



# ELIJAH AND ELISHA

MESSENGERS IN WORD AND DEED

# New Generations

- God grows successful ministries even more with new generations
- 1 Kings 17:17–24, 2 Kings 4:18–37, and 2 Kings 13:20–21
- The “double portion” did not mean that Elisha received twice as much of the Holy Spirit as Elijah.

# New Generations

- The number of Elisha's recorded miracles does surpass those of Elijah.
- This should not be taken to mean that Elisha's ministry was better or that he was greater in significance.
- Elijah is the one who never died but was called up to heaven and appeared on the Mount of Transfiguration.

# New Generations

- Elijah raised one person from the dead; Elisha raised two.
- Elisha's first resurrection story is very similar to Elijah's, but the second was completely different and even more amazing.
- Elisha didn't actually perform the miracle. In fact, he was already dead.

# New Generations

- The length of the famine Elisha predicted was exactly double the length of the one Elijah had predicted (seven years versus three and a half).
- Elijah prophesied through the reigns of two kings and Elisha through the reigns of four kings.

# New Generations

- All of these “doubles” (and one triple) symbolically make a theological statement.
- Elisha’s ministry wasn’t better or more powerful, but his ministry did expand more widely.
- In a similar way, Jesus said His disciples would do “greater works” than He (John 14:12).

# New Generations

- Even though Elisha did double the number of miracles, the sons of the prophets said “the spirit of Elijah rested on Elisha” because it was the same Holy Spirit who empowered them both.
- Elisha didn't have more of God's spirit, but his ministry extended farther and wider.

# New Generations

- Elisha carried on Elijah's ministry but took it to new places and new situations.
- The ministry and calling were still the same – preach God's Word and repentance to His people. But the ministry grew.
- We want the same to be true for any modern successor who carries on a spiritual parent's ministry.

# New Generations

- Elijah's ministry prepared the way for Elisha's, and all of it was empowered only by God.
- The same is true of any ministry today. God is building His Church through all of us together.
- Each of us puts our "stone" on top of those who have come before us, all built on the foundation of Christ (1 Corinthians 3:9–16).

# Different People

- God uses different people, but it's the same spirit
- 2 Kings 2:15 and 1 Corinthians 12:4–6
- Elisha's ministry was not better than Elijah's; it was just different, partly because he was in different situations interacting with different people, but also because Elisha was a different person with different gifts, skills, experiences and resources.

# Different People

- They did things in different ways because they were different people in different situations.
- The New Testament tells us about the body of Christ.
- The same Spirit but different gifts, roles, and callings (1 Corinthians 12).

# Different People

- Elijah's ministry was done mostly alone, until Elisha joined him.
- Elijah alone announced the famine; he faced 450 prophets of Baal by himself.
- He stood alone on Mount Horeb hearing God speak in the still, small voice.

# Different People

- Elisha's ministry was much more communal.
- Fifty other prophets were there when Elisha took over.
- He had an assistant from early in his ministry.
- He interacted with other prophets often.

# Different People

- Elisha spent a lot of his time around ordinary people and most of his miracles addressed their practical concerns, such as purifying water, multiplying food, healing disease, helping a widow pay her debts, and raising the dead.
- His miracles not only displayed God's power but also show His concern for life, restoration, healing and provision, especially for the vulnerable.

# Different People

- Elisha also offered counsel to the kings of Israel but remained untempted by political power. He confronted sin and spoke truth in the face of persecution.
- When Jehoahaz sought the Lord, Elisha offered compassion. When Jehoash saw Elisha was dying, he wept over him and called him “my father,” just as Elisha had called Elijah.

# Different People

- Elisha was a different person with different gifts, but he didn't have a different spirit; he had the same spirit, the Holy Spirit.
- When the prophets saw Elisha part the Jordan, they said the spirit of Elijah rested on him.
- This is how God empowers His people, by giving them His Holy Spirit.

# Different People

- The Spirit may have empowered different people in different ways to do different things, but the Spirit was the same.
- In the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit came upon people and empowered them for a specific task or period of time, like Samson, Saul or David (Judges 14:6; 1 Samuel 16:13).

# Different People

- The Holy Spirit also left people when they were unfaithful to God (1 Samuel 16:14). But in the new covenant, because of Christ's atoning work on the Cross, the Holy Spirit comes to dwell inside God's people (1 Corinthians 3:16).
- The mission of the Holy Spirit in our lives is not just to work through us, but to work in us, sanctifying us, making us more and more like Jesus every day (2 Corinthians 3:18).

# Different People

- We have different gifts, roles and responsibilities, but the same Spirit. Each of those different gifts works together in the body of Christ.
- But no part of the body is any more important than any other. No one should think less of themselves because they are a part the world might consider “small” or unimportant.

