

It doesn't mean he preached sermons to him. (Laughter). He poured water over his hands when he wanted to wash them; this menial task. Did Elijah say to Elisha, Now you are going to be my successor, I'm going to give you a public service. I'm going to anoint you with oil. Well, you can't say something didn't happen just because the Scripture doesn't say it did! But as you read the next few chs. you don't have the slightest hint of such a thing. When you get to the next book which is really part of the same book -- it is an artificial division between 1 Ki. and 2 Ki., you find there in 2 Ki. 2:2 Elijah says to Elisha, Stay here for the Lord has sent me to Bethel. Elisha said, As the Lord lives and as thy soul lives, I will not leave thee. So they went down to Bethel.

Two vv. later, v.4, Elijah said to him: Elisha, stay here for the Lord has sent me to Jericho. And he said, As the Lord lives, and as thy soul lives, I will not leave thee. So they came to Jericho.

Then in v.6, Elijah said to him, Tarry I pray thee, here, for the Lord has sent me to Jordan. And he said, As the Lord lives and as thy soul lives I will not leave thee. And they two went on.

And then in v.9, And it came to pass, when they were gone over, that Elijah said unto Elisha, Ask what I shall do for thee, before I be taken away from thee. And Elisha said, I pray thee, let a corresponding portion of thy spirit be upon me. And he said, You have said a hard thing; nevertheless, if you see me when I am taken from you, it shall be so unto you; but if not, it shall not be so.

Did Elijah anoint Elisha to be his successor? It sounds as if at the very end of his life he spoke to Elisha as if it were very improbable and as if he had to have a miracle in order to have any evidence that he was to be Elijah's successor! Did Elijah fulfill any one of the three commands God gave him? It would look as if he didn't. Elijah