

“A Double Portion of Thy Spirit”

By Elder David Pyles

Immediately prior to the time Elijah was caught up to heaven in the whirlwind, his younger understudy Elisha requested a double portion of Elijah's spirit (2Ki 2:9). Elijah, being under the inspiration of God, then replied that Elisha's request would be granted provided that the younger prophet were with him at the time he was taken away. The scriptures then record that this condition was fulfilled.

After reading of the spectacular career of Elijah, it is difficult to believe that any man could have a double portion of his spirit, yet it came to pass that exactly twice as many miracles were done in the ministry of Elisha as in that of Elijah. The miracles in the careers of these two men of God may be summarized thus:

Miracles in the Career of Elijah

- 1) Causing the rain to cease for 3 1/2 years (1Ki 17:1)
- 2) Being fed by the ravens (1Ki 17:4)
- 3) Miracle of the barrel of meal and cruse of oil (1Ki 17:14)
- 4) Resurrection of the widow's son (1Ki 17:22)
- 5) Calling of fire from heaven on the altar (1Ki 18:38)
- 6) Causing it to rain (1Ki 18:45)
- 7) Prophecy that Ahab's sons would all be destroyed (1Ki 21:22)
- 8) Prophecy that Jezebel would be eaten by dogs (1Ki 21:23)
- 9) Prophecy that Ahaziah would die of his illness (2Ki 1:4)
- 10) Calling fire from heaven upon the first 50 soldiers (2Ki 2:10)
- 11) Calling fire from heaven upon the second 50 soldiers (2Ki 2:12)
- 12) Parting of the Jordan (2Ki 2:8)
- 13) Prophecy that Elisha should have a double portion of his spirit (2Ki 2:10)
- 14) Being caught up to heaven in a whirlwind (2Ki 2:11)

Miracles in the Career of Elisha

- 1) Parting of the Jordan (2Ki 2:14)
- 2) Healing of the waters (2Ki 2:21)
- 3) Curse of the she bears (2Ki 2:24)
- 4) Filling of the valley with water (2Ki 3:17)
- 5) Deception of the Moabites with the valley of blood (2Ki 3:22)
- 6) Miracle of the vessels of oil (2Ki 4:4)
- 7) Prophecy that the Shunammite woman would have a son (2Ki 4:16)
- 8) Resurrection of the Shunammite's son (2Ki 4:34)
- 9) Healing of the gourds (2Ki 4:41)
- 10) Miracle of the bread (2Ki 4:43)
- 11) Healing of Naaman (2Ki 5:14)
- 12) Perception of Gehazi's transgression (2Ki 5:26)
- 13) Cursing Gehazi with leprosy (2Ki 5:27)

- 14) Floating of the axe head (2Ki 6:6)
- 15) Prophecy of the Syrian battle plans (2Ki 6:9)
- 16) Vision of the chariots (2Ki 6:17)
- 17) Smiting the Syrian army with blindness (2Ki 6:18)
- 18) Restoring the sight of the Syrian army (2Ki 6:20)
- 19) Prophecy of the end of the great famine (2Ki 7:1)
- 20) Prophecy that the scoffing nobleman would see, but not partake of, the abundance (2Ki 7:2)
- 21) Deception of the Syrians with the sound of chariots (2Ki 7:6)
- 22) Prophecy of the seven-year famine (2Ki 8:1)
- 23) Prophecy of Benhadad's untimely death (2Ki 8:10)
- 24) Prophecy of Hazael's cruelty to Israel (2Ki 8:12)
- 25) Prophecy that Jehu would smite the house of Ahab (2Ki 9:7)
- 26) Prophecy that Joash would smite the Syrians at Aphek (2Ki 13:17)
- 27) Prophecy that Joash would smite Syria thrice but not consume it (2Ki 13:19)
- 28) Resurrection of the man touched by his bones (2Ki 13:21)

Hence, there were 14 miracles in the first case but double this number in the second. Thus were the promises of God exactly fulfilled in Elisha's life, as they will be in the lives of all His people.