

ended, and you are to carry on the work, you are my successor. Let me give you a few more pointers to before I leave you in order that you may carry it on well? No, he just said, I pray thee, the Lord sends me to Bethel. But Elisha was determined to stand by Elijah, and he said, As the Lord liveth, I will not leave thee. They go to Bethel. There Elijah tells him that God has called him to Jericho, but he refuses him to follow him. Finally they come to the Jordan, and he asked him to stay, and there again he refuses, and he says, No, regardless of difficulties/ and dangers that may be ahead, I am standing with you and will serve the Lord. After they cross over the Jordan Elijah says, does not say even then to Elisha, Elisha God told me at Sinai, you are to be my successor. He has appointed me. He has directed me to anoint you to be the prophet- prophet in my place. Instead of that he says, Ask me what I shall do for thee, before I am taken from thee. And here was Elijah who had performed wonderful great/miracles. What will Elijah think of a fitting thing to ask for? Elisha says, Let me have the double portion of your Spirit.

We today are not apt to understand the meaning of this term, -We-are-not being not-familiar with the ancient legal terminology. Some people even tried to show that Elisha did twice number of miracles that Elijah did and therefore he had a double portion of the Spirit. This is not certainly what it means. Elijah would will-have every reason to be quite hurt if you had done a good work, but I like to do twice good--as good as you. This is not at all what it means. In ancient times it was customary that a man's property be divided among sons. However, if the man had two sons, the property would be divided portions so that the elder son would get ~~w~~ twice as much as the other son's. Thus, if he had eight sons, it would be divided into ~~9~~ nine portions so that the elder son would get ~~the~~ double/amount than any other son got. The double portions was the portion of the first born. Elisha is not asking to be twice as great as Elijah. He is not even asking to be equally great as Elijah. He is asking to be successor of Elijah. Elijah has been told by God that he-wou was to anoint Elisha instead.