

Whirlwind and Revelation: Divine Power and Prophetic Transition

יונה א':ד'

וַיְהִי הַטִּיל רוּחַ גְּדוֹלָה אֶל־הַיָּם וַיְהִי סַעַר־גְּדוֹל בַּיָּם וַהֲאֵנִיָּה חֹשֶׁבֶה לְהִשָּׁבֵר.

The Lord cast a great wind upon the sea, **and there was a mighty tempest on the sea**; and the ship was likely to break apart.

ישעיהו מ':כ"ד

אִם בַּל נִטְעוּ אִם בַּל זָרְעוּ אִם בַּל שָׂרַשׁ בְּאֶרֶץ גִּזְעָם וְגַם נִשָּׂף בָּהֶם וַיִּכְשׁוּ וַיִּסְעֲרָה פֶקֶשׁ תַּשְׂאִים.

Scarcely are they planted, scarcely are they sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when He blows upon them and they wither, **and the storm carries them off like stubble.**

מלכים א' י"ט:י"א

וַהֲנִיָּה יְהוָה עָבַר, וְרוּחַ גְּדוֹלָה וַחֲזָק מִפָּרֶק הָרִים וַיִּשְׁבֹּר סִלְעִים לִפְנֵי יְהוָה—לֹא בָרוּחַ יְהוָה. וְאַחֲרֵי הָרוּחַ רָעַשׁ—לֹא בְרָעַשׁ יְהוָה. וְאַחֲרֵי הָרָעַשׁ אֵשׁ—לֹא בָאֵשׁ יְהוָה. וְאַחֲרֵי הָאֵשׁ קוֹל דְּמָמָה דָּקָה.

And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the Lord; but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind—an earthquake; but the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake—fire; but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire—a still small voice.

רד"ק על מלכים ב' ב':א'

וַיֵּמָּה שֶׁהָיוּ הוֹלְכִים מֵעֵבֶר הַיַּרְדֵּן נִרְאָה כִּי כֵן נֶאֱמַר לוֹ לְאַלְיָהוּ בְּנִבְיָאָה כִּי מֵעֵבֶר לַיַּרְדֵּן יִלְקַח, אוֹלֵי הָיָה לְקִיּוּתוֹ בַּמָּקוֹם אֲשֶׁר נֶאֱסַף מֹשֶׁה רַבֵּנוֹ לְכַבּוּדוֹ, כִּי מֵעֲלֹתוֹ הָיְתָה קְרוּבָה לְמַעֲלַת מֹשֶׁה רַבֵּנוֹ, וְכֵן הִרְאָה לוֹ הַכְּבוֹד בְּהָר חוֹרֵב כְּמוֹ שֶׁהִרְאָה לוֹ לְמֹשֶׁה רַבֵּנוֹ, וְצֵם אֲרֻבָּעִים יוֹם וְאַרְבָּעִים לַיְלָה כְּמוֹ שֶׁצֵּם מֹשֶׁה רַבֵּנוֹ.

And the fact that they were walking beyond the Jordan appears to have been because it was told to Elijah through prophecy that he would be taken from beyond the Jordan. Perhaps his being taken occurred in the same place where Moses our teacher was gathered [in death], as an honor to him, for his stature was close to that of Moses our teacher. Similarly, the Divine Presence

appeared to him at Mount Horeb, just as it appeared to Moses our teacher, and he fasted forty days and forty nights, just as Moses our teacher fasted.

מלאכי ג': כ"ג-כ"ד

הִנֵּה אֲנִכִּי שְׁלֵחַ לָכֶם אֶת אֱלִיהוּ הַנָּבִיא לִפְנֵי בּוֹא יוֹם יְהוָה הַגָּדוֹל וְהַנּוֹרָא. וְהָשִׁיב לֵב אֲבוֹת עַל בָּנִים וְלֵב בָּנִים עַל אֲבוֹתָם, כֹּן אֲבוֹא וְהִפֵּיתִי אֶת הָאָרֶץ תָּרָם.

Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the Lord. And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers; lest I come and strike the land with destruction.

מלכים א' י"ט: ט"ז-י"ז

וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֵלָיו לֵךְ שׁוּב לְדֶרֶךְ מַדְבַּר דְּמִשְׁק וּבֹאֲתָ וּמִשְׁחָתָ אֶת חֲזָאֵל לְמֶלֶךְ עַל אֲרָם. וְאֵת יְהוּא בֶן נִמְשִׁי תִמְשַׁח לְמֶלֶךְ עַל יִשְׂרָאֵל. וְאֵת אֱלִישָׁע בֶּן שָׁפָט מֵאֲבֵל מְחֹלָה תִמְשַׁח לְנָבִיא תַחְתִּידָ. וְהָיָה הַנִּמְלֵט מִתָּרֵב חֲזָאֵל יָמִית יְהוּא, וְהַנִּמְלֵט מִתָּרֵב יְהוּא יָמִית אֱלִישָׁע.

