

PROFILE OF A
PARTING PROPHET
II Kings 2:1-12

**Elijah demonstrates commendable qualities
even on the last day of his life.**

I. ELIJAH'S CHARACTER

A. ATTENTIVE (2, 4, 6)

- Elijah is still listening to God and obeying His directives

B. INSIGHTFUL (3, 5, 7)

- Contributing to the ongoing ministry of the School of the Prophets

C. PREPARED (1-6)

- Elijah indicates no fear during his final day, but rather a calm contentment as he travels his teaching circuit from Gilgal to Bethel to Jericho.

D. GRACIOUS (9)

- Seeking to know what he can do to assist Elisha

E. WORTHY (9b)

- Elijah's ministry was such that Elisha wanted to emulate it

F. WISE (10)

- Elijah's answer to Elisha's request (v.9) wisely leaves the answer up to God

G. SUBMISSIVE (1-12)

- Personally, Elijah would have preferred to spend his final day alone (2, 4, 6) but he is willing to accept Elisha's presence and persistence as God's will

II. ELISHA'S RESPECT

A. COMMITTED (2, 4, 6)

1. "I will not leave you"
2. Even though death was near, Elisha would not desert

B. HELPFUL (3, 5)

- Quieting the prophets who knew of Elijah's impending death

C. THOUGHTFUL (9)

- Asking for spiritual strength like Elijah's

D. ENDEARING (12a)

- Calling Elijah his father was an expression of love and respect

E. EXCITED (12b)

- Thrilled at the privileged departure that Elijah enjoys

F. SORROWFUL (12c)

- Expressing an appropriate grief for the one who is gone

III. GOD'S REGARD

A. BLESSED BY GOD (8)

- God allowed Elijah to do one more miracle before departing

B. ENABLED BY GOD (11a)

- He had the health and strength to carry on a conversation with his friend, just before leaving earth

C. SURPRISED BY GOD (11b)

- Elijah might have expected the whirlwind (v.1) but probably had not idea about the chariot and horses of fire

D. HONORED BY GOD (11c)

- His method of deliverance modeled his style of ministry

E. ASSURED BY GOD (11d)

- Elijah went to heaven

F. COMFORTED BY GOD (12a)

1. Elijah knew that God had selected and equipped Elisha as his legitimate successor
2. As he headed to heaven he could hear that prophet shouting with excitement

CONCLUSION:**How will you be remembered?**

- As a person of character
- Respected by others
- Regarded by God

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