

# Clarence Park Baptist Church

## Question for Week Commencing 18<sup>th</sup> Jan 2021



### Big Idea of the Series

The book of 2 Kings covers almost 250 years of the divided kingdoms of Israel and Judah, focusing on rulers, prophets, and the many different currents that ultimately led the Hebrew people to the Babylonian exile. This series will consider six people whose chose to remain with God or to turn away from him.

## Week 1 – Elisha

### Reading 2 Kings 2:1-14

### Preparation

1. Watch the sermon from the church YouTube channel <https://youtu.be/TOf-T1WO40o>
2. Read 2 Kings chapter 1-8 to gain more of an insight into the whole of the story.

### Group Study

- Begin with a time of prayer – asking God to help you learn something new

## 2 Kings 2:1-14 New International Version - UK (NIVUK)

### Elijah taken up to heaven

**2** When the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. <sup>2</sup>Elijah said to Elisha, 'Stay here; the LORD has sent me to Bethel.' But Elisha said, 'As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you.' So they went down to Bethel.

<sup>3</sup>The company of the prophets at Bethel came out to Elisha and asked, 'Do you know that the LORD is going to take your master from you today?' 'Yes, I know,' Elisha replied, 'so be quiet.' <sup>4</sup>Then Elijah said to him, 'Stay here, Elisha; the LORD has sent me to Jericho.' And he replied, 'As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you.' So they went to Jericho.

<sup>5</sup>The company of the prophets at Jericho went up to Elisha and asked him, 'Do you know that the LORD is going to take your master from you today?' 'Yes, I know,' he replied, 'so be quiet.' <sup>6</sup>Then Elijah said to him, 'Stay here; the LORD has sent me to the Jordan.'

And he replied, 'As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you.' So the two of them walked on.

<sup>7</sup>Fifty men from the company of the prophets went and stood at a distance, facing the place where Elijah and Elisha had stopped at the Jordan. <sup>8</sup>Elijah took his cloak, rolled it up and struck the water with it. The water divided to the right and to the left, and the two of them crossed over on dry ground. <sup>9</sup>When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, 'Tell me, what can I do for you before I am taken from you?' 'Let me inherit a double portion of your spirit,' Elisha replied. <sup>10</sup>'You have asked a difficult thing,' Elijah said, 'yet if you see me when I am taken from you, it will be yours – otherwise, it will not.'

<sup>11</sup>As they were walking along and talking together, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated the two of them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind. <sup>12</sup>Elisha saw this and cried out, 'My father! My father! The chariots and horsemen of Israel!' And Elisha saw him no more. Then he took hold of his garment and tore it in two.

<sup>13</sup>Elisha then picked up Elijah's cloak that had fallen from him and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. <sup>14</sup>He took the cloak that had fallen from Elijah and struck the water with it. 'Where now is the LORD, the God of Elijah?' he asked. When he struck the water, it divided to the right and to the left, and he crossed over.

## Questions for discussion

Take time to talk through as many of the questions as time allows for your group. Please be willing to share your own experiences and thoughts as we learn from one another.

1. What is one thing that stood out to you from this week's message and / or chapters? How did the service help you in your journey of faith?
2. What was one of the most difficult transitions in life you have ever faced (e.g., loss of a parent, job, child, etc.)? How did you get through it?
3. In what ways does the story of Elijah and Elisha speak about God's plan and order for our lives? What do you find most encouraging about this part of the story from the chapters you read?
4. In what ways would it be encouraging to know that God didn't just stop with Elijah? For Elisha? For God's people? For the church? For you? .... What comes after being called and empowered?
5. Can you think of a time when God acted in a similar way toward you?
6. How can we pray for you this week?

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### Big Idea of this week's Message:

For a period of time, Elisha would become the central prophet of both kingdoms following Elijah's departure. Miracles would accentuate Elisha's authority in God's name.

### Application Point:

When God calls us to follow him, he will empower us to do so.