

## ELIJAH IS TAKEN TO HEAVEN

2 Kings 2:1-18

### I. TESTING ELISHA'S DEVOTION (vs. 1-6)

#### A. Stay here. (vs. 2, 4, 6)

1. **Elijah visits the schools of prophets before departing.**

(Dan 11:32-33; 2 Tim 2:2)—passing faith to the next generation

a. **Samaria**—the capital city of a wicked king

b. **Bethel**—stronghold of apostasy (Jeroboam's golden calf)

c. **Jericho**—city recently rebuilt in defiance of God

2. **Elijah intends to go out quietly.** (humility)

3. **Elisha refuses to leave Elijah's side.** (proves his devotion)

#### B. I know, I know!

1. **Sons of the Prophets**—spiritual, prophets in training

2. **God intends others to witness Elijah's departure**

a. **To strengthen their faith**

b. **To value their calling**

#### C. Don't speak of it. It hurts too much to talk about it.

### II. CONFIRMING ELISHA'S CALL (v. 7-10, 13-15)

#### A. His Last Request (v. 9)—**spiritual power to continue Elijah's ministry**

1. **A "Double Portion"** (Deut 21:17; 1 Kings 19:16, 19)—desires the inheritance of the oldest son, to succeed Elijah in ministry

2. **Elijah's Spirit** (Acts 1:4-5, 8)— the spiritual power to fulfill his calling to do what Elijah has been doing

3. **Foreshadowing of Pentecost** (Num 11:29; Mat 3:11; Acts 1:8)

a. **Need Spirit of *Jesus* to fulfill our calling, continue *His* ministry**

b. **Only Jesus can give the Holy Spirit!**

#### B. Taking up the Mantle (v. 13; 1 King 19:19)— **Elisha accepts and embraces his calling**; takes the outward symbol of his office

**C. Parting the Waters (v. 8)—the LORD verifies Elisha’s calling**

1. **Moses and Joshua** (Ex 14:21-22; Josh 3:7, 14-17)— Red Sea and Jordan
2. **Elijah and Elisha** (vs. 8, 14)—both part the Jordan River

**D. Recognized as Elijah’s Successor— the other prophets bow before him**

**III. THE DEPARTURE OF ELIJAH (vs. 11-12, 15-18)**

**A. A Whirlwind (Ps 104:3-4)—physical manifestation of God’s presence**

**B. The Chariots and Horses of Fire (2 King 6:17; 13:14)—vision of angelic escort**

1. **We are involved in a spiritual battle.** (a *battle* chariot)
2. **God’s angels are usually unseen but very real and present.**
3. **Heaven is waiting to receive the servants of God.**

**C. The Case of the Missing Body (vs. 16-18)**

**1. Similar Cases**

- a. **Enoch** (Gen 5:24)—never died; translated directly to Heaven
- b. **Moses** (Deut 34:5-6; Rom 6:23 & 7:13)—died but body was *never found* because God buried him
- c. **Elijah**—never *died*; ascended to heaven in his earthly body; changed
- d. **Jesus** (Lk 24:51; Acts 1:9)—died and resurrected, ascends glorified
  - Died like Moses, *not for His own sins* but for *ours*
  - Ascended like Elijah, but in His *resurrected, glorified* body
  - Accomplished complete victory over sin and death

**2. The Return of Elijah before the Messiah (Mal 3:23-24; Mat 11:10-11)**

**3. The Return of Christ at the Resurrection (1 Cor 15:51-52; 1 Thes 4:15-17)**

- a. **Elijah’s ascension is a *prophetic illustration* of what Christ would accomplish.**
- b. **When Christ returns, we will ascend and we will be glorified!**

WHERE NOW IS THE GOD OF ELIJAH? With us!

(Mat 28:20; Heb 13:5)

**Listen to Sing “Low, Sweet Chariot” sung by Brady Toops at**

<https://youtu.be/JOT59c3CK8A>