

Mantles Part 3!

KJV 1 Kings 19:19 So he departed thence, and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen before him, and he with the twelfth: and Elijah passed by him, and cast his mantle upon him.

Elijah placing his mantle on Elisha was a sign that God had selected him to replace Elijah to continue (speaking) ministering to His people!

It's important to note that **Elisha didn't chose Elijah**, but rather God told Elijah who his successor would be, and Elijah sought out Elisha, not the other way around.

In fact, Elisha was working the field minding his family business plowing!

KJV 1 Corinthians 12:28 And **God hath set** some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.

[The apostle Paul clearly states it's God who places prophets in His church, not man!](#)

God uses man to **confirm** what He establishes! By **perception & discernment!**
(**2 Kings 4:9** The Shunemite woman, **John 4:19** Woman at the well)

In **Acts 9** when Jesus appears to Saul he's struck blind and told to go into the city and allow a **disciple** named Ananias to minister to him.

Afterwards Saul leaves Damascus for Jerusalem where Barnabas vouches for his character among the **apostles** **before** he goes out ministering with them.

Acts 9:26 After Saul arrived in Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples. But everyone was afraid of him. They wouldn't believe that he was a disciple.

Listen there are some folk we need to be afraid to associate with, pray with or hear preach until we are certain they are disciples of Christ and carry His mantle!

Samson's parents were given **specific instructions** how to raise him!

ESV Judges 13:2 There was a certain man of Zorah, of the tribe of the Danites, whose name was Manoah. And his wife was barren and had no children.

3 And the angel of the LORD appeared to the woman and said to her, "Behold, you are barren and have not borne children, but you shall conceive and bear a son.

4 Therefore be careful and drink no wine or strong drink, and eat nothing unclean,
5 for behold, you shall conceive and bear a son. No razor shall come upon his head, for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb, and he shall begin to save Israel from the hand of the Philistines."

The same is true with John The Baptist!

ESV Luke 1:13 But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John.

15 for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb.

Three things determined what type of men of God Samson, John The Baptist and Elisha would be and if they could carry a mantle:

- Their parents relationship with God!
- Their relationship with those God placed over them.
- Their obedience to the instructions of those God placed over them!

Even Christ had to submit Himself to his parents for a time until he was released in **Luke chp 2** when Jesus clearly demonstrated His ability to teach The Word .

Going back home and submitting Himself didn't stunt Jesus spiritual growth nor did it abort His destiny, to the contrary.

KJV Luke 2:52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.

Agsin mantles are spiritual investments God makes in people!

- ❖ *To invest is to cloth, cover and endow (give a portion of yourself) to another empowering them to advance your cause and increase your interests!*

He takes some of what's on HIMSELF and places it on us!

ESV 2 Kings 2:1 Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal.

2 And Elijah said to Elisha, "Please stay here, for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel.

3 And the sons of the prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take away your master from over you?" And he said, "Yes, I know it; keep quiet."

4 Elijah said to him, "Elisha, please stay here, for the LORD has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho.

5 And the sons of the prophets that were at Jericho came to Elisha, and said unto him, Knowest thou that the LORD will take away thy master from thy head to day? And he answered, Yea, I know it; hold ye your peace.

6 Then Elijah said to him, "Please stay here, for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on.

Elisha followed Elijah everywhere he went **serving and observing** all Elijah did.

From Gilgal to Bethel to Jericho to the Jordan river! **These were all places where there were schools of the prophets.**

Notice at every school there were prophets who knew Elijah was to be taken, so much so that 50 followed Elijah and Elisha to the Jordan.

Elisha asked his mentor to make him greater than He was! Yet he didn't know how that would be accomplished.

Elijah never mentions the mantle, only that it was a **difficult** request but if Elisha sees him **taken from him** it will be so!

Elijah tells him if Elisha **sees** ra'ah (ray-aw) it means "**to perceive and consider**"!

I believe what Elijah was communicating was about **focus!**

Elijah was telling his protégé to remain focused on his mission as a servant and not get caught up...!

Not to lose focus and start looking at the **chariots of fire and the flaming horses**—the fanfare, notoriety or the position he could receive the mantle.

Elijah telling Elisha he must see him when he is taken to heaven to receive a double-portion of his spirit of prophecy speaks directly to the ascension of Christ.

Elijah went from Gilgal to Bethel and Jericho then to the Jordan river! These were all places where there was a school of the prophets.

Each of these schools were about **5 miles** apart, Five in the number of grace.

Gilgal was the last place Israel camped before entering The Promised Land and where Joshua had the people **circumcised**.

Gilgal is the **place of separation from the past** and the **first stage** in the process of learning how to hear from God—the first school of the prophets.

Next was **Bethel** (House of God) Bethel was named by Jacob after he had an amazing encounter with God, it's where God makes Himself known.

It was at the school in Gilgal the young prophets separated themselves from the **distractions** of world, the flesh and the devil and devoted their all to God.

Only after giving God their all could they advance to **Bethel** and **learn the voice of God!**

From **Bethel** the graduated to **Jericho** the last school of the prophets!

Jericho was 5 miles from the Jordan and represents “**The walk of Faith**” it was at Jericho God gave “specific” instructions on how to destroy and city with impenetrable walls. **It represents The Word in action!**

Jericho was 5 miles from **The Jordan River!** **The Jordan River** speaks of **death and transformation.**

At the crossing of The Jordan to go into The Promised Land when The Ark of Covenant, Joshua and the priests entered the water the Jordan stopped flowing and heaped up allowing Israel to cross.

The Jordan represents passing from death to life, the old to the new, from a dependent life to a life of consistent provision.

Crossing **The Jordan** means you have graduated to the place of maturity and know for yourself how to operate successfully in The Kingdom of God!

Once they cross **The Jordan River** **Elisha has proven he is spiritually mature enough to walk under the mantle of his mentor.**

He was not satisfied being just an apprentice—he moved past the childish stage of self-awareness in Gilgal to denial of self at **Bethel** to hear God clearly.

Yet he knows there’s more to just hearing God for himself, he must build his faith and for that he needs to go through **Jericho.**

Only after going through **Jericho** can he reach **The Jordan River** the place of total commitment to God and His Kingdom.

***KJV 2 Kings 2:14** And he took the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and smote the waters, and said, Where is the LORD God of Elijah? and when he also had smitten the waters, they parted hither and thither: and Elisha went over.*

***15** And when the sons of the prophets which were to view at Jericho saw him, they said, The spirit of Elijah doth rest on Elisha. And they came to meet him, and bowed themselves to the ground before him.*

The **Vulgate** The Latin translation of the OT by St. Jerome has an interesting rendering of this verse.

It says Elisha smote the water and nothing happened, so he smote it again the second time evoking the phrase “where is The God of Elijah” and the waters part.

Suggesting Elisha had to remember the man of God who God Himself told to place the mantle on him. He couldn’t have walked in the power of the mantle without him.

Too often people skip over the man God used to them where they are and give credit only to God—this is a mistake.

Galatians 6:6 *The person who is taught God's word should share all good things with his teacher.*

Hebrews 13:7 *Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith.*