the right and to the left, and the two of them crossed over on dry ground. When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me, what can I do for you before I am taken from you?" "Let me inherit a double portion of your spirit," Elisha replied. "You have asked a difficult thing," Elijah said, "yet if you see me when I am taken from you, it will be yours—otherwise not."

**Elisha had been up to the challenge so far.** No doubt some thought he would be an unemployed prophet after that day, but Elisha believed that God would do the same for him that He had done for his master Elijah.

That is why Elisha asked to inherit a double portion of the spirit of Elijah. As we see, Elisha had been put to the test and now he was ready to put God to the test.

**In 2 Kings 2: 13-14 we read,** He picked up the cloak that had fallen from Elijah and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. Then he took the cloak that had fallen from him and struck the water with it. "Where now is the LORD, the God of Elijah?" he asked.

**This is the question we are all asking when we want God to help us as He has others.**

## **I. GOD IS WHERE HE HAS ALWAYS BEEN.**

### **A. He is not absent—He is present.**

We may move or leave, but He does not!

- **David wrote in Psalm 139,** "O LORD, you have searched me and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O LORD. You hem me in—behind and before; you have laid your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain. Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?"

If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.

### **B. He is not passive—He is active.**

- **Joshua 5:14** He is the commander of the army of the LORD I
- **Isaiah 40:22** He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth,
- **Daniel 3:25** The fourth man in the fire
- **Jesus is a friend that sticks closer than a brother, He is our mediator, our savior, and our coming King!**

## **II. GOD IS WAITING FOR THOSE WHO WILL SEEK HIM.**

### **A. Elisha was not dissuaded or discouraged by what he heard.**

**Others were discouraging, verse 3,** "The company of the prophets at Bethel came out to Elisha and asked, "Do you know that the LORD is going to take your master from you today?" "Yes, I know," Elisha replied, "but do not speak of it."

**Still more people come out of the woodwork**, “The company of the prophets at Jericho went up to Elisha and asked him, "Do you know that the LORD is going to take your master from you today?" "Yes, I know," he replied, "but do not speak of it."

**B. Elisha was persistent**

Elisha had paid the price and was ready to receive.

**III. THE HEART OF ELISHA’S QUESTION WAS REALLY, “WILL GOD DO FOR ME WHAT HE HAS DONE FOR OTHERS?”**

**A. Elisha believed God would and he put his faith in action**

**2 Kings 2:13**, “He picked up the cloak that had fallen from Elijah and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan.”

**B. Elisha placed his petition before God.**

**Verse 14**, Then he took the cloak that had fallen from him and struck the water with it. "Where now is the LORD, the God of Elijah?" he asked.

**C. Elisha was saying, “It’s my time now—it’s my season!”**

**Verse 14b**, “When he struck the water, it divided to the right and to the left, and he crossed over.”

**Acts 10:34-35 Peter said**, "God does not show favoritism but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right.”

**CONCLUSION**

**Bill Hybels writes**, “Faith, if we are honest, sometimes seems like a candle in the rain, hissing for air. ... Right in the middle of our prayers; the baby cries, the thunder claps, the fury breaks. ... [But] the power of God comes to those who obey.”

■ Bill Hybels in *Descending into Greatness*. Christianity Today, Vol. 37, no. 10.

There is another reason that we don't persevere. Sometimes we face "Heartbreak Hill." In the Boston Marathon, there is a legendary obstacle called Heartbreak Hill. Starting at mile thirteen of the Boston race course, there are a number of hills, climaxing at mile nineteen with Heartbreak Hill. It's the longest, steepest hill in the race. What makes this hill even worse is that

world-class runners "hit the wall" around mile eighteen or nineteen. That is, their bodies have depleted the glycogen stored in the muscles. That glycogen has been replaced with lactic acid.

The muscles are screaming for oxygen. And when you hit the wall, you just feel like you're going to die. Heartbreak Hill tests runners to the very core of their determination and their strength.

There are Heartbreak Hills in life. Life is not on a level grade. We have problems. We have bigger problems. And at times we face Heartbreak Hill.

-- Craig Brian Larson, "Strong to the Finish," Preaching Today, Tape No. 155.