

# 2 Kings 2:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it came to pass, when they were gone over, that Elijah said unto Elisha, Ask what I shall do for thee, before I be taken away from thee. And Elisha said, I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me.

## Analysis

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**And it came to pass, when they were gone over, that Elijah said unto Elisha, Ask what I shall do for thee, before I be taken away from thee. And Elisha said, I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me.**

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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**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## 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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וַיְהִי י' H1961	וַיֵּלֶךְ אֵלִיָּהוּ H413	וַיֵּלֶךְ אֵלִיָּהוּ H413	וַיֵּלֶךְ אֵלִיָּהוּ H413	וַיֵּלֶךְ אֵלִיָּהוּ H413
And it came to pass when they were gone over	that Elijah	said		
H5674	H452	H559		
אֵלִיָּהוּ H477	שָׁאֵל H7592	מָה H4100	אֶעֱשֶׂה H6213	בְּטָרִם H2962
from thee And Elisha	Ask	what I shall do		
H477	H7592	H6213		
אֵלִיָּהוּ H1961	אֵלִיָּהוּ H477	וַיֵּלֶךְ אֵלִיָּהוּ H413	וַיֵּלֶךְ אֵלִיָּהוּ H413	וַיֵּלֶךְ אֵלִיָּהוּ H413
for thee before I be taken away	said	from thee And Elisha		
H3947	H559	H477		
וַיֵּלֶךְ אֵלִיָּהוּ H4994	וַיֵּלֶךְ אֵלִיָּהוּ H413	וַיֵּלֶךְ אֵלִיָּהוּ H413	וַיֵּלֶךְ אֵלִיָּהוּ H413	וַיֵּלֶךְ אֵלִיָּהוּ H413
portion	I pray thee let a double	of thy spirit		
H6310	H8147	H7307		

## Additional Cross-References

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**Numbers 11:17** (Spirit): And I will come down and talk with thee there: and I will take of the spirit which is upon thee, and will put it upon them; and they shall bear the burden of the people with thee, that thou bear it not thyself alone.

**Deuteronomy 21:17** (Parallel theme): But he shall acknowledge the son of the hated for the firstborn, by giving him a double portion of all that he hath: for he is the beginning of his strength; the right of the firstborn is his.

**Zechariah 12:8** (Parallel theme): In that day shall the LORD defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and he that is feeble among them at that day shall be as David; and the house of David shall be as God, as the angel of the LORD before them.

**John 16:7** (Parallel theme): Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

**Numbers 11:25** (Spirit): And the LORD came down in a cloud, and spake unto him, and took of the spirit that was upon him, and gave it unto the seventy elders: and it came to pass, that, when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied, and did not cease.