

Lesson 29: “He Took Up ... the Mantle of Elijah” (See L29 [Study Guide](#))

Purpose: To help us understand how the authority (mantle) passes from one prophet to another, to encourage us to obey the words of the prophets, and to assure us that the power of God is greater than any other power.

1. Elisha succeeds Elijah as the prophet.

• Read and discuss [2 Kings 2:1–18](#).

• 2 Kings 2:1-10. Elisha said, “As the Lord liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee.”

Why do you think Elisha was so intent on staying with Elijah?

• 2 Kings 2:11-13. Elisha “took up also the mantle of Elijah that fell from him”.

†1. The prophetic mantle †2. President Joseph Fielding Smith

†3. President Gordon B. Hinckley †4. Elder Marvin J. Ashton

• D&C 132:7. Only “one on the earth at a time on whom this power and the keys of the priesthood are conferred”.

• 2 Kings 2:14-15. “And when the sons of the prophets ... saw him, they said, The spirit of Elijah doth rest on Elisha.”

• D&C 43:2-3, 7. There “is none other appointed unto you to receive commandments and revelations”.

• 2 Kings 2:16-18. “And he said, Ye shall not send. And when they urged him till he was ashamed, he said, Send.”

What can we learn from the experience of the 50 men?

2. Elisha heals Naaman of leprosy.

• Read and discuss [2 Kings 5](#).

• 2 Kings 5:1. “Naaman, captain of the host of the king of Syria, was a great man ... but he was a leper.”

• 2 Kings 5:2-9. “And the Syrians ... had brought away captive out of the land of Israel a little maid”.

• 2 Kings 5:10. “And Elisha sent a messenger unto him, saying, Go and wash in Jordan seven times”.

• 2 Kings 5:11-14. “Naaman was wroth ... And his servants came near, and spake unto him ... Then he went down”.

What can we learn from Naaman about following the counsel of the prophet—even when we may not like or understand it or when it may be about small and simple matters?

What are some of the small, simple things we have been asked to do by the prophet or Church leaders?

†5. Elder Rex D. Pinegar †6. Elder Gordon B. Hinckley

• 2 Kings 5:15. Naaman said, “Behold, now I know that there is no God in all the earth, but in Israel”.

How has obedience in simple things strengthened your testimony?

Why do you think Elisha refused Naaman’s offer?

Why do you think it is important to serve without concern for earthly rewards?

3. Elisha guides Israel in a war with Syria.

• Read and discuss [2 Kings 6:8–18](#).

• 2 Kings 6:8-10. The “king of Syria warred against Israel ... [saying] In such and such a place shall be my camp.”

• 2 Kings 6:11-14. The king of Syria “said ... Will ye not shew me which of us is for the king of Israel?”

• 2 Kings 6:15. An “host compassed ... And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! How shall we do?”

• 2 Kings 6:16-23. Elisha said, “Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them.”

What was Elisha’s prayer in his servant’s behalf?

Why, at first, didn’t the servant see the mountain full of horses and chariots of fire that God had sent?

What can we do to open our eyes more fully to the power of God available to us?

†7. Elder Dallin H. Oaks

• [D&C 84:87-88](#). “I will be on your right hand and on your left ... and mine angels round about you, to bear you up.”

†8. Elder Gordon B. Hinckley

Next Week: L30 “Come to the House of the Lord”; See L30: [Class Member Study Guide](#).

(You can download a free LDS Institute manual at: [Old Testament Student Manual: Religion 301 and 302](#).) † •

†1. **The prophetic mantle:** “The passing of the mantle from Elijah to Elisha symbolized the passing of prophet authority to Elisha.

