

**ELISHA HEALS THE WATER**

Old Testament Lesson #112

As God took the prophet Elijah (e-LI-ja) into heaven in a whirlwind, Elijah's cloak fell from him. Elisha (e-LI-sha) picked it up and went back to the Jordan River. Striking the water with Elijah's cloak, he said, "Where now is the LORD, the God of Elijah?" When he struck the waters, they parted, and he crossed over.

Some prophets from Jericho who had seen him strike the water said to one another that the spirit of Elijah rested on him. They bowed before Elisha and acknowledged him as their leader.

They wanted to send a search party for Elijah. Elisha told them not to go, but they were determined, and he finally told them to go. He knew they wouldn't be satisfied until they had looked. After three days of unsuccessful searching, he said, "Didn't I tell you not to go?"

The men of Jericho (JER-i-ko) told Elisha that their city was situated in a good place, but their water was no good, causing their crops not to flourish. Elisha requested a new bowl filled with salt. He threw the salt into the spring. He told the people, "This is what the LORD says: 'I have healed this water. Never again will it cause death or make the land unproductive.'" And it was so.

**POINTS TO CONSIDER:**

- There was nothing miraculous about Elijah's cloak; the power came from the LORD.
- The same with the salt; the power was from the LORD.
- Possibly the people who wanted the search done were remembering the death of Moses on Mount Nebo and how he had been buried in an unknown spot by God (see Deuteronomy 34:6).
- God's covenant with the people was called a covenant of salt (Numbers 18:19). In Bible times, salt was used for healing and preserving.

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- I. Elisha parted the Jordan using Elijah's cloak.
  - A. Witnesses acknowledged him as the successor to Elijah.
- II. The 50 prophets searched for Elijah but did not find him.
  - A. Elisha had told them not to look.
- III. Through God's power, Elisha healed the waters of Jericho.

**ANSWER KEY:**

"spirit of Elijah"

s, p, i, r, i, t, o, f, e, l, i, j, a, h

healed, water, never, death, land,  
unproductive