

Elijah and Elisha

As a Bride figure, Elijah is perhaps one of the primary figures in Scripture, and certainly the most dramatic. From the prophetic happenings in Elijah's life we can gain a great deal about the future Harvest separation of the Bride. Likewise, in Elisha we see a part of the commission to the next group of the Harvest, and it is here we see some of the future ministry of the double-portion Two Witnesses Company.

Who is Elijah (Ēliyahu) Today?

Elijah is a many-fold prophetic picture of the Bride. It is the Bride who, like Elijah, will one day be separated from the earthly realm, only to ascend alive into the presence of the King. Let's look at some details.

Elijah the Tishbite, whose name in Hebrew is Eli-Yahu or shortened to Eli-Yah, means "My Elohim is Yahu" or, "My Mighty One is Yahu." The Hebrew word Tishbite means "captivity," and appears six times. The number 6 speaks of the flesh.

The combined picture we get from these names, tells us just who this Elijah Company is today. The meaning is this: "Even as the Elijah-Bride is being prepared for the bridegroom before her separation occurs, she is still in the present-day captivity of her fleshly body; yet she is full of the prophetic voice of an Elijah company, proclaiming the truth of the Living Word of YHWH for today."

Elijah lived in Gilgal. The Hebrew word Gilgal comes from a word that means "whirlwind." The Hebrew word for Barley also means "to sweep away, as with a whirlwind." Gilgal was the first place of encampment of Joshua and Caleb, and all Israel with them, when they first came out of the Wilderness, and "ascended up" from Jordan on the tenth day of the first month into the Promised Land. This name *Gilgal* reveals a many-faceted prophetic picture. While the Bride lives and abides in Him, she is eagerly awaiting her "sweeping away." She abides in a place of promised resurrection, further helping us to see the picture beginning to appear by the puzzle-pieces.

Who is Elisha Today?

It is not evident at first glance who Elisha speaks of today. Let us look at some details in Scripture.

After having served YHWH, the time came for Elijah to choose a successor. YHWH told Elijah to find Elisha. The Hebrew word for *Elisha*, <0477> *Eli-Shua* means "My Mighty One is Salvation." Known as the son of *Shaphat*, meaning "He has Judged/ judgment," and was of *Abelmeholah* - from Hebrew words <058><04246>, meaning literally "field of the dance/dancing/company" - which traces back to <04284>, meaning "thoughts/ imaginations/ cunning/ devised/ invented."

Putting together all the meanings of the names reveals a rather astounding conclusion. All the meanings of who Elisha was, reveals to us exactly who he is today. Today Elisha is:

YHWH My Mighty One, who is bringing judgment on the field or harvest of the dancing company, and whose thoughts and imaginations of the heart, are the cunningly devised inventions of man.

Elisha's Call

The first thing we will note is that the call of Elisha occurred while Elisha was going about his daily work, perhaps years before Elijah was to leave.

19 And he went from there, and found Elisha son of Shaphat, who was ploughing with twelve yoke of oxen before him, and he was with the twelfth. And Ēliyahu passed by him and threw his robe on him.

20 And he left the oxen and ran after Ēliyahu, and said, "Please let me kiss my father and my mother, and then I follow you." And he said to him, "Go, turn back, for what have I done to you?"

21 And he turned back from him, and took a yoke of oxen and slaughtered them and cooked their flesh, using the implements of the oxen, and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he rose up and followed Ēliyahu, and became his servant.

1Kings 19:19-21

In these passages we see that Elisha showed commitment to following Elijah, but notice that Elisha showed his priorities in wanting to kiss his father and his mother, and then follow Elijah. The Bride will show no such inverted priorities, but will be totally committed, "following the Lamb wherever He goes..." (See Rev 14:4). Those of the Bride company place following of YHWH foremost, above all else.

Here we see Elisha as one who may not be ready when the first resurrection occurs. In Elisha we see one needing more time for refining, thus Elisha is one prophetic picture representing the second-resurrection saints.

Elijah's Departure

The time would come, however, when Elijah knew it was time for YHWH to take him:

1 And it came to be, when יהוה was to take up Ēliyahu to the heavens by a whirlwind, that Ēliyahu went with Elisha from Gilgal.

2 And Ēliyahu said to Elisha, "Please remain here, for יהוה has sent me on to Běyth Ēl." And Elisha said, "As יהוה lives, and as your being lives, I do not leave you!" And they went down to Běyth Ēl.

3 And the sons of the prophets who were at Běyth Ēl came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that יהוה is taking away your master from your head?" And he said, "I also know, be silent!"

4 And Ēliyahu said to him, "Elisha, please remain here, for יהוה has sent me on to Yeriho." And he said, "As יהוה lives, and as your being lives, I do not leave you!" And they came into Yeriho.

5 And the sons of the prophets who were at Yeriho came to Elisha and said to him, "Do you know that יהוה is taking away your master from over you today?" And he said, "I also know, be silent!"

2Kings 2:1-5

Elijah was not the only one to know beforehand when he would leave. We can see from the above passages, that Elisha knew also. Likewise, the Sons of the Prophets knew Elijah's time had come.

