

attitude and then we find a place where many people who do not know about ~~the~~ ancient customs, ~~then~~ ^{can} easily get utterly false ideas of Elijah. Because we read ~~just~~ before Elijah was taken up, in verse 9, that Elijah said, Ask what I shall do for thee before I ~~am~~ ~~shall~~ be taken away from thee. ^{and} Elisha said, I pray thee ~~that~~ ^{let} to get a double portion of thy Spirit be upon me. All ^{of his} humility is gone, is it not? Now, he is so conceited ^{it} that he thinks he is going to be ^{as} twice great as Elijah was. Let a double portion of thy Spirit be upon me. I have even seen in ^{it a} some commentaries ^{by} that actually you count the number of miracles that ~~Elijah~~ Elijah did and you count ~~the~~ the miracles that Elisha did and you see that ~~the~~ ^{it} his is twice as many. So, he did twice as much as Elijah. He ^{was} is twice as great ^{well} as Elijah. ~~But~~ the question is of who is the greatest, God alone is competent to judge, but certainly in the attitude of the Bible toward it, there is nothing to suggest that Elisha ~~is~~ was twice as great as Elijah. ^{had} And if he really said to Elijah, I would like to be twice as great as you were. You accomplished ~~me~~ quite a bit, ^{ever} but I like to do twice as much. I would question whether God ^{would} have ever used him. The sin that brought Lucifer down, the sin into which Satan fell, was the sin of pride. ~~And~~ ^{of} all men who have not shown that, ^{it} it was Elisha, and yet people read this verse and think that he ~~meant~~ ^{Well} that said to Elijah, Let me be twice as great as you were. ^{That} It is unfortunate. ~~The~~ Bible ^{as} written does not necessarily explain all the customs and backgrounds with which it deals, and often we have to know something of that, in order to understand ^a the statement and ~~mean~~ here is one case. Here is ~~a~~ ^{one} case which probably was understandable to ~~the~~ the people who knew just a little bit about ~~the~~ ^{on this} ancient customs, even two hundred years ago, but today we have hundreds, hundreds of clay tablets from the ancient world giving wills, giving declarations