

Elijah Taken to Heaven

2:1 **AND** it came about when the LORD was about to ^atake up Elijah by a ¹whirlwind to heaven, that Elijah went with ^bElisha from ^cGilgal. 2 And Elijah said to Elisha, “^aStay here please, for the LORD has sent me as far as ^bBethel.” But Elisha said, “^cAs the LORD lives and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So they went down to Bethel. 3 Then ^athe sons of the prophets who *were at* Bethel came out to Elisha and said to him, “Do you know that the LORD will take away your master from over ¹you today?” And he said, “Yes, I know; be still.” 4 And Elijah said to him, “Elisha, please ^astay here, for the LORD has sent me to ^bJericho.” But he said, “^cAs the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So they came to Jericho. 5 And ^athe sons of the prophets who *were at* Jericho approached Elisha and said to him, “^bDo you know that the LORD will take away your master from over ¹you today?” And he ²answered, “Yes, I know; be still.” 6 Then Elijah said to him, “Please ^astay here, for the LORD has sent me to ^bthe Jordan.” And he said, “As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So the two of them went on.

7 Now ^afifty men of the sons of the prophets went and stood opposite *them* at a distance, while the two of them stood by the Jordan. 8 And Elijah ^atook his mantle and folded it together and ^bstruck the waters, and they were divided here and there, so that the two of them crossed over on dry ground. 9 Now it came about when they had crossed over, that Elijah said to Elisha, “Ask what I shall do for you before I am taken from you.” And Elisha said, “Please, let a ^adouble portion of your spirit be upon me.” 10 And he said, “You have asked a hard thing. *Nevertheless*, if you ^asee me when I am taken from you, it shall be so for you; but if not, it shall not be *so*.” 11 Then it came about as they were going along and talking, that behold, *there appeared* ^aa chariot of fire and horses of fire which separated the two of them. And Elijah went up by a ¹whirlwind to heaven. 12 And Elisha saw *it* and cried out, “^aMy father, my father, the ¹chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” And he saw him no more. Then ^bhe took hold of his own clothes and tore them in two pieces. 13 He also took up the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and returned and stood by the bank of the Jordan. 14 And he took the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and struck the waters and said, “Where is the LORD, the God of Elijah?” And when he also had ^astruck the waters, they were divided here and there; and Elisha crossed over.

Elisha Succeeds Elijah

15 Now when ^athe sons of the prophets who *were at* Jericho opposite *him* saw him, they said, “The spirit of Elijah rests on Elisha.” And they came to meet him and bowed themselves to the ground before him. 16 And they said to him, “Behold now, there are with your servants fifty strong men, please let them go and search for your master; ¹perhaps ^athe Spirit of the LORD has taken him up and cast him on some mountain or into some valley.” And he said, “You shall not send.” 17 But when ^athey urged him until he was ashamed, he said, “Send.” They sent therefore fifty men; and they searched three days, but did not find him. 18 And they returned to him while he was staying at Jericho; and he said to them, “Did I not say to you, ‘Do not go’?”

19 Then the men of the city said to Elisha, “Behold now, the situation of this city is

pleasant, as my lord sees; but the water is bad, and the land ¹is unfruitful.” 20 And he said, “Bring me a new jar, and put salt ¹in it.” So they brought *it* to him. 21 And he went out to the spring of water, and ^athrew salt ¹in it and said, “Thus says the LORD, ‘I have ²purified these waters; there shall not be from there death or ³unfruitfulness any longer.’” 22 So the waters have been ¹purified to this day, according to the word of Elisha which he spoke.

23 Then he went up from there to Bethel; and as he was going up by the way, young lads came out from the city and ^amocked him and said to him, “Go up, you baldhead; go up, you baldhead!” 24 When he looked behind him and saw them, he ^acursed them in the name of the LORD. Then two female bears came out of the woods and tore up forty-two lads of ¹their number. 25 And he went from there to ^aMount Carmel, and from there he returned to Samaria.

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^a Gen. 5:24; Heb. 11:5

¹ Or, *windstorm*

^b 1 Kin. 19:16-21

^c Josh. 4:19

^a Ruth 1:15

^b 1 Kin. 12:28, 29

^c 1 Sam. 1:26; 2 Kin. 2:4, 6

^a 2 Kin. 4:1, 38; 5:22

¹ Lit., *your head*

^a 2 Kin. 2:2

^b Josh. 6:26

^c 2 Kin. 2:2

^a 2 Kin. 2:3

^b 2 Kin. 2:3

¹ Lit., *your head*

² Lit., *said*

^a 2 Kin. 2:2

^b Josh. 3:8, 15-17

^a 2 Kin. 2:15, 16

^a 1 Kin. 19:13, 19

^b Ex. 14:21, 22; 2 Kin. 2:14

^a Num. 11:17-25; Deut. 21:17

^a Acts 1:10

^a 2 Kin. 6:17

¹ Or, *windstorm*

^a 2 Kin. 13:14

¹ Lit., *chariot*

^b Gen. 37:34; Job 1:20

^a 2 Kin. 2:8

^a 2 Kin. 2:7

¹ Lit., *lest*

^a 1 Kin. 18:12; Acts 8:39

^a 2 Kin. 8:11

¹ Lit., *causes barrenness*

¹ Lit., *there*

^a Ex. 15:25,26; 2 Kin. 4:41; 6:6

¹ Lit., *there*

² Lit., *healed*

³ Lit., *barrenness*

¹ Lit., *healed*

^a 2 Chr. 36:16; Ps. 31:17, 18

^a Neh. 13:25-27

¹ Lit., *them*

^a 1 Kin. 18:19, 20; 2 Kin. 4:25

ⁱ *The New American Standard Bible*, (La Habra, California: The Lockman Foundation) 1977.