



The Zion Letter

The Monthly Newsletter of For Zion's Sake Ministries, Inc.
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Elijah's Mantle: Getting Equipped for the Last Days

After Elijah had slain the four hundred prophets of Baal, (1Kings 18), he fled to Mount Sinai, hundreds of miles away, because he was afraid of the wicked queen Jezebel who wanted him dead. Elijah met with God at Horeb, on Mount Sinai, and then God sent the prophet back to complete his work. One of God's instructions to Elijah was to anoint Elisha as prophet in his place. We are told in 1 Kings 19:19, "*So he departed from there and found Elisha, son of Shaphat. He was plowing with twelve pairs of oxen, and he himself was driving the twelfth pair. Then Elijah*

crossed over to him and threw his mantle on him. So he left the oxen and ran after Elijah saying, "Let me please kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow you." So we can see that the anointing as prophet was represented by throwing his mantle (perhaps his cloak, his tallit, or prayer shawl) onto the young boy signifying God had chosen

him to be not just a prophet, but Elijah's replacement (just as David was anointed with oil by Samuel to be King). God can anoint in a variety of ways.

At the completion of his discipleship, under the great prophet Elijah, Elijah asked Elisha if he could do something for the young prophet before being caught up to heaven. Elisha asked his teacher for a "double portion" of his spirit. Elijah responded, "*You have asked a very difficult thing. Nevertheless, if you see me when I am taken from you, it will be so to you; but if not, it will not be so.*" 2Kings 2:10. Elisha did see Elijah taken up to heaven in a whirlwind by the fiery chariot of Israel and horses of fire. He got the double portion he asked for! If you take the time to read 2Kings:2, you will notice that Eli-



sha demonstrates no miraculous power until he receives the mantle/double portion of his master's spirit. In fact, if you read the chapter you will notice that the other young prophets taunted Elisha prior to him receiving the mantle. After Elijah is taken up to heaven something changed; we read, "*He then picked up the mantle of Elijah that fell from him. When he returned and stood by the bank of the Jordan, he took the mantle of Elijah that had fallen off him, struck the waters and said, "Where is the Lord God of Elijah?" As he indeed struck the waters, they parted here then there. Then Elisha crossed over. When the sons of the prophets at Jericho saw him some way off, they said, "The Spirit of Elijah has rested on Elisha." So they came to meet him and bowed down to the ground before him.*" 2 Kings 2:13-15. All the young prophets on the other side of the Jordan realized that Elisha now had power like his master. In fact, he had a double portion!

"I Want the Mantle of a Great Man of God"

When you read about young King David having a horn of oil poured over his head by the prophet Samuel or about Elijah throwing his mantle over young Elisha to anoint him prophet in his place (2 Kings 2), or Yeshua/Jesus blowing the Holy Spirit onto his Disciples in John 20, you begin to see that Spiritual gifts are not learned in seminary and don't come with a degree or a plaque. Spiritual gifts are imparted by God, usually through His servants. I believe that principle still applies today, and that is why a dozen rabbis laid hands on me and anointed me to be a rabbi in 2007, months after my seminary studies were complete. What really made me a rabbi was God's anointing through them by prayer and laying of hands.

I have a friend named Sam Smith. When Sam was a young pastor he said to me, “Joe, I want the mantle of a great man of God. Some of them are leaving us, such as Kenneth Hagin, Oral Roberts, Billy Graham, Lester Sumner, etc.”. I had been teaching on Elijah’s mantle at the time, but I never thought to ask a man of God for his mantle! It so happened that a famous Indian Evangelist had come to town, brought here by Coach McCartney of “Promise Keepers”, Dr. Gary Smalley, and other well known leaders. As I stood in Freedom Hall in Johnson City, Tennessee that May evening in 2002, I heard Coach McCartney say, “Here stands a man that you probably never heard of whose sandal laces I’m not worthy to tie.” It was true, I had never heard of the little Indian evangelist K.A. Paul who led crusades of one to two million people in India and Africa!

