



**Transformed To Transform**  
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Proverbs 27:21 - As the crucible tests silver, and the furnace assays gold, so praise received tests a man.

Proverbs 27:21 - MESSAGE BIBLE - The purity of silver and gold is tested by putting them in the fire; the purity of human hearts is tested by giving them a little fame.

There are spheres on the earth that are about to encounter the Gospel of the Kingdom in not only the power of salvation but also the power of transformation.

We want to be in the right place at the right time doing the right thing!!!

80% of Christians I've noticed don't get there because they don't go through the process that can get them there.

PROXIMITY IS POWER. Expect God to put you in places of proximity with Kingdom influence.

We are here as problem-solvers. To solve problems, we have to see things the way they are supposed to be. God gives us a vision of the way something is supposed to be (Acts 9:12), so that you can use the authority He gave you to make it manifest in the present as a witness.

God would like to demonstrate through a city what the Kingdom looks like on the earth.

Today we will touch upon the Story of Elisha who understood the power of proximity and gain insights from this biblical character for change in our own lives so that eventually we become instruments of change.

I Kings 19:15-21; II Kings 2: 1 - 6



The first thing we see about Elisha is that he was a plowman. Here he was, plowing with his oxen to break up the tough rugged ground. He would remain a plowman to the end of his life although God had a whole new ‘ground’ in mind for Elisha. It wouldn’t be the hard natural ground that would concern Elisha after this point... Oh no! God had an even harder ground for Elisha to plow! It would be the hard hearts of the Israelites themselves that Elisha would now be concerned with.

We see that Elisha went from being a ploughman, working in the fields one day, to being a prophet of the Lord the next. It’s fair to say that’s a mighty big change for Elisha! At each step of the journey Elijah was saying “stay here, don’t go any further“ and he was testing Elisha to see if Elisha would stay with him and how much Elisha wanted to follow him and to be with him. And Elisha passed the test saying (in so many words!) “Look, there’s no way, no way at all I am leaving you. I am staying with you and I don’t want to be anywhere else.”

A. W. Tozer said - ‘Contentment with earthly goods is the mark of a saint. Contentment with our spiritual state is a mark of inward blindness.

As believers we must pursue God for more of Him. It is in encountering Him, we experience change. The more we pursue His presence, the more we experience change. Elisha somehow knew this secret. He demonstrated his pursuit of God, by pursuing the prophet Elijah whose anointing he was a recipient of! Three times in II Kings Elijah tells Elisha to stop and stay where he is! It’s almost like Elijah is testing Elisha as to how far he is willing to go. I really like the words quoted above from 2 Kings 2:6 where Elisha said ‘ “As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you.” So the two of them walked on. Like Elijah testing Elisha, the Lord also longs to see whether we will press on further, following hard after Him, with the desire to know Him better. To be transformed by Him, to become instruments of transformation.

What I want to do today is actually look at the four places mentioned in 2 Kings 2:1-6. Each of the four places mentioned (Gilgal, Bethel, Jericho and the Jordan) are highly significant in Israel’s history and I believe they are highly symbolic of stages in the Christians life.

### **I - Where it all starts: Gilgal (Separation)**



## **II - Next stop... Bethel (House of God)**

### **III - Jericho – Walk by Faith**

### **IV - The eternal principle of the Jordan – Death and Resurrection**

Paul says, “I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.”

Our ultimate goal is to become like HIM!!! Transformed by Him to become instruments of transformation.

### **I - Where it all starts: Gilgal (Separation)**

So the first stop on the journey was Gilgal. Before we look at the passage, let me ask you a question... “If you were to go to Gilgal in the days of the Israelites, what would you see?” The answer - stones. Of course, you would see stones in any location, but in this case, there were some pretty specific stones.

Joshua 4:19-24 READ!!!

This is the first real mention of Gilgal and it is very significant. Gilgal was a very important place in Israel’s history. It was a base where Joshua and the Israelites used to go out from. And it was also the very first place that they came to when they entered the Promised Land. Now there are two important things in Gilgal. The first are these stones that were set up as a monument and a reminder so that anyone that looked at them would remember that God is alive and well. God wanted it known and remembered that He is a living God and that He acts on behalf of His people. That is why the stones were there. It is, of course, something that we need to be reminded about repeatedly! So often we think and act as if God was not even alive. We act like He doesn’t even know about the situation that we are going through. We need to be reminded that God is a living God and that He acts on behalf of His people.

But the second thing in Gilgal, is in Chapter 5 verse 2, 6-9 READ !!!



