

permission. He put limits to how much Satan could affect Job. For God knows all our abilities and tests us accordingly. We don't understand the way God thinks, but we must know that all He does is out of His love for us. One must always remember that the reward for those who suffer is greater. "Indeed the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before (Job 42:10)." Well, Job passed his test with flying colors; let us pray that we may share his fate and may also see the reward prepared for them that love the Lord.

Pray to the Lord on our behalf O blameless man, Job the righteous, that He may forgive us our sins. Amen.

Elisha the Prophet

Submittedby a Mighty Arrow St Mary Church, Pompano Beach, FL

lisha is a Hebrew name meaning "God is Salvation". Elisha was a prophet to the tribe of Isaachar. He was an obedient disciple of Elijah the prophet. No other prophet performed more miracles than Elisha.

Elisha came from a wealthy family. He was invited by Elijah to become a prophet when Elijah saw Elisha walk through his father's field. Elijah put his cloak on him, and from then on, he became Elijah's disciple.

Before Elijah departed alive on the fiery chariot, Elisha asked Elijah for a double portion of his spirit to dwell in him, as Elisha wished to always be with Elijah. He was granted this great blessing. Following this, Elisha crossed the Jordan River by hitting the water with the cloak given to him by Elijah, and the water split.

Elisha helped his people to be victorious over their enemies. He healed the leper (2 Kings 5), and resurrected the Shunamite woman's son from the dead (2 Kings 4:8-37). It was music which moved Elisha to prophecy.

Contrasting Elijah from Elisha, Elisha was bald, dressed normally, traveled from place to place, had his own house, and had a staff. Elijah did not travel but stayed on a mountain, did not own a house, and was not bald.

How can a person benefit from the blessed life of Elisha

the Prophet? Many ways. One can learn obedience to their masters (parents, father of confession, bosses at work, etc.), as Elisha was obedient to Elijah as his disciple. He also loved Elijah and wanted to be with him always.

We may also learn a lesson of respect towards elders and holy men of God. The youths that made fun of Elisha for being bald received their lesson the hard way when a female bear mauled them. We should learn to give due respect to all those it is due.

There is also the concept of discipleship. A bond between the disciple and the master is a strong one, especially as those we see between the Desert Fathers and their disciples. If one could learn from this and take and become a sort of disciple to their spiritual father, the results could be quite beneficial. Our spiritual fathers are our best sources of guidance, and we must learn as much as we can from them, love and respect them, and take their blessings just as Elisha did with his Elijah.

When Elisha's time for departure from this vain world came, he was sick with an illness. The king of Israel, Joash, was in conflict with the Syrians. He wept over Elisha on his deathbed, but Elisha gave him instructions to attack the Syrians and destroy them. When he finished, Elisha finally gave up his spirit and departed from this vain world (2 Kings 13:14-20).



