

Elisha, the Prophet

Please read [2 Kings 13:20-21](#)

CAN DEATH BE SWALLOWED UP BY DEATH? It was after at least twelve miracles performed by the Lord Christ through the Prophet, Elisha (striking blind the entire Syrian army, the raising of the Shunammite's son from the dead, the feeding of 100 men with 20 loaves and other signs), that, yet, one more was in the offing. 2 Kings 13:20-21 blazes forth with death swallowing up death. Listen: "Now, Elisha died, and they buried him." Elisha was laid, no doubt, in an open, mass grave, sequestered far from the populace. After some time, as custom was, the grave would be covered in and a new one dug out. Referencing 2 Kings 13, a man had died and was being buried in such a grave. A marauding band of Moabites was spotted, and this man was tossed hurriedly into the grave, landing on Elisha's body. As soon as the dead man's corpse touched Elisha's bones, power soared from Elisha's dead body, enlivening the man, who, immediately, stood on His feet! The dead Elisha produced life by the power of the eternal Christ.

The miracles of Elisha and all the others recorded in the Old Testament, point to Christ and His life-giving death on His cross, the death of Christ sparking many alive on a Good Friday afternoon. The death of all the holy people who were raised to life was swallowed up by the death of Christ! How much more, then, would Christ's resurrection ignite the whole world with resurrection, you, as

His people, singled out into eternal glory? You reason that death is defeated by life. True! "[Christ] will swallow up death forever" (Is 25:8a). But, in the Lord's great reversal of all things, *your death's victory is Christ's death itself!*

Though you have played around with actions and words that should merit your being consumed by eternal damnation at the Judgment Day of Christ, repent. You've already been pronounced eternally alive at your Baptism, where Christ devoured your death. You are regularly deemed holy by His Body and Blood in the Sacrament of His Altar. His words, "I forgive you all your sins," close down any chance of your being condemned by the living Christ! The Apostle Paul: "When the perishable (your body) puts on the imperishable, and this mortal puts on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, 'Death is swallowed up in victory'" (1 Cor 15:54).

Can death swallow up itself? In your case, as the living Body of Christ, it is done! The Church celebrates the feast of Elisha, the Prophet, June 14.

Pastor John Hamer, Emeritus, John 5:24