So this little passage gives us the reason why it is called Gilgal. Gilgal means the ‘rolling’ or ‘roll-away’ and so it is called Gilgal because God was saying to them “I have rolled away the past. I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt,

I have separated you from all those taunts that you had had that you would never get into the Promised Land’. They were now a separated people, separated from the past, but also separated unto a living God - which is what circumcision speaks of. It was a sign that they had made a covenant with God. And so, if we were going to boil it down to one word, Gilgal symbolically stands for ‘separation’ - being separated from the past and being separated unto God. Now, I would remind you that this is where Elisha started from. And this is where the nation of Israel always started from. As mentioned earlier, Gilgal became a base of operations for the Israelite nation. It is so important to not just talk the talk, but to actually walk the walk in the Christian life. We should, in our lives, be separated from that which would seek to draw us away from God, and be separated, as living sacrifices, unto the living God.

## **II - Next stop... Bethel (House of God)**

Elijah said to Elisha, “Stay here; the LORD has sent me to Bethel.” But Elisha said, “As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you.”

The next stop on the journey was Bethel. Alright... here is another question. Can anyone tell me who gave Bethel its name? No?

Have a look in Genesis chapter 28 verse 10-19 READ !!!

So it was Jacob who called the place Bethel. And Bethel means the ‘House of God’. And he called it the House of God because he’d had this amazing time with the Lord. He had been in the very presence of the Lord. Later in Israel’s history, during the time of Judges, Bethel was where the Ark of the Covenant was kept. So people always used to go to Bethel to enquire of the Lord. It was known as the House of God. Now, what does that mean for us? Well, as a type, Bethel speaks to us about the Lord’s presence. It is where He is! It is the desire that we should have to be in His presence. So this is the second stage.



The first stage is to do with separation. The second stage is to do with a desire for God and a desire for His presence.

I was reading through the Psalms the other day and one small verse stood out to me. It was talking about the nation of Israel and it said ‘When He (God) afflicted them then they sought Him.’ That is summing up Israel’s history. When things were hard or went wrong for them, then they sought Him. Otherwise they didn’t really seek him a heck of a lot. And the nation of Israel speaks to us of what we are like in our earthly natures. But how different was King David[3].

The presence of God was his desire. In good times and in bad times.

### **III - Jericho – Walk by Faith**

Then Elijah said to him, “Stay here, Elisha; the LORD has sent me to Jericho.” And he replied, “As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you.” So they went to Jericho.

The next stop in Elisha’s journey was Jericho. Now the first real mention of Jericho is back where we were before in Joshua. What do you think of when you hear of Jericho? Walls comin’ a tumbling down! Absolutely! It is probably a story that our Children's church congregation hear many times. It’s a bit of a classic. So if Gilgal was the first place that Israel came to when they entered the Promised Land, Jericho was the first battle that they had to have in the Promised Land. But it was no ordinary battle obviously.

Joshua 5:13, 14 READ !!!

Bit of a strange answer don’t you think? Joshua sees this guy, he’s got a sword and he looks as if he is going to be a real good fighter and so Joshua obviously wants to know whose side he is on - ‘Are you with us, or are you with our enemies?’ he asks. To which the guy answers ‘No’. I love what Major Ian Thomas says about this. ‘In so many words Joshua was saying to Him ‘whose side are you on, are you on our side or on theirs?’ But he said ‘No, I haven’t come to take sides. I have come to take over!’ And that is what he was meaning. Joshua was in the presence of the Lord! And the Lord doesn’t come merely ‘to help’. He comes to take over



the situation. Obviously, as the first battle, God was going to teach the Israelites something special here. Let's have a look –

Joshua 6:1-5 READ!!!

If you ask yourself, 'how is Israel going to win this battle?' The answer is - they weren't... the Lord was. So what did they have to do? Well, they had to walk and they had to walk in faith... quite literally. Their job was to walk around the walls. [4] God, here in the first battle in the Promised Land, was teaching them a new principle - and that was to walk by faith. So Gilgal speaks of being separate... Bethel speaks of the presence of God and Jericho teaches about the walk of faith. It's easy to talk about, but it's more than likely that you've got problems. I know this because things are seldom easy on this crazy planet.

When you're in the midst of a problem, it's very hard to simply trust that God is adequate for your situation and to walk by faith, even though it sounds great and is so, so, so biblical! But it means that you are not walking by sight. It means that you are actually going through a situation where you cannot see how things are going to turn out. And that can be dreadful at times. But we need, obviously, to trust. We need to trust our Father.

#### **IV - The eternal principle of the Jordan – Death and Resurrection**

Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; the LORD has sent me to the Jordan." And he replied, "As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you." So the two of them walked on.