And the Lord said to him: Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; and when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael to be king over Aram. And Jehu the son of Nimshi you shall anoint to be king over Israel. And Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah you shall anoint to be prophet in your place. And it shall come to pass, that he who escapes from the sword of Hazael shall Jehu slay; and he who escapes from the sword of Jehu shall Elisha slay.

מלכים ב' ב': א-י"ח

(1) וַיְהִי בְּהַעֲלוֹת יְהוָה אֶת-אֱלִיהוּ בְּסַעֲרָה הַשָּׁמַיִם וַיִּלָּךְ אֱלִיהוּ וְאֱלִישָׁע מִן-הַגִּלְגָּל:

And it came to pass, when the Lord would take up Elijah by a whirlwind into heaven, that Elijah went with Elisha from Gilgal.

(2) וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלִיהוּ אֶל-אֱלִישָׁע שִׁבְנָא פֹה כִּי יְהוָה שְׁלַחְנִי עַד-בֵּית-אֵל וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלִישָׁע חַי-יְהוָה וְחַי-נַפְשְׁךָ אִם-אֶעֱזָבְךָ וַיֵּרְדּוּ בֵּית-אֵל:

And Elijah said unto Elisha: "Tarry here, I pray thee; for the Lord hath sent me as far as Beth-el." And Elisha said: "As the Lord liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee." So they went down to Beth-el.

(3) וַיָּצְאוּ בְנֵי־הַנְּבִיאִים אֲשֶׁר־בֵּית־אֵל אֶל־אֱלִישָׁע וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֵלָיו הִנְדַּעְתָּ כִּי הַיּוֹם יִהְיֶה לְקַח אֶת־אֲדֹנֶיךָ מֵעַל רֹאשְׁךָ וַיֹּאמֶר גַּם־אֲנִי יָדַעְתִּי הַחֲשׂוֹ:

And the sons of the prophets that were at Beth-el came forth to Elisha, and said unto him: "Knowest thou that the Lord will take away thy master from thy head to-day?" And he said: "Yea, I know it; hold ye your peace."

(4) וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ אֲלֵיהֶם אֱלִישָׁע שְׁבִינָא פֹה כִּי יִהְיֶה שְׁלַחְנִי יְרִיחוֹ וַיֹּאמֶר חֵי־יְהוָה וְחֵי־נַפְשְׁךָ אִם־אֶעְזָבְךָ וַיָּבֹאוּ יְרִיחוֹ:

And Elijah said unto him: "Elisha, tarry here, I pray thee; for the Lord hath sent me to Jericho." And he said: "As the Lord liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee." So they came to Jericho.

(5) וַיָּגֶשׁוּ בְנֵי־הַנְּבִיאִים אֲשֶׁר־בִּירְיֵחוֹ אֶל־אֱלִישָׁע וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֵלָיו הִנְדַּעְתָּ כִּי הַיּוֹם יִהְיֶה לְקַח אֶת־אֲדֹנֶיךָ מֵעַל רֹאשְׁךָ וַיֹּאמֶר גַּם־אֲנִי יָדַעְתִּי הַחֲשׂוֹ:

And the sons of the prophets that were at Jericho came near to Elisha, and said unto him: "Knowest thou that the Lord will take away thy master from thy head to-day?" And he answered: "Yea, I know it; hold ye your peace."

(6) וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ אֲלֵיהֶם שְׁבִינָא פֹה כִּי יִהְיֶה שְׁלַחְנִי הַיַּרְדֵּנָה וַיֹּאמֶר חֵי־יְהוָה וְחֵי־נַפְשְׁךָ אִם־אֶעְזָבְךָ וַיֵּלְכוּ שְׁנֵיהֶם:

And Elijah said unto him: "Tarry here, I pray thee; for the Lord hath sent me to the Jordan." And he said: "As the Lord liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee." And they two went on.

(7) וְחַמְשִׁים אִישׁ מִבְּנֵי הַנְּבִיאִים הָלְכוּ וַיַּעֲמֵדוּ מִנְּגֵד מֵרְחוֹק וּשְׁנֵיהֶם עָמְדוּ עַל־הַיַּרְדֵּן:

And fifty men of the sons of the prophets went, and stood over against them afar off; and they two stood by the Jordan.

(8) וַיִּקַּח אֲלֵיהֶם אֶת־אֲדָרְתוֹ וַיְגַלֵּם וַיַּכֶּה אֶת־הַמַּיִם וַיִּתְּצוּ הַנָּהָ וְהַנָּהָה וַיַּעֲבְרוּ שְׁנֵיהֶם בְּתַרְבֵּה:

And Elijah took his mantle, and rolled it up, and struck the waters; and they were divided to the one side and to the other, so that they two went over on dry ground.

(9) וַיְהִי כַעֲבָרָם וְאֵלֵיהֶוּ אָמַר אֶל־אֵלִישָׁע שְׂאֵל מָה אֶעֱשֶׂה לָּךְ בְּטָרִם אֶלְקָח מֵעַמִּי וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלִישָׁע וַיְהִי נָא פִי־שְׁנַיִם בְּרוּחִי אֵלַי:

And it came to pass, when they had gone over, that Elijah said to Elisha: “Ask what I shall do for you, before I am taken from you.” And Elisha said: “Let a double portion of your spirit be upon me.”

