

Elijah

The Wondrous Departure of Elijah

Sunday, November 12, 2000

As they were going along and talking, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire and horses of fire which separated the two of them. And Elijah went up by a whirlwind to heaven. Elisha saw it and cried out, "My father, my father, the chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" And he saw Elijah no more. Then he took hold of his own clothes and tore them in two pieces. - 2 Kings 2:11-12, NASB

The Background

Time:	approximately 848 BC
Location:	Israel, the Northern Kingdom
Key Players:	The LORD Elijah, the Prophet of the LORD Ahaziah, King of Israel Jehoshaphat, King of Judah Three Captains of Fifty Jehoram, King of Israel Elisha, the Prophet of the LORD The Sons of the Prophets
Situation:	Divided kingdom Spiritual apostasy Ahab is dead Ahaziah has replaced Ahab as king Elisha anointed to replace Elijah

The Outline

1 Kings Chapter 22

v41-47	Jehoshaphat's reign in Judah
v48-50	Jehoshaphat's short-lived Navy
v51-53	Brief account of Ahaziah's evil

2 Kings Chapter 1

v1-4	Ahaziah consults Baal-zebul, is condemned
v5-8	Ahaziah asks by whom: The LORD through Elijah

v9-12	Ahaziah demands Elijah appear: Messengers die
v13-15	Third captain of fifty fears the LORD; Elijah goes
v16-18	Elijah prophesies Ahaziah's death; Ahaziah dies

2 Kings Chapter 2

v1-3	Elijah's farewell visit to the prophets in Bethel
v4-5	Elijah's farewell visit to the prophets in Jericho
v6	Elijah and Elisha depart for the Jordan
v7-8	Prophets watch as Elijah parts the Jordan
v9-10	Elisha asks for a double portion of Elijah's spirit
v11-12	Elijah is taken up; Elisha sees it
v13-15	Prophets watch as Elisha parts the Jordan
v16-18	The prophets search: no sign of Elijah
v19-22	Elisha's first act, purifying the waters of Jericho
v23-26	Elisha and the youth gang

The Final Word

Six days later Jesus took with Him Peter and James and John his brother, and led them up on a high mountain by themselves. And He was transfigured before them; and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him. Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, I will make three tabernacles here, one for You, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and behold, a voice out of the cloud said, "This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!" When the disciples heard this, they fell face down to the ground and were terrified. And Jesus came to them and touched them and said, "Get up, and do not be afraid." And lifting up their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus Himself alone. As they were coming down from the mountain, Jesus commanded them, saying, "Tell the vision to no one until the Son of Man has risen from the dead." And His disciples asked Him, "Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?" And He answered and said, "Elijah is coming and will restore all things; but I say to you that Elijah already came, and they did not recognize him, but did to him whatever they wished. So also the Son of Man is going to suffer at their hands." - Matthew 17:1-12, NASB