

2 Kings 2:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it came to pass, when the LORD would take up Elijah into heaven by a whirlwind, that Elijah went with Elisha from Gilgal.

Analysis

And it came to pass, when the LORD would take up Elijah into heaven by a whirlwind, that Elijah went with Elisha from Gilgal.

This verse contributes to the overall theme of chapter 2: Prophetic succession and confirmation of divine calling. The divine name emphasizes Yahweh's covenant relationship with Israel and His sovereign control over historical events. The prophetic ministry served as God's primary means of covenant enforcement, calling both kings and people to faithfulness. During this period, Israel and Judah struggled with persistent idolatry, particularly Baal worship introduced under Ahab and Jezebel.

The narrative demonstrates God's justice in judging covenant unfaithfulness while maintaining His ultimate purposes for redemption.

Historical Context

Historical Setting: 2 Kings 2 takes place during the mid-9th century BCE, around 850 BCE, during the transition from Elijah to Elisha. The chapter's theme (Elijah's Translation and Elisha's Beginning) reflects the historical reality of prophetic succession and divine affirmation of Elisha's ministry following Elijah's remarkable translation. Archaeological evidence from this period includes royal inscriptions, administrative documents, and material culture that corroborate the biblical

account while providing additional context for understanding the political and social dynamics at work.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does this verse contribute to understanding the theological message of 2 Kings 2 regarding prophetic succession and confirmation of divine calling?
2. What does this passage reveal about God's character, particularly His justice, mercy, and faithfulness to covenant promises?
3. In what practical ways should this text shape contemporary Christian thinking about faithfulness, worship, and obedience to God?

Interlinear Text

וַיֵּהָיֶה י	בָּהֶעָלֹת וְ	יְהוָה	אֶת	אֵלֵי הוּא		
H1961	would take up	And it came to pass when the LORD	H853	Elijah		
	H5927	H3068		H452		
בְּסַעַר הַ	הַשָּׁמַיִם	וַיֵּלֶךְ	אֵלֵי הוּא	וְאֵלִישָׁה ע	מִן	הַגִּלְגָּל:
by a whirlwind	into heaven	H1980	Elijah	with Elisha	H4480	from Gilgal
H5591	H8064		H452	H477		H1537

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 5:24 (Parallel theme): And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him.

Hebrews 11:5 (Parallel theme): By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

Joshua 5:9 (References Lord): And the LORD said unto Joshua, This day have I rolled away the reproach of Egypt from off you. Wherefore the name of the place is called Gilgal unto this day.

1 Kings 19:11 (References Lord): And he said, Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the LORD. And, behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the LORD; but the LORD was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the LORD was not in the earthquake:

Joshua 4:19 (Parallel theme): And the people came up out of Jordan on the tenth day of the first month, and encamped in Gilgal, in the east border of Jericho.

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