

# 2 Kings 2:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Elisha saw it, and he cried, My father, my father, the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof. And he saw him no more: and he took hold of his own clothes, and rent them in two pieces.

## Analysis

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**And Elisha saw it, and he cried, My father, my father, the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof. And he saw him no more: and he took hold of his own clothes, and rent them in two pieces.**

This verse contributes to the overall theme of chapter 2: Prophetic succession and confirmation of divine calling. 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

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**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

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**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

## Study Questions

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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

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וְכֹבֵב אָבִי אָבִי מִצְעָק עַ	the chariot my father my father cried					
<b>And Elisha</b>	<b>saw</b>	H1931	<b>it and he cried</b>	<b>My father</b>	<b>My father</b>	<b>the chariot</b>
H477	H7200		H6817	H1	H1	H7393

עַד תְּדַבֵּר אֶל אָבִיו וְפָרַשׂ יְהוָה יְשָׁרָאֵל	the chariot of his own clothes and rent them in two pieces				
<b>of Israel</b>	<b>and the horsemen</b>	H3808	<b>saw</b>	H5750	
H3478	H6571		H7200		

לְשָׁנָה יְמִינָה וְלְשָׁנָה יְמִינָה	him no more and he took hold of his own clothes and rent them in two pieces			
<b>him no more and he took hold</b>	<b>of his own clothes</b>	<b>and rent</b>	<b>them in two</b>	<b>pieces</b>
H2388	H899	H7167	H8147	H7168

## Additional Cross-References

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**2 Kings 13:14** (References Israel): Now Elisha was fallen sick of his sickness whereof he died. And Joash the king of Israel came down unto him, and wept over his face, and said, O my father, my father, the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof.

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