# Healing and Restoration

- God reverses the curse and brings healing, restoration, and life
- 2 Kings 2:19–22 and Joshua 6:26 and 1 Kings 16:34
- When Elisha crossed back over the Jordan River, he was in Jericho.

# Healing and Restoration

- This was a re-creation of the path the second generation of Israelites followed when they first entered the Holy Land for the conquest.
- The first generation died in the wilderness because they didn't believe God could take the land for them, and in the first battle of Jericho, God proved He could.

# Healing and Restoration

- At Jericho, the people complained to Elisha that their water was contaminated.
- Jericho sits near the Jordan Rift Valley, an area with heavy mineral deposits.
- Jericho is the lowest city in the world (800 feet below sea level) and the oldest city discovered by archaeologists.

# Healing and Restoration

- It is near the Dead Sea, called that because no aquatic life can live in the water due to its high salt content.
- The sea is landlocked with no outflow, so salts and minerals have accumulated over time.
- The salinity level is around 35 percent, nearly 10 times higher than ocean water.





# Healing and Restoration

- As the elders said to Elisha, the city was strategically located. It also looked beautiful and fertile; it was called the “City of Palm Trees.” But the water was bad, so the land was unfruitful.
- This was analogous to the spiritual lives of many of God’s people at the time; they looked righteous on the outside, doing all the right religious things, but their hearts were far from God so they bore no fruit.

# Healing and Restoration

- Theologically, this story is interesting because when God destroyed the city of Jericho in the first “battle” of the conquest, Joshua pronounced a curse on whoever rebuilt it (Joshua 6:26).
- The city lay desolate for more than 500 years until Hiel of Bethel rebuilt it under King Ahab, the evil king Elijah preached against.

# Healing and Restoration

- At this point in the story, it had been rebuilt within the last 20 years or so.
- Just as Joshua had prophesied, rebuilding that city cost Hiel the lives of his firstborn and youngest sons (1 Kings 16:34).
- It is highly unlikely that Hiel was unaware of this curse; it's much more likely that he blatantly disregarded it.

# Healing and Restoration

- At this point in the story, it had been rebuilt within the last 20 years. Not only did Hiel personally endure the curse of losing his sons to the project, but the land was not fruitful because of the water.
- Baal was not the god of fertility they thought he was. God could have just left the people to endure the consequences of their own disobedience.

# Healing and Restoration

- He could have said, “I told you not to rebuild that city!”
- But our God is the God of grace, mercy and lovingkindness.
- So Elisha purified the water, just as God had purified the waters at Marah in the Exodus generation even though all they did was grumble against Moses in the wilderness (Exodus 15:22–27).

# Healing and Restoration

- Elisha's using salt to purify the too-salty water is theologically deliberate.
- The salt didn't make the water drinkable, obviously; adding salt would have only made it worse. It was God who healed the water.
- Salt was a symbol of purity, preservation and covenant faithfulness (Leviticus 2:13; Numbers 18:19).

# Healing and Restoration

- God was purifying what had been cursed by their covenant unfaithfulness.
- Reflecting the covenant blessings and curses of life versus death and fruitfulness versus barrenness, God was restoring life where there was barrenness.
- Salt usually sterilizes land, but God used it to restore life.

# Healing and Restoration

- God can transform what is cursed into a source of blessing.
- This miracle reflects a shift in Elisha's ministry compared to Elijah's.
- While Elijah primarily preached judgment and curse on Ahab and the people for their idolatry, Elisha's ministry focused on restoration and healing.

# Healing and Restoration

- This miracle points us back to when God healed the waters at Marah, but it also points us ahead to Christ, who called Himself the Living Water.
- When Jesus met the woman at the well, it was a different well in a different city. Yet, when Jesus called Himself the living water, He was speaking to a Samaritan woman, a descendant of that same northern kingdom where Ahab had been so disobedient.

# Healing and Restoration

- Anyone who is thirsty can come to Jesus and receive life – Jew, Gentile, Samaritan, anyone (Isaiah 55:1; John 3:16).
- Elisha's healing of the waters at Jericho points ahead to this spiritual reality that no one is beyond redemption.
- As Elisha reversed the curse of Jericho, Jesus reversed the curse of sin and death for all who trust in Him (Genesis 3:17–19; Romans 6:23).