The final test for Elisha came with the Jordan. The Jordan, as I'm sure you remember, is what the Israelites had to cross to pass into the Promised Land. The Jordan separated the land of Canaan from their wanderings in the wilderness and was a highly significant place in the Israelites history. You will remember that God miraculously separated the waters as the Israelites passed through on dry ground.

In fact, God even commanded Joshua to take 12 stones from the midst of the Jordan and to set them as a memorial for the sons of Israel forever so that no one



would forget what God had performed there. So would Elisha go as far as the Jordan?

Ok, so you already know that Elisha went as far as the Jordan so no prizes there! But what about you?... What does the Jordan speak of for you and me? The Jordan, like the Israelites Red Sea experience, speaks to us of baptism – death and resurrection. The practical outworking of this is a laying down of our lives. That is why I called this section ‘the eternal principle’. Jesus’ whole life demonstrated this principle, but it was clearest as He contemplated the cross...

John 12:23-26 “Jesus said ‘The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.[6] Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honour the one who serves me.’

Notice that Jesus, while thinking of the cross, said that ‘where I am, my servant will be also.’ This eternal principle of the wheat falling to the ground and dying was not just for Jesus! No, Jesus clearly said that to be His servant would mean that the same principle applied. Elisha knew this, and when the call of God came his way, he readily let go of his own life, his own hopes and dreams, and followed the call of God to wherever that would lead him! What a fantastic attitude and a great picture for our lives.

### **New Testament Confirmation**

So we have looked at the four locations where Elisha was tested at Gilgal, Bethel, Jericho and the Jordan. And these speak of separation, the presence of God, walking by faith, and death and resurrection respectively.

When I was thinking about those four places, it dawned on me that there is a well known New Testament passage that corresponds to each of these locations. It is Phil 3:6-10.



Location	Principle	N.T Verse	Passage
Gilgal	Separation (from the flesh, the past, and unto God)	Phil 3:6-7	If anyone else thinks he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more... <b>But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ</b>
Bethel	House of God (a desire to know God and be in His presence.)	Phil 3:8	What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to <b>the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord</b> , for whose sake I have lost all things.
Jericho	Faith (Walk by faith and not righteousness or strength)	Phil 3:9	I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, <b>not having a righteousness of my own</b> that comes from the law, <b>but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith.</b>
Jordan	Death & Resurrection (Unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground...)		I want to know Christ and <b>the power of his resurrection</b> and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, <b>becoming like him in his death</b> , and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.

## Conclusion

And that is with what was spoken about Elisha and his master Elijha –“So the two of them walked on.” Or, in the language of the New Testament passage of Philipians 3 -“I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me... But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.”

That was the heart of Paul. Even Paul didn't think that he had arrived, and wasn't content with what he currently knew and had experienced in the Lord. It's important not just to start the Christian life well. It's important to carry on well and to finish well. Press on Christian, to lay hold of that which God has for you.

Gehazi missed it!!!



Elijah had a single portion anointing. Elisha had a double portion anointing. Do you realize this anointing is an ever increasing anointing. Gehazi did not manage his appetite. (When you sit at the table of a king, put a knife to your throat, lest you desire his delicacies and they deceive you). Gehazi ends up with leprosy. Meanwhile Elisha spoke to the woman whose son he had restored to life (READ !!! II Kings 8:1ff – 6). POINT: Gehazi who was called to be a history maker, winds up being a story teller. Instead of doing the works of Elisha, he was telling the works of Elisha. Because he didn't know how to carry himself in a time of great favour. He didn't manage his appetites well.

We don't just come to church just to feel good. We come to be transformed. In His presence, in a divine encounter with Him transformations will take place. We are born to be instruments of change. We want to make a difference. If we are not changing the world, we will not be able to make meaningful conversations.



**USEFUL RESOURCES**



Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.

**YOUTUBE:** <https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore>

**WEBSITE:** <https://apcwo.org/live>

Our other websites and free resources:

**CHURCH:** <https://apcwo.org>

**FREE SERMONS:** <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

**FREE BOOKS:** <https://apcwo.org/books/english>

**DAILY DEVOTIONALS:** <https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional>

**JESUS CHRIST:** <https://examiningjesus.com>

**BIBLE COLLEGE:** <https://apcbiblecollege.org>

**E-LEARNING:** <https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn>

**WEEKEND SCHOOLS:** <https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools>

**COUNSELING:** <https://chrysalislife.org>

**MUSIC:** <https://apcmusic.org>

**MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP:** <https://pamfi.org>

**CHURCH APP:** <https://apcwo.org/app>

**CHURCHES:** <https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches>

**WORLD MISSIONS:** <https://apcworldmissions.org>