The plan was to bring Dr. Paul to Bristol Speedway for a crusade in July. Well, July came and went and I assumed God wasn’t in the plan; however, I received a phone call in August saying that Dr. Paul was returning to a local high school to have a meeting. I told the person who invited me that I was busy (and I was) but my plans canceled. A day or so later I received a call from some-

body else inviting me to the same meeting! Well I have a standard that I live by: “If its possible and Biblical I’ll do it.” Since I had no excuse I went to the high school that night. There were only about 120 people there and most sat in the back of the large auditorium. Dr. Paul said, “Everybody, come to the front, and don’t worry I won’t lay hands on you!” I remembered the words of Sam Smith at that moment and shouted, “Lay hands!” It was then I heard a voice in my heart say, “Joe when this meeting is over I want you to go up to that man and ask him for his mantle.”

Now I had met Dr. Paul once before in the midst of 5000 people and just shook his hand; however this time I made my way to the stage after the meeting as others shook his hand. When my turn came I asked Dr. Paul for his blessing and for his mantle. He knelt down and called the fire of God down on my head! I received a mantle and within three months I was speaking on a panel at the National Press Club with Gov. Mike Huckabee, Dr. Paul, Dr. Gary Smalley, Ricky Skaggs, Dr. E.V. Hill and many other famous leaders. Proverbs 18:16 says, **“A man’s gift makes room for him, and brings him before great men.”**



What was I, the Messianic rabbi from Bristol, doing in that crowd? I am convinced it was the gift of God! I met and chit-chatted with Governor Huckabee, Ricky Skaggs, and Gary Smalley, but most of the day I was next to the famous pastor Dr. E.V. Hill from Los Angeles. I gave Dr. Hill a book about “the one new man” and Messianic Judaism. It was titled *Your People Shall be My People* by Don Finto. He read it all day and we talked. Later in the day while Gov. Huckabee and Dr. K.A. Paul went to a meeting, the rest of us waited in the lobby. It was at that moment I felt a voice inside me say, “Joe I want you to ask Dr. Hill for his mantle as a pastor”. You see my chief calling was as an evangelist, but I needed a pastor’s heart. So I asked Dr. E.V. Hill if he would bless me, and if he would give me his mantle as a pastor. We had become friends that day and he said he’d be glad to! So I knelt down on one knee and the

older man placed his hand on my head and prayed that mantle of a shepherd on me. Wow! God was equipping me as a pastor, as a greater evangelist, and for things I had no idea were to come or even are still to come because Roman’s 11:29 says, **“For the gifts and calling of God are without Repentance.”** In other words, they are forever!

1Corinthians 14:1 says, **“Pursue love, yet desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy.”** You can’t buy them at Target or Costco. Spiritual gifts are *imparted* the same way today as they were throughout the Bible — with prayer, with laying of hands, with mantles, with anointing oil, or a combination of the above. And just because you attend seminary doesn’t guarantee you’ll receive an anointing and gifts. Seminary can be good for study and edification, but it’ll never make you preach like a Billy Graham. That’s not something you learn. You either have it or you don’t.

Shavuot/Pentecost is coming!

Shavuot is coming! For those who may not know, Shavuot was the holiday that all those people were gathered in Jerusalem to celebrate in Acts chapter two. Christians know it by its Anglicized name, “Pentecost”, from the Greek “Pentecoste” as in 50th. In Leviticus chapter fifteen the Sons of Israel were commanded to observe a feast fifty days from the first weekly Sabbath during Passover. Leviticus says to count seven Sabbaths (seven weeks from the Shabbat/Saturday of Passover) plus one day, thus amounting to seven weeks plus a day (or fifty days). The Hebrew Bible calls it the Feast of weeks/Shavuot and Christians

call it Pentecost (as in fifty days); you say tomato, I'll say tō-mā-tō. Shavuot/Pentecost is truly the only holiday that Jews and Christians have always shared in common from the start.

So what does Elijah's mantle have to do with Shavuot/ Pentecost?

