

Lesson 1
1 Kings 19:19-21; 2 Kings 2:1-18

A DOUBLE PORTION

The Call of Elisha (1 Kings 19:19-21)

1. By what symbolic action did Elijah show that Elisha was to be his successor as prophet of the LORD? What do you think Elijah meant by his strange remark in verse 20?

2. What did Elisha give up in order to follow Elijah? What does this teach us about what is expected of Christian pastors?

The Departure of Elijah (2 Kings 2:1-18)

3. Consider Elisha's request for a "double portion" of Elijah's spirit. What is the scriptural basis for the double portion? Do you think Elisha was being greedy or humble when he made his request? Explain your answer.

4. Why do you think the prophets asked Elisha's permission to look for Elijah after the latter's departure?

- e. Extend the Joshua/Elisha analogy to Jesus. Where did Jesus begin His public ministry? Why did He begin His ministry in the same place that both Joshua and Elisha began theirs?
10. Read Colossians 1:15-20. If Elisha received a “double portion” what portion did Christ receive?
11. In the course of this Bible study we will discover that Elisha is often a type of Christ. To give an introductory example of this, re-read 2 Kings 2:8-15 and compare it to Mark 1:9-11.
- a. What two persons are present at the Jordan in the passage from Mark? To whom does Elijah correspond? To whom does Elisha correspond?
 - b. What happened to Elijah as he was standing near the river with Elisha? What happened to John not long after he baptized Jesus?
 - c. What did Elisha “tear open” with Elijah’s cloak? What was torn open at Christ’s baptism?
 - d. What did the company of prophets say about Elisha in 2 Kings 2:15? What came to rest over Jesus after His baptism?