

Famous Chapter 2's Of the Old Testament

2 Kings 2

Why is this a famous chapter? For the most part it's famous for arguments and theology. Sometimes we get sticky spots in the Bible. A verse or two that contradict themselves. With 31, 102 verses in the Bible written by 35 men over several thousand years, it could make for misinterpretation. One of my biggest beefs with Bible commentary is putting words in Gods mouth. So, if a verse is hard to understand they either make up an excuse for God or say it was written to depict Jesus. I will try and show this chapter in its own light.

In 1st Kings 19 the tyrant Jezebel says that she will kill Elijah. Our 2 Kings chapter 2 presumably comes sometime later. In these first 4 verses of 2 kings 2, we have the writer and people surrounding Elijah while knowing that God will take him up in the air. How did everyone know that before it happens? I have wondered if all the people believed Jezebel would make good on her promise. It's just odd to me that everyone knew Elijah would be taken up by God.

Secondly, there seems to be a gathering of the Prophets. Elijah claims that the rumors are false. That he will not depart this earth. That is why I think it's related to the death threat more than God just setting a time and place to take Elijah.

Thirdly, we have a verse in the New Testament by Jesus that states in John 3:13 "*And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man*

which is in heaven.” There is a controversy about Elijah and Enoch being taken up to heaven. Some say “no” they were just moved on earth. Others say it’s a misrepresentation of the John verse. Who knows really? Yet, clearly, Elijah and Enoch are taken up somewhere and somehow by God.

It is also interesting that a young prodigy named Elishia asks for a double portion. Of? Elisha will take the place of Elijah when he is taken. Elijah offers his prodigy a gift in remembrance of him. Elisha is bold and asks for whatever he had times two. It’s probably an honor saying in those days. You’re so great I want double of that. God grants the request if you followed the life of Elisha.

This is a cool chapter. Earlier Elijah took his mantle (cloak) and smacked the water with it. The waters divided and they crossed over. After Elijah is indeed taken up in a fiery chariot, his mantel falls to the ground. Elisha takes it and does the same thing to the water and walks through to the other side. For the most part this chapter is famous because of the striking of the water and Elijah leaving in a chariot of fire.

I think it’s somehow symbolic that Elijah and Elisha mention 50 men several times. It’s probably a strong group to have 50 or a witness that these things happened. I’m not sure why, but I believe it’s mentioned for a reason. Just like David mentions having 37 mighty men. The theory of Elijah being moved to another place on earth seems a stretch. The Bible specifically tells us the 50 men tried to search for him.

One other point. Sometimes we attach the Spirit of God to the New Testament. Yet, in verse 16 they say the Spirit of the Lord took Elijah. Clearly, they believe in and mention Gods Spirit in ancient times. It’s cool that Elisha was able to heal bad tasting waters with salt. Elisha

was called bald head by some mockers. He then called on a bear to attack them. Yes, Elisha was given great power from the Lord just as he had asked for. I feel this chapter is famous for the chariot story. It's also fun with all the miracles and dialogue. Great chapter in the Bible.