

## ***Bad Water and the Bad Boys of Bethel***

### **II Kings 2:19-25**

Recall 2:1-25 is a literary unit showing the transition of prophetic authority from Elijah to Elisha. We now see Elisha retracing alone his earlier trip with Elijah (across the Jordan, to Jericho, to Bethel), and at each place we see him do miraculous actions that confirm he is God's new prophetic leader for Israel.

### **AT JERICHO**

#### ***BAD WATER BLESSED—God delivers His people. 19-22***

- ❖ For Jericho's struggles, recall it was cursed (Josh. 6:26) and that earlier children had died in I Kgs. 16:34.
- ❖ Toxic water makes for an unfruitful land and death. Translations vary because *barrenness* can = miscarriage or unproductive land.
- ❖ How fitting a "second Joshua" (consider even their similar names) blesses what the previous Joshua had cursed.
- ❖ Consider the implications of this miracle--what does it say about our Lord and what He can easily do for us?

### **AT BETHEL**

#### ***BAD BOYS CURSED—God brings disaster on His people. 23-25***

- ❖ Remember Bethel is Sin City since Jeroboam's time, I Kgs. 12:28.
- ❖ Boys: *youths* = (I Sam. 20:35), I Kings 3:7, 11:17  
*came out* =  
*go up* =
- ❖ Is Elisha just a bad-tempered, bald prophet that's too defensive about his disappearing hairline or what? See 2 Chron. 36:16.
- ❖ How is this incident parallel to Elijah's run-in with Ahaziah's troops (1:9-12), and what appears to be the rather obvious point? Check out a clear warning in Lev. 26:22 about this. Compare this to the beastly attacks in I Kgs. 13:24, 20:36.
- ❖ Consider the implications of this miracle--what does it say about God and why He and His representatives should be revered?