

Message Notes

“What a Way to Go”

2 Kings 2:1-14 (ESV)

May 28, 2017

A Final Journey: An Experience We Will Face

- ◆ “A Dark Tunnel” (Joe Bayly)
- ◆ A Dramatic Experience

Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.

(1 Corinthians 15:51-52)

A Focused Journey: An Example We Can Follow

- ◆ Strengthened By God . . .
 - ◆ Elijah Strengthened Others
 - ◆ Through a Recognition of Their Past
 - ◆ Places of Memory
 - ◆ Places of Mentoring
 - ◆ Places of Meaning
 - ◆ Recall Commitments
 - ◆ Recall Convictions
 - ◆ Recall Circumstances
 - ◆ Recall Crisis (1 Kings 19)
 - ◆ Through a Realization of Their Future
 - ◆ Which Motivates Action
 - ◆ Which Soothes Suffering
 - ◆ Which Ignites Wonder

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

(Galatians 2:20)

“A Christian looks forward to being with the Lord in heaven but enjoys His presence and its benefits now. Eternal life has every relevance to life lived today – so much so that without it, there is no full life now.”

(Larry Moyer)

- ◆ Elijah Selected One
 - ◆ Who Was Elected

He said, “I have been very jealous for the LORD, the God of hosts. For the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away.” And the LORD said to him, “Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus. And when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazeal

to be king over Syria. And Jehu the son of Nimshi you shall anoint to be king over Israel, and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah you shall anoint to be prophet in your place.” (1 Kings 19:14-16)

◆ **Who Was Equipped**

- ◆ **To Serve**
- ◆ **To Stand**
- ◆ **To Be Spirit-Filled**

When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Ask what I shall do for you, before I am taken from you.” And Elisha said, “Please let there be a double portion of your spirit on me.” And he said, “You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it shall be so for you, but if you do not see me, it shall not be so.” (2 Kings 2:9-10)

“It was not that Elisha wanted to be greater than Elijah, but rather that he so felt his inadequacy and smallness that he knew he would need twice what Elijah had if he were to be a worthy successor of him.” (Roger Ellsworth)

A Fruitful Journey: An Expectation We Can Have

And as they still went on and talked, behold, chariots of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them. And Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. And Elisha saw it and he cried, “My father, my father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” And he saw him no more. Then he took hold of his own clothes and tore them in two pieces. And he took up the cloak of Elijah that had fallen from him and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. (2 Kings 2:11-13)

◆ **The Justice We Avoid (Consider Ahaziah)**

Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.” (Matthew 16:24-25)

◆ **The Joy We Accept (Revelation 21:1-2, 4; 22:3-5)**

“If I were a twin in the womb . . .” (Joseph Bayly)

- ◆ **A Place of Rest**
- ◆ **A Place of Happiness**
- ◆ **A Place of Service**
- ◆ **A Place of Expanded Vision**
- ◆ **A Place of Beauty**

“When He Cometh”

*When He cometh, when He cometh, to make up His jewels;
all His jewels, precious jewels, His loved and His own.
He will gather, He will gather the gems for His kingdom;
all the pure ones, all the bright ones, His loved and His own.
Little children, little children, who love their Redeemer;
are the jewels, precious jewels, His loved and His own.
Like the stars of the morning, His brightness adorning;
they shall shine in their beauty, bright gems for His crown.*