“In modern times we sometimes speak of the ‘mantle’ of authority that the prophet receives when he is ordained and set apart. Although the prophet today does not carry a cloak or piece of cloth, God bestows the keys of the priesthood on him. These keys give him the power to act in God’s name as the leader of the Church on the earth. When a prophet dies, this mantle of authority is given to the new prophet.” (*Lesson Manual*)

†2. **President Joseph Fielding Smith:** “There is no mystery about the choosing of the successor to the President of the Church. The Lord settled this a long time ago, and the senior apostle automatically becomes the presiding officer of the Church, and he is so sustained by the Council of the Twelve which becomes the presiding body of the Church when there is no First Presidency. The president is not elected, but he has to be sustained both by his brethren of the Council and by the members of the Church” (*Doctrines of Salvation*, comp. Bruce R. McConkie, 3 vols. [1954–56], 3:156).

†3. **President Gordon B. Hinckley:** “With President Hunter’s passing, the First Presidency was dissolved. Brother Monson and I, who had served as his counselors, took our places in the Quorum of the Twelve, which became the presiding authority of the Church.

“[A few days later] all of the living ordained Apostles gathered in a spirit of fasting and prayer in the upper room of the temple. Here we sang a sacred hymn and prayed together. We partook of the sacrament of the Lord’s supper, renewing in that sacred, symbolic testament our covenants and our relationship with Him who is our divine Redeemer. The Presidency was then reorganized, following a precedent well established through generations of the past [this precedent is explained in the preceding statement by President Joseph Fielding Smith]. There was no campaigning, no contest, no ambition for office. It was quiet, peaceful, simple, and sacred. It was done after the pattern which the Lord Himself had put in place” (“[This Is the Work of the Master](#),” *Ensign*, May 1995, 69).

†4. **Elder Marvin J. Ashton:** “Any Church member not obedient to the leaders of this Church will not have the opportunity to be obedient to the promptings of the Lord. . . . To obey the gospel law is to yield obedience to those divinely called to preside over us.” (Conference Report, Munich Germany Area Conference 1973, p. 23)

†5. **Elder Rex D. Pinegar:** “Are we not sometimes like Naaman, looking for big or important things to do and bypassing simple things which could change our lives and heal us of our afflictions?” (“[The Simple Things](#),” *Ensign*, Nov. 1994, 80)

†6. **Elder Gordon B. Hinckley:** “The way of the gospel is a simple way. Some of the requirements may appear to you as elementary and unnecessary. Do not spurn them. Humble yourselves and walk in obedience. I promise that the results that follow will be marvelous to behold and satisfying to experience.” (“[Everything to Gain—Nothing to Lose](#),” *Ensign*, Nov. 1976, 96)

†7. **Elder Dallin H. Oaks:** “When I read this wonderful story as a boy, I always identified with the young servant of Elisha. I thought, If I am ever surrounded by the forces of evil while I am in the Lord’s service, I hope the Lord will open my eyes and give me faith to understand that when we are in the work of the Lord, those who are with us are always more powerful than those who oppose us” (“[Bible Stories and Personal Protection](#),” *Ensign*, Nov. 1992, 39).

†8. **President Gordon B. Hinckley:** “We have not as yet carried the gospel to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people. But we have made great strides. We have gone wherever we are permitted to go. God is at the helm, and doors will be opened by His power according to His divine will. Of that I am confident. Of that I am certain” (“[Stay the Course—Keep the Faith](#),” *Ensign*, Nov. 1995, 70–71).

Recommended Reading:

1. Elder Dallin H. Oaks, “[Bible Stories and Personal Protection](#),” *Ensign*, Nov. 1992, 39.
2. Philip Allred, “[Lesson 29: ‘He Took Up ... the Mantle of Elijah’](#),” Meridian Magazine, July 21, 2014.
3. Ted L. Gibbons, “[OT Lesson 29: ‘He Took Up ... The Mantle of Elijah’](#),” no date given.
4. Lenet Hadley Read, “[Ir-ot-29: ‘He Took Up ... the Mantle of Elijah’](#),” no date given.

Recommended Videos:

1. [Naaman and Elisha](#) (14:30).
2. [Pride](#) (1:41).
3. [Obedience Brings Blessings](#) (0:50).

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