Changing Ministries, Unchanging Truth
2 Kings Chapter 2

10 December 2025, Living Truth Church, Prescott AZ

"The words of the wise are goads … well driven nails, given by one Shepherd."
Ecclesiastes 12:11

God's Word is designed to move us, and to stay in us!

I. Elisha Tested, Elijah Translated—One God, Two Servants (2 Kings 2:1–11)

A. Verses 1–7: Elisha Tested—Qualities of a prophet (or any true servant of God).
1) His **Call** (1 Kings 19:19–21); His **Training** (2 Kings3:11); His **Testing** (2 Kings 2:1–7). Elisha was **faithful** (vv. 2, 4, 6), **non-sensational** (vv. 3, 5, 7), and **humble** (v. 9).
2) Principle: God uses prepared people—testing is essential (James 1:2, 12).

B. Verses 8–11: Elijah Translated—The Prototype Prophet.
1) *"Mantle"* (vv. 8, 14) is a symbol of authority (as is Moses' staff: Exod. 14:16).
2) The prototype (Matt .17:3)—Mount of Transfiguration: Moses (representing the Law); Elijah (the prophets). Reflection: An angel proclaimed that John the Baptist came *"in the spirit and power of Elijah"* (Luke 1:17).
3) Elisha's request (vv. 9–10). Principle: firstborn right (Deut. 21:17); He displayed great humility. Elijah responded, *"You have asked a hard thing."* Remember James and John (Mark 10:35–45).
4) Elijah translated (v. 11). "Horsemen, chariots." See also 2 Kings 6:16–17 regarding Elisha and the true army of God.

II. The Mantle of Elijah, The Ministry of Elisha—One Mantle, Two Ministries (vv. 12–18)

A. Verses 12–15: The Spirit and the Power of Elijah.
The *"mantle"*—Same power, different prophet. There are no "twins" in God's family. How would you like to have *"the mantle of Elijah"*?

Note: John the Baptist came like Elijah; Jesus' ministry was more like that of Elisha (two entirely different personalities/methods).

B. Verses 16–18: The Perennial Problem of Doubt.
1) The prophet/pastor can teach, but he cannot apply truth for the listener.
2) Disobedience to the Word of God will always end in wasted effort/disappointment.

III. The Blessing of Faith, The Curse of Unbelief—One Truth, Two Effects (vv. 19–25)

A. Verses 19–22: Blessing (God's power meets man's need through faith).
"Salt" (See Matt. 5:13). Purpose: take that which is tainted and bring purification. This is our task as believers, wherever we may be. Become "salt shakers!" (See also John 7:38).

"Jesus said, 'Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?'" (John 11:40).

Note: Those with us on the Israel tour saw the well of Elisha: *"To this day"* (v. 22).

B. Verses 23–25: Cursing (consequences of unbelief) See John 3:17–19 and Hebrews 6:7–8. God is not a witch or warlock. His "cursing" is His justice in action toward the evil of unbelief. Romans 1:18–32 illustrates how God allows people to receive the natural consequences of their unbelief toward His Word.

Conclusion/Application: How would you like to have the mantle of Elijah?

Let us not forget that we have the mantle of the Lord Jesus Christ! Do you use it?

Luke 24:49, *"The Promise of My Father ...* [you shall be clothed with power] *from on high."*
John 14:12, *"The works that I do* [you] *will do also, and greater works than these."*
How? By being faithful. Jesus said, "by prayer" (John 14:15).
Principle: That people use only 10% of their brain (attributed to William James or Albert Einstein)— is a myth! You use your whole brain—you may not be applying it. It is not the percentage of the brain, but rather the effort (the dedication, persistence) you put into it that is the real issue. How much of the indwelling Spirit of God do most believers use?

How to use Christ's mantle: four things to know and four things do (James 1:22—"hear/do").

Know (provisions every believer has):

1. The imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ (2 Cor. 5:21),
2. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit (Eph. 1:13),
3. A spiritual gift (1 Cor. 12:7), and
4. The gift of prayer (John 14:14).

Do (commands regarding our relationship with the Holy Spirit):

1. Grieve not (Eph. 4:30),
2. Quench not (1 Thess. 5:19–20),
3. Be filled by—emptied of self (Eph. 5:18), and
4. Walk by (Gal. 5:16).

Every message has a goad and a nail!