The answer is, **"The Double Portion"**. Deuteronomy 21:15-17 tells us that the inheritance of the firstborn son is a double portion of all that the father has. Hebrews 12:23 tells us that you are part of the assembly of the "firstborn", if you are in Messiah, therefore, your spiritual inheritance as a believer is a *double portion*!

Elijah gave Elisha a double portion (see 2 Kings 2). David was anointed King twice, first by Samuel (1 Samuel 16) and again by the men of Judah at Hebron (see 2 Samuel 2:4). The disciples received a "double portion" of the Holy Spirit in John 20:22 and then again in Acts 2:4, under the New Covenant! Why, because they were all "firstborn sons" of the Spirit, Hallelujah! Your inheritance, should you choose to accept it, (read 1 Corinthians 14) is to receive the double portion — your spiritual gifts and power! Do you think Peter, who denied Jesus and ran away from a young girl, would have found the boldness to preach to thousands on the temple steps on the day of Shavuot without the double portion of the Spirit, or the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, as Christians know it today, as mentioned in Mark 1, John 1, Matthew 3 and Luke 3? The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is something you have to ask for just as Elisha asked Elijah for the double portion of his spirit. Folks, it's not a "Pentecostal-thing" or a "Charismatic-thing" that I'm talking about, (although those groups tend to operate in the gifts and anointings more openly); I'm talking about your inheritance as God's firstborn! Who Doesn't want their father's inheritance?

Conclusion:

1 Corinthians 14:1-40 speaks of Spiritual gifts. Verse one tells us to pursue love and *EAGERLY DESIRE SPIRITUAL GIFTS*, especially that you may prophesy. Most of us have to ask God for the gifts, unlike King David who was a special case. Brethren, you'll never know what you could accomplish for God if you deny His power. If you read 2 Timothy 3:5, it says there are those who **"having a form of Godliness, but denying the power thereof: FROM SUCH TURN AWAY!"**

Friend these are not my words; my teaching is straight from the Bible, so to deny it is to deny the author of the Bible, not me. I'm just the messenger. Again, I say you are the firstborn (Hebrews 12). Your inheritance is the double portion, or the Baptism of the Holy Spirit; it's not just for the occasion of speaking in tongues. This gift varies. In Elisha's case it was to make him the number one prophet of his day. In David's case it was to equip him as King. In the Apostle's case it was to empower them to bring the Gospel to the Gentile world and be able to perform signs and wonders... not just speak in tongues! I personally think we make too much about speaking in tongues instead of teaching why God wants us to have spiritual gifts. We push people away, and that's not good.



I heard the voice of the spirit say recently, **"You are in a season of inheritance"**. Many people have been coming up to me and saying that we are in a season of breakthrough or financial breakthrough. That may be the case, but why? First of all, I

think while some may experience financial breakthrough, for others it's more about spiritual breakthrough! Jeremiah 29:10-11 says, ***"For thus says the Lord: "After 70 years for Babylon are complete, I will visit you, and fulfill My good word toward you to bring you back to this place (Israel). "For I know the plans that I have in mind for you," declares the Adonai, "plans for shalom and not calamity—to give you a future and a hope."*** Friend, this month marked the 71st anniversary of the rebirth of the State of Israel! God told Jeremiah, after 70 years I will visit you and bring you back. He had other good things for His people too. Just look at the powerful spirit that was on Ezra, Nehemiah, and Zerubbabel.

The double portion is about equipping God's people, both Jew and non-Jew, in Messiah for the last days and for **restoration to the land of Israel!** Are you ready? Do you have your passport?

Love,
Rabbi Joe and Dawn

PS

Join us for Service on June 9th as we celebrate Shavuot at 5:30 PM with the community. Bring your friends or your Bible study, there will be a cook out to follow.

Shavuot/Pentecost Celebration

Sunday June 9, 2019

at 5:30 pm

Bring your friends and come celebrate!

Cookout to follow

At the Synagogue on 1128 New Hampshire Ave

If you cannot attend services,
then just click!

Join us for ***“Live Streaming”***
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1128 New Hampshire Ave. Bristol, VA 24201



**Lion of Judah
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