(10) וַיֹּאמֶר הַקָּשִׁיתָ לְשֹׂאִל אֶם־תֵּרְאֶה אֹתִי לָקַח מֵאִמִּי יְהִי לָךְ כֵּן וְאִם־אֵין לֹא יִהְיֶה:

And he said: “You have asked a hard thing. If you see me when I am taken from you, it shall be so for you; but if not, it shall not be so.”

(11) וַיְהִי הַמָּה הַלְכִים הָלוֹךְ וְדֹבֵר וְהִנֵּה רֶכֶב־אֵשׁ וְסוּסֵי־אֵשׁ וַיִּפְרְדּוּ בֵּין שְׁנֵיהֶם וַיַּעַל אֵלֵיהֶוּ בְּסַעֲרָה הַשָּׁמַיִם:

And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that behold—there appeared a chariot of fire and horses of fire, and it parted them both apart; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.

(12) וַאֲלִישָׁע רָאָה וְהוּא מִצַּעַק אָבִי אָבִי רֶכֶב יִשְׂרָאֵל וּפָרָשָׁיו וְלֹא רָאָהוּ עוֹד וַיִּחַזַּק בְּבִגְדָיו וַיִּקְרַעֵם לְשְׁנַיִם קְרָעִים:

And Elisha saw it, and he cried: “My father, my father, the chariot of Israel and the horsemen thereof!” And he saw him no more; and he took hold of his own clothes, and tore them in two pieces.

(13) וַיִּגַּם אֶת־אֲדָרְתוֹ אֵלֵיהֶוּ אֲשֶׁר נָפְלָה מֵעָלָיו וַיִּשָּׁב וַיַּעֲמֵד עַל־שִׁפְתֵי הַיַּרְדֵּן:

He picked up Elijah’s mantle that had fallen from him, and he returned and stood by the bank of the Jordan.

(14) וַיִּקַּח אֶת־אֲדָרְתוֹ אֵלֵיהֶוּ אֲשֶׁר־נָפְלָה מֵעָלָיו וַיִּכֶּה אֶת־הַמַּיִם וַיֹּאמֶר אֵיהָ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי אֲלֵיהֶוּ אֶף־הוּא וַיִּכֶּה אֶת־הַמַּיִם וַיִּחַצּוּ הַנָּה וְהִנֵּה וַיַּעֲבֵר אֵלִישָׁע:

And he took Elijah's mantle that had fallen from him, and struck the waters, and said, "Where is the Lord, the God of Elijah?" And when he too had struck the waters, they were divided here and there, and Elisha crossed over.

(15) וַיֵּרְאוּהוּ בְנֵי־הַנְּבִיאִים אֲשֶׁר בִּירִיחוֹ מִנֶּגֶד וַיֹּאמְרוּ נָחָה רוּחַ אֱלֹהֵיהוּ עַל־אֵלִישָׁע וַיָּבֹאוּ לִקְרֹאתוֹ וַיִּשְׁתַּחֲווּ־לוֹ אַרְצָה:

And when the sons of the prophets who were at Jericho saw him from a distance, they said: "The spirit of Elijah rests on Elisha." And they came to meet him and bowed to the ground before him.

(16) וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֵלָיו הִנֵּה־נָא יֵשׁ אֶת־עֲבָדֶיךָ חֲמִשִּׁים אָנָּשִׁים בְּנֵי־חַיִל יֵלְכוּ נָא וַיִּבְקְשׁוּ אֶת־אֲדֹנֶיךָ כִּן־נִשְׁאָר רוּחַ יְהוָה וַיִּשְׁלַכְהוּ בָּאֶחָד הַהָרִים אוֹ בָּאֶחָת הַגְּאִיּוֹת וַיֹּאמֶר לֹא תִשְׁלָחוּ:

And they said to him: "Behold now, there are with your servants fifty strong men; let them go, we pray, and seek your master, lest the spirit of the Lord has taken him up and cast him on some mountain or into some valley." And he said: "Do not send them."

(17) וַיִּפְצְרוּ־בּוֹ עַד־בֹּשׁ וַיֹּאמֶר שְׁלָחוּ וַיִּשְׁלָחוּ חֲמִשִּׁים אִישׁ וַיִּבְקְשׁוּ שְׁלֹשָׁה יָמִים וְלֹא מָצְאוּהוּ:

But when they urged him until he was ashamed, he said, "Send." They sent fifty men; and they searched for three days but did not find him.

(18) וַיָּשִׁבוּ אֵלָיו וְהוּא יוֹשֵׁב בִּירִיחוֹ וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵיהֶם הֲלֹא אָמַרְתִּי אֲלֵיכֶם אַל־תֵּלְכוּ:

And they returned to him while he stayed at Jericho; and he said to them, "Did I not say to you, 'Do not go'?"