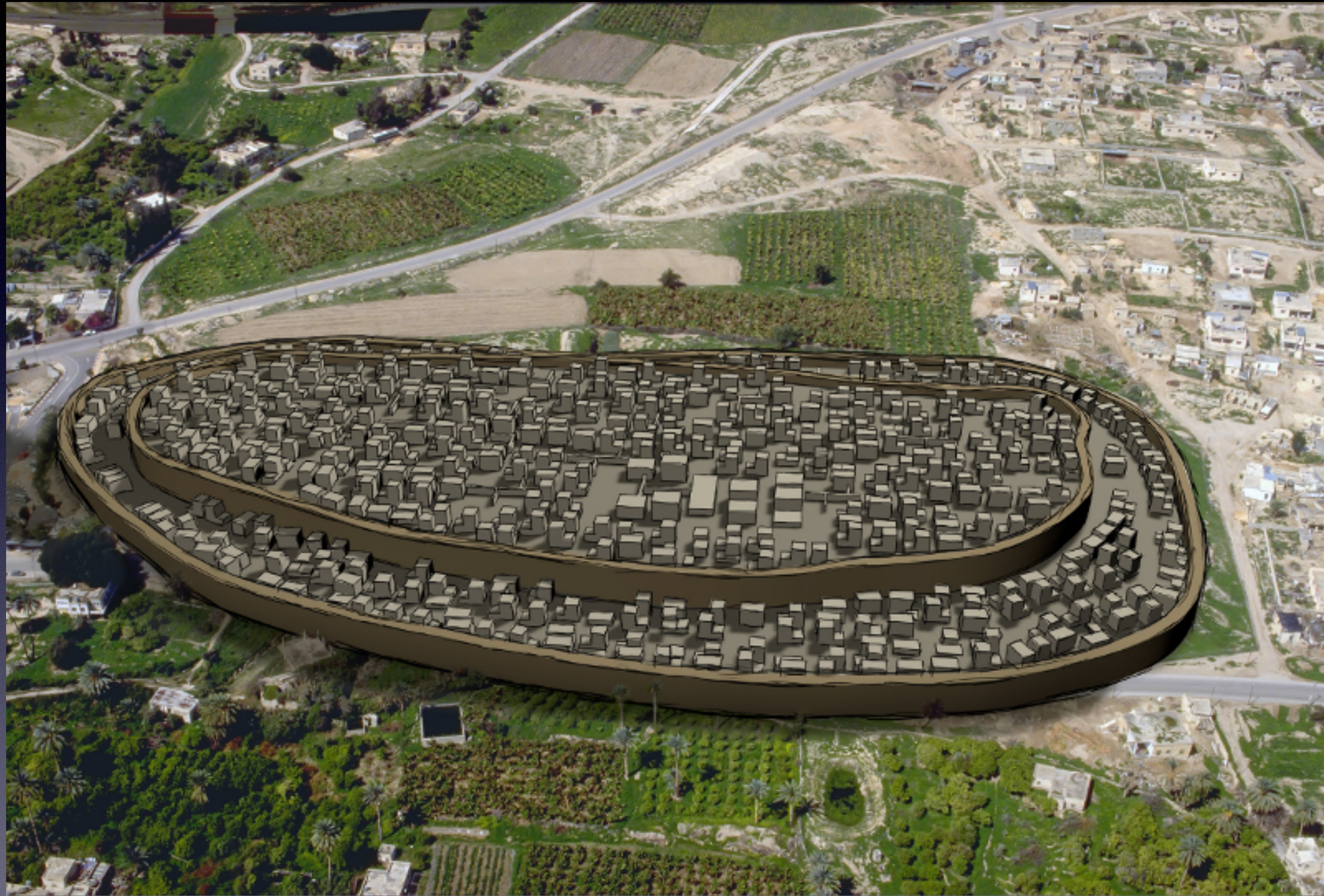
# JERICHO



FAITH  
AFFIRMING  
**FINDINGS**

WITH DR. PAUL D. WEAVER





# Jericho

- The archaeological record reveals that Ancient Jericho was surrounded by a massive defensive system just as the Bible describes (Joshua 2:5–7, 15; 6:5, 20).
- The physical remains of Ancient Jericho point to a wealthy and significant city, consistent with the biblical picture (Joshua 5:13–6:27; 7:21).



# Jericho

- Collapsed mudbrick walls have been uncovered. This is exactly what the Bible describes—the supernatural collapse of Jericho’s walls (Joshua 6:20a).
- These walls fell outward, not inward, creating a ramp that allowed Israelite forces to charge “straight ahead” into the city, just as recorded in Scripture (Joshua 6:20b).

# Jericho

- A thick burn layer—up to three feet deep—was found, showing that the city was consumed by intense fire. The Israelites were commanded to burn the city (Joshua 6:24).
- Jars were discovered still full of grain—evidence of a rapid conquest, not a long siege, aligning perfectly with the biblical account (Joshua 6:15).

# Archaeology

