

C. V. 11 _____ on God's course for his life - In this verse, there is the phrase, "*as they still went on*" or "*As they were walking along and talking together.*" Even though he was nearing the end of life, Elijah found no stopping place. He found no place to unhook and drop out of the journey. Even though the end was near, he still went on.

While Elijah waited on the whirlwind, he just remained faithful and kept on serving the Lord like he was going to live another hundred years!

1 Kings 19:5: Elijah asks God to take his life. God's answer was no.

2 Kings 2: What a contrast we see between the "departure" Elijah sought earlier and that which God "wrought."

If God had granted Elijah's request in chapter 19, he would have died a failure. It would have been a tragic departure. Now, Elijah goes "God's way," leaving behind many prophets to carry on in his absence and departing triumphantly with an angelic sendoff—a chariot and horses of fire!

(Go back to the title block.)

Historical geography:

Bethel was also a significant place in the history of Israel.

- When Abraham left his home and family to travel to the Promised Land, Bethel was the second place he stopped in the land. He built an altar there, and called upon the name of the LORD (Genesis 12:8).
- It is the place to which Abraham returned after he was sent away from Egypt by Pharaoh (Genesis 13:3).
- It is the place where Jacob spent the night and had his vision of the ladder ascending into heaven (Genesis 28:19).
- It is the place to which Jacob returned after his sojourn in Paddam-aram (Genesis 31:13; 25:1).
- When Samuel was a prophet, Bethel was a part of his preaching circuit (Bethel, Gilgal, Mizpah; 1 Samuel 7:16).
- Bethel was one of the two cities in which Jeroboam set up golden calves for Israel to worship, so that they would not return to worship in Jerusalem (1 Kings 12:29).

Series: None

Title: Elijah

Topic: Don't ever stop _____

1 Kings 19:1-18 (previous lesson)

Elijah was deeply discouraged. He wanted to die. God met him through a great wind...an earthquake...and a fire... And God spoke to him in a gentle whisper.

And God _____

There is nothing like a friend to help us in discouraging times:

"You don't know what good you do just by coming to church on Sunday morning. You don't know what good you do just by carrying a Bible under your arm. You don't know what good you do just by smiling at a neighbor and inviting him to the house of the Lord. You don't know what good you do in those humble and sweet and precious ministries, just serving God and living for Him. Somebody will take courage because of you." A. W. Criswell

Lesson:

2 Kings 2:1-15:

Special note: It is apparent from all this that Elijah has been taken away from Elisha, and that Elisha is now Elijah's replacement. God takes Elijah in such a way that He thereby informs all of the prophetic community that Elijah is gone, and that Elisha now ministers in his place, with even greater power.

Several things jump out at me in this text, particularly the repetitions:

- Why does Elijah need to go to all these places before his departure?
- Why does the reader need to know about these visits?
- Why does Elijah seem to be trying to get rid of Elisha and to go on alone?
- Why does Elisha refuse to obey his master and insist on staying with him?
- What does all this have to do with Elijah's departure?

It appears, especially from verse 9, that Elijah was aware that his time on this planet was soon to end. He actually lives like a man who thinks he has plenty of time.

I. It was a time for watching:

A. For a _____ event -- We get the idea in verses 9-10, Elijah knew the precious truth that he was going to get to Heaven without having to pass through death.

B. For a _____ event -- As one reads these verses, it quickly becomes apparent that everyone knew what was coming. The sons of the prophets knew, verses 3, 5, & 7. Elisha knew, verses 2-6.

C. For an _____ event - Even though all these people knew it was coming, no one knew exactly when or where it would happen! And as the text unfolds, we see that the event is only for the eyes of Elisha.

II. It was a time for walking:

A. V. 1-6 Walking with _____ - As Elijah anticipated his departure from this world, he continued to live as he always had. He continued to walk in humble obedience before the Lord God! Notice his statement, "*The LORD has sent me...*" v. 2, 4, 6.

The lesson for us is this: Even though we know we are leaving, and that our leaving could be today, we should still seek to live lives that are filled with surrender to the call of the Lord. He wants us to be busy in His work until He returns to take us home to glory!

B. V. 1-6 Walking with _____ - As the Lord led Elijah from place to place, God was bringing the prophet to that place from which he intended to remove him from this world. For Elijah, these places he visited allowed him the opportunity to visit the schools of the prophets. These places also gave Elijah the opportunity to reminisce about his life and how the Lord had worked in it so powerfully and so wonderfully. More to the point:

The Christian life is not meant to be a life of stagnation. It is meant to be a life of progression. The Lord wants to grow us and fashion us into His image. As He leads us from place to place along the road of life, may we, like Elijah, simply follow in humble obedience to His will for us! After all, the greatest gift we can give the Lord is ourselves, totally surrendered and dedicated to His will, Rom. 12:1-2.

C. V. 2-11 Walking with _____ - This text speaks of friendship and fellowship. As Elijah completed his tasks upon the earth, he did not withdraw himself from those who could encourage him. He continued to walk in fellowship with other believers! This is seen in the fact that he visited the schools of the prophets and in the fact that he walked with his friend and associate Elisha.

III. It was a time for working:

A. V. 8 _____ his Redeemer - Even at the end of his life, Elijah is still walking by faith. When he and Elisha come to the river Jordan, they need to get across, so Elisha does what he always did, he expected the impossible from God and received it by faith!

B. V. 9-10 _____ or mentoring his replacement - As they walk together, Elijah spends his last moments with Elisha teaching him about obedience and faithfulness.

Elijah doesn't clap Elisha on the shoulder and walk off into the sunset. He knows this man is to take his place someday. He knows that Elisha needs and deserves the best training he can be given. The future depends on Elijah doing his duty today.

Men, it is our job to teach young men and boys how men of God are supposed to conduct themselves.

- They must be taught what a real man is!
- They need to know how to love their wives,
- how to treat their children,
- how to provide for their families and
- how to live for God in a wicked world.
- They need to be taught that a man's word is his bond.
- That one's marriage vows mean something.

Ladies, it is your responsibility to teach the young women and girls how to live as godly women before the Lord.

- They need to be taught how to act,
- how to dress at church,
- how to treat their husbands and children.
- They need to be shown how to live for God. It is your duty!