

## Miracles, Signs and Wonders

### Commentary for October 1, 2017 — Elijah, Elisha, and Jesus Christ

In this month's article we read of historical events in the life of Elisha the Prophet (successor to Elijah), when God performed miracles through his acts as prophet. Elijah gets almost all the notice in the Scriptures,<sup>1</sup> Elisha only gets one direct mention, as you read in this month's article "Israel and Judah: 26. God's Miracles Through Elijah the Prophet." I recommend you read first the "[October 2017 Newsletter](#)" introducing the article.

"Elijah" means "God is YHWH" or "El is YHWH."

"Elisha" means "God is salvation" or "El is salvation" or "El saves."

Connecting the names of the two prophets in sequence seems to signal the relation between:

1. YHWH and the Word of God, or to express it another way,
2. God the Father and His Son.
3. The Creator and His first creation. (All creation came from the Father through the Son, Colossians 1:15–18; Hebrews 1:2).
4. "God is YHWH" (as Elijah's name reminds us), the God of gods, and His Son, His Christ (His Messiah) is "God is salvation" (as Elisha's name reminds us).

Elisha performed miracles that were more numerous and more profound than those of Elijah, yet the miracles of both came out of YHWH, the true God, and not from the false gods of the world.<sup>2</sup> Elijah handed off the prophetic responsibility and power to Elisha. They operated individually, yet they should be considered as a team, first one then the other. The miracles they did were a single collection of God's work, even though the two acted separately.

The miracles performed by God through the two prophets were examples to those in their own days, as well as those living later in the time of Christ. Several of Jesus' miracles recalled those of Elijah and Elisha from the Book of Kings, when Jesus performed several miracles similar to theirs. God through Jesus greatly surpassed what they did.

The signs and miracles Elijah and Elisha performed had no lasting effect, as is true for most

---

<sup>1</sup> See Dr. Martin's article, "[The Elijah to Come](#)." Someone in the future will perform actions similar to those of Elijah (and Elisha). That Elijah-like individual will likely be one of "[The Two Witnesses](#)" (also an article by Dr. Martin). See also, "[The History and Prophecy of Miracles \(and their Failure\)](#)" and "[How to Interpret Biblical Signs](#)."

<sup>2</sup> Those spirit entities were, and are, real personalities with great power and authority (Romans 8:38; Ephesians 3:10, 6:12; Colossians 1:16; Titus 3:1). Those spirit entities lost their power and authority because God the Father raised Him from the dead (Acts 2:24, 32–36), an event unique in all creation and all eons. Christ has not yet taken control of their realms, but He has "... **spoiled principalities and powers, he made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it**" (Colossians 2:15).

such wondrous events. The miracles did not cause Israel to change their lives to worship YHWH alone. Their ability to change lives diminished to almost nothing within a few years. Miracles are remembered for a time and become legends to the people, even though they are true history. The same occurred in the time of Christ and the apostles.

### ***Elijah and Elisha, Teacher and Student***

The Elijah-Elisha relationship was one of master and student.

**“Elisha learned how to be a prophet of God by being with Elijah, watching him, and listening to him continually. We could refer to this as the first ‘prophet apprenticeship school.’ Apparently Elisha learned his lessons well. When Elijah was taken up to heaven in a chariot of God, Elisha immediately took up Elijah’s cloak (the passing on of the baton), and all those watching realized that the ‘spirit of Elijah is resting on Elisha’ (2 Kings 2:11–15).**

**Elisha went on to do even greater things than Elijah in his ministry. What an example of a successful mentoring relationship! A major principle of mentoring is to train others to accomplish even greater things than we do.”**<sup>3</sup>

Not only did Elijah and Elisha have a master-student relationship, but also there were other learners as well, the **“sons of the prophets.”** To compare the two with Jesus,

1. Elijah was the master teacher like Jesus.
2. Elisha was the student who inherited his master’s ministry, chosen by God (1 Kings 19:10) to **“take the mantle”** of his master (1 Kings 19:13, 19; 2 Kings 2:8, 13–14). In Jesus’ time this corresponded to the apostles, the core group of 12 among 120 disciples (Acts 1:15). They were chosen to do even greater things (John 14:11–12).
3. The sons of the prophets were like the larger group of 120 disciples following Jesus.

Jesus obliquely referred to the miracles of Elijah and Elisha when speaking to John’s disciples, and then to His enemies. Note the oblique references to miracles of Elijah and Elisha:

**“... he cured many of their infirmities and plagues, and of evil spirits; and unto many that were blind he gave sight. ... tell John what things you have seen and heard; how that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, to the poor the gospel is preached.”**

• ***Luke 7:21–22***

**“For the Father loves the Son, and shews him all things that himself does: and he will show him greater works than these, that you may marvel. For as the Father raises up the dead, and quickens them; even so the Son quickens whom he will.**

• ***John 5:20–21***

Some thought Jesus was Elijah (Matthew 16:14). John the Baptist was asked if Jesus was Elijah (John 1:21, 25). He did not know. Elijah appeared with Moses during the transfiguration vision (Mark 9:4; Matthew 17:3; Luke 9:30). Enjoy this month’s article about Elisha.

David Sielaff  
[david@askelm.com](mailto:david@askelm.com)

---

<sup>3</sup> Gary C. Newton, [\*Growing toward Spiritual Maturity\*](#), (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2004), 98.