

Jehu son of Nimshi shalt thou anoint to be king over Israel; and Elishah. . . shalt thou anoint to be prophet in thy stead. Did Elijah fulfill any one of these three commands?

The first is, on ~~XXXX~~ your way to the wilderness of Damascus, anoint Hazael to be king over Syria. As far as we know Elijah never went to Damascus; never went to Syria, never saw Hazael. So Elijah certainly did not carry out that command. The second command is Jehu son of Nimshi shalt thou anoint to be king over Israel. As far as we know Elijah never saw Jehu, never had any contact with him. Well, the third is Elisha . . . shalt thou anoint to be prophet in thy stead. Did Elijah immediately get a bottle of oil and procede to pour it over the head of Elisha to be his successor. We read right in the same chapter, v.19 -- so he departed thence, and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen before him. Did he go up and say, Just a minute Elisha, I want to anoint you to be my successor? Did he say, Elisha I'd like to invite you to a public meeting in which I will anoint you as my successor? What it says is that Elijah passed by him and cast his mantle upon him. As Elisha was there plowing this man came by him and threw a coat over his head. (Laughter).

We read, He left the oxen and ran after Elijah, and said, Let me, I pray thee, kiss my father and my mother; and then I will follow thee. Did Elijah say, That's wonderful. Come follow me, I'm going to anoint you to be my successor? No. He said, Go back again, What have I done to you? He returned from him and took a yoke of oxen and slew them, and boiled their flesh with the instruments of the oxen; and gave to the people and they did eat. Evidently Elisha's father was quite a wealthy man, he had this large farm where he was working. He invited all the people around to come and eat. What Elijah was doing at this time we are not told. "Then he arose, and went after Elijah, and ministered unto him."