



HG202: Elijah & Elisha 'Standing For God'
Ride Like The Wind

2 Kings 2:1-18

Home Group Study Notes

28 June 2020 - Revd Canon Hugh Dibbens



PLEASE COMPLETE AS MUCH AS YOU CAN
ON THIS WORKSHEET IN PREPARATION
BEFORE THE MEETING!

*Don't forget to take your Bible to Home Group
with you, along with any previous notes and other
resources which might be helpful for your discussions.*



Welcome (10 mins)
Ice Breaker



Looking Upwards (10 mins)
Worship

In your time of worship, you may want to sing Songs of Praise; listen to a Worship CD, as well as using Meditations; Bible Readings; Prayers ...



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2 Kings 2:1-18

Home Group Sermon

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Introduction

v 9, Elisha requests a 'double portion' of Elijah's spirit as a parting gift. If you compare the ministries of these two men, there was an extra dimension to Elisha's ministry. One might say that the first portion was the ability to work miraculous signs, as demonstrated by the parting of the River Jordan cf. v 7-8; 13-14.

The second portion was the gift of a humble and compassionate spirit (Apart from Elisha's response to the young men who jeered at him v 23-25). Elisha comes across as a self-effacing servant of the Living God. Some would say that he is the most Christ-like of all the prophets.

Three Signs of the Holy Spirit 2:11-13

FIRE - signifying purification and sacrifice, cf. Acts 2:3

WIND - signifying life, energy and enabling, cf. Acts 2:2; John 3:8.

CLOAK - signifying authority and protection, cf. Gen 1:2; John 1:32.

It is of interest that Elisha is wrapped around with Elijah's cloak when he is first called to be Elijah's disciple 1 Kings 19:19-21, and then when Elijah is taken up to Heaven there is again a focus on the cloaks. Elisha destroys his own and picks up Elijah's 2 Kings 2:12-13.

Chariots of Fire and Horses of Fire

In the early 1980s 'Chariots of Fire' was a global pop song rising to top the charts. It was written for the film of the same name, but it is hard to see what the connection might be. Had Liddell been a Formula One driver, there might have been a connection!

In 2 Kings 6:16-17, Elisha and his young servant are in danger as the King of Aram's army surrounds the city of Dothan.

The young man can't understand why Elisha is not afraid. Elisha prays that the young man's eyes be opened and he sees a heavenly army of Chariots and Horses around Elisha, providing divine protection.

In 2 Kings 13:14 Elisha is very sick and dying. King Jehoash visits him. He weeps over the prophet and says 'My father, my father, the chariots and horsemen of Israel'. This phrase has been transferred to Elisha. The Prophet is seen as the security and prosperity of the nation of Israel.

Going Home and New Beginnings

The Early Church experienced devastating pandemics in 180 AD and 251 AD which lasted for about 15 years each. Those who could, fled from the cities. The Christians chose to stay and nurse their pagan neighbours. Many of the sick became Christians.

One aspect of the Gospel which impressed them was that the Christians saw that this life was only the beginning of life. The Christians were looking forward to their Heavenly Home.

Conclusion

Major incidents like pandemics and wars are large scale tragedies and they shake societies to their roots. As a result people are much more open to consider change, to think new thoughts and that life could be different, that there might be a better 'new normal' than before. It could be that the global response to George Floyd's death is an example of this phenomenon.

What would happen then, if people who are looking for change, are presented with the Good News about Jesus and how their lives might be given a new creative direction?

Emmanuel Church Text for 2020

*“The Lord Your God is with you. He is mighty to save.
He will take great delight in you. He will quiet you with
His love. He will rejoice over you with singing.”*

Zephaniah 3:17



Looking Upwards (40 mins)

Bible Study

Read the text for this study, and any references given, then answer the following questions. You may find it helpful to listen to the sermon and/or read through the sermon notes as you do so. Discuss some, or all, your answers with your Home Group and, remember, these questions are only a guide to start your discussions.

1. *Introduction:* Do you have any comment on the ‘Double Portion’ of God’s Spirit in the Church of today?

2. *Signs of the Holy Spirit:* What do you think is the significance of the three signs of the Holy Spirit for our mission and evangelism today?

3. The Creeds describe the Church as ‘apostolic’ not as ‘discipling’. Clearly we are always disciples in the sense of being learners. But is the primary work of the Spirit to give us all an apostolic aspect to our lives. What might this look like?

4. *Chariots of Fire and Horses of Fire:* Do you think that the local church provides security and well-being for our communities by our prayer and service? Are we the ‘chariots and horsemen’ of Billerica?

5. *‘Going Home’ and New Beginnings:* Can you in any way identify with Saint Paul in Philippians 1:21 -26 ? Is the teaching that when we die physically we are ‘going home’ a real part of our living faith?

6. *Conclusion:* How do we go about discovering if the pandemic has opened up a significant opportunity to share the Gospel? What plans might we make to follow this through?



Is there anything you most want to put into practice as a result of this study?



Looking Inwards (15 mins) *Caring For Each Other*

Reflecting on your life at the moment, is there anything you would like to share with other members of your home group which you feel is appropriate (this is an opportunity to share, not something you have to do, however, 'It's the sharing that enables the caring!') for:

Thanksgiving?

Prayer?

Encouragement?

Support in any way?



Looking Outwards (15 mins) *Concern For Others*

Is there anything concerning someone in your: family; circle of friends; neighbours or church, which you would like to share (please be sure not pass on anything that is confidential or which you think the person concerned would not wish to be shared) for:

Thanksgiving?

Prayer?

Encouragement?

Support in any way?

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