This is a very clear picture of today. Today there are those that are among the Elijah-Bride company, who know the time is drawing near, for them to be caught up in a whirlwind to heaven. Even today, some of the Elijah-Bride company know the season, and even a few know the day, that they themselves will be swept away. However, even as Elisha knew the time of Elijah's departure, so there is also an Elisha company today, who know the time of the Elijah-Bride's soon-coming departure.

Just as the Sons of the Prophets of Elijah's day knew the time of Elijah's departure, even today there are "Sons of the Prophets" - those "having characteristics of" the Prophets. These Prophet look-alikes are numerous today, and even some of these are beginning to know when the Elijah-Bride resurrection harvest will occur.

Elijah: A Lesson for Today

This is a great lesson for us today. Even though the Sons of the Prophets knew the time of Elijah's soon departure, they did not go up in the whirlwind with Elijah. Likewise Elisha, who knew the time Elijah was to leave, did not go up in the whirlwind.

We may conclude that both Elisha, and the Sons of the Prophets, are prophetic pictures of the second-resurrection Believers, who missed the first resurrection due to unpreparedness. However, each group has a further job to do, and each is to proceed in his own order of "ripening." Let us continue:

6 And Ĕliyahu said to him, "Please remain here, for יהוה has sent me on to the Yardĕn." And he said, "As יהוה lives, and as your being lives, I do not leave you!" And the two of them went on.

7 And fifty men of the sons of the prophets went and stood facing them at a distance, while the two of them stood by the Yardĕn.

8 And Ĕliyahu took his mantle, and rolled it up, and struck the water. And it was divided this way and that, so that the two of them passed over on dry ground.

9 And it came to be, when they had passed over, that Ĕliyahu said to Elisha, "Ask what I am to do for you, before I am taken away from you!" And Elisha said, "Please let a double portion of your spirit be upon me."

10 And he said, "You have made it hard to ask, yet if you see me when I am taken from you, it is yours; but if not, it is not."

11 And it came to be, as they continued on and spoke, that see, a chariot of fire with horses of fire which separated the two of them. And Ĕliyahu went up by a whirlwind into the heavens.

12 And Elisha saw it, and he cried out, "My father, my father, the chariot of Yisra'ĕl and its horsemen!" And he saw him no more. Then he took hold of his own garments and tore them into two pieces.

2Kings 2:6-12

What do we see in the above passages? First we see the mantle parting the waters in verse 8, with the dry ground speaking of resurrection without seeing death.

Then we see the chariots and horses of fire, which parted, or divided Elijah from Elisha. This was a separation made by YHWH Himself.

Then we see that Elijah went up by a *whirlwind* into heaven. What is the significance here? The Hebrew word for the firstfruit crop *Barley* is from the same Hebrew root word as the word for *whirlwind*, signifying that this event speaks of the Firstfruit Barley, which is prophetic of the Bride resurrection.

What is the Mantle of Elijah?

Next Let us look at the passing on of Elijah's mantle to Elisha:

13 And he took up the mantle of Ĕliyahu that had fallen from him, and went back and stood by the bank of the Yardĕn.

14 And he took the mantle of Ėliyahu that had fallen from him, and struck the water, and said, "Where is יהוה Elohim of Ėliyahu?" And he struck the water, and it was divided this way and that, and Elisha passed over.

15 And when the sons of the prophets who were from Yeriho saw him, they said, "The spirit of Ėliyahu rests on Elisha." And they came to meet him, and bowed to the ground before him.

16 And they said to him, "Look, there are fifty strong men with your servants. Please let them go and search for your master, lest the Spirit of יהוה has taken him up and cast him upon some mountain or into some valley." And he said, "Send no one."

2Kings 2:13-16

We see in the above verses Elijah's Mantle being passed on to Elisha. The Mantle speaks of YHWH's original commission to Elijah, that of proclaiming the prophetic Truths of YHWH, thus preparing the Way for the people of YHWH.

We see in Elijah's Mantle this same commission that has now passed on to Elisha, of proclaiming, and of preparing the Way - of bringing the message of prophetic Truth (the "now" meaning of Scripture) to those remaining in Israel, who would become the next phase of the Harvest.

The Hebrew word for mantle <0155> also means "glory." This Mantle is very important, for it speaks of both the prophetic message of Elijah, and the double-anointing of the Holy Spirit, that was given to Elisha, in order for Elisha to take up YHWH's Mission he inherited from Elijah.

So we see that Elisha's new Mantle speaks literally of the "glory" of Elijah. Even as John the Baptist went forth in the past, in the Spirit and Power of Elijah; even so once again, Elijah will go forth in the future, first in the form of an Elijah-Bride-Company, in the Spirit and Power of Elijah; and then in the form of an Elisha-Company, in the Spirit and Glory of Elijah.

The "Elijah to come" has certainly come, in John the Baptist, preparing the Way, before the Firstfruit Resurrection of Messiah. Likewise, the "Elijah to come" will again come, to prepare the Way, before the Firstfruit Resurrection of the Bride.

What of the Sons of the Prophets of Elijah's day? They continued on, however oblivious to the true purposes of YHWH, not understanding the true prophetic import of YHWH's message. And so it is today, that the Sons of the Prophets will continue on in their daily lives, oblivious to all the prophetic words and events around them. And so it will continue to be, until the completion of the Harvest.