

1 – LESSON #64: Prophet Elijah ascends to Heaven in a Chariot of Fire

Imagine this. Your name is Elisha. You have spent 6 to 10 years training to become a prophet for **God Almighty**.

QUESTION: By the way, what is a Prophet?
ANSWER: A spokesperson for God.

Similar to you spending years attending school, the final day of Elisha's training session has arrived.

RINGLEADER: What happened on that day? *[Group repeats]*

Prophet Elijah will ascend to **Heaven** in a **Chariot of Fire**.

RINGLEADER: Oh, my! That sounds exciting! *--(Repeat)*

The **Bible** states, "The **Lord** was about to take Elijah up to **heaven** in a whirlwind." *[2 Kings 2:1]*

RINGLEADER: A whirlwind? Tell us more! *[Group repeats]*

On that final day, **God** said this to Prophet Elijah:



Father God: Elijah, I wish you to leave Gilgal, travel to Bethel, then to Jericho, and then cross the Jordan River.

RINGLEADER: How far did he have to walk? *[Group repeats]*

Altogether, Prophet Elijah probably walked 29 to 38 miles.

RINGLEADER: Wow! That's a loooong walk! *[Group repeats]*

It sure was. So, at each stop, Prophet Elijah said to Elisha:

ELIJAH: Elisha, stay here while I go to all the places the Lord has told me to go.

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Not wanting to miss seeing a **Chariot of Fire**, Elisha declared:

ELISHA: Elijah, as surely as the Lord lives and you yourself live, I will never leave you!

At their first two stops, they were met by a group of prophets who pulled Elisha aside and said:

GROUP OF PROPHETS: Elisha, did you know that the Lord is going to take your master away from you today?

Elisha shushed them as he said:

ELISHA: Of course, I know. But be quiet about it.

When Elijah and Elisha reached the Jordan River, they saw a group of 50 prophets watching from a distance.

RINGLEADER: What happened next? *[Group repeats]*

Prophet Elijah took off his cloak. He folded it together and struck the water with it.

RINGLEADER: What happened to the water? *[Group repeats]*

Just like when Moses raised his staff, and the Red Sea parted, when Prophet Elijah slapped the water with his cloak, the Jordan River parted. That way, they could walk across the riverbed on dry land.

When they reached the other side of the Jordan River, Prophet Elijah asked an exciting question.

ELIJAH: Elisha, what can I do for you before God takes me away?

Elisha asked Prophet Elijah for two things.

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RINGLEADER: What did he ask for first? *[Group repeats]*

ELISHA: Elijah, please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.

RINGLEADER: What else did he ask for? *[Group repeats]*

ELISHA: Elijah, also, please ask God to choose me to replace you as God's special Prophet.

ELIJAH: Hmmmm! Elisha, you have asked a difficult thing. I will make a bargain with you.

ELISHA: Elijah, what is the bargain?

ELIJAH: Elisha, you will only get your request if you actually see me rise into the sky.

Elisha was determined to keep his eyes wide open so that he could witness Elijah flying up into the sky.

Just then, a **Chariot of Fire** appeared, driven by horses of fire. After that, a whirlwind took Elijah up toward Heaven.

RINGLEADER: Did Elisha see this happen? *[Group repeats]*

He sure did! Looking upward, Elisha called out:

ELISHA: Wow! I see Elijah in the Chariot of Fire!

After he was gone, Elisha looked around and found Elijah's cloak on the ground. He picked it up and brought it to the Jordan River.

RINGLEADER: What did Elisha do with the cloak? *(Repeat)*

As Elisha struck the water of the river with that cloak, he called:

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ELISHA: Where now is the LORD, the God of Elijah?

With those words, the water of the Jordan River parted so that Elisha could walk across the riverbed on dry land.

Those 50 prophets turned to each other and said:

GROUP OF PROPHETS: Oh, my! Elijah's spirit rests upon Elisha!

The 50 prophets walked until they reached Elisha. They bowed to the ground before him and said:

GROUP OF PROPHETS: Sir, in case the Spirit of the Lord left your master on some mountain or valley, we will send 50 of our strongest men to search for him.

Knowing this was a ridiculous suggestion, Elisha said:

ELISHA: No. Don't send them!

But they nagged and nagged until Elisha finally said:

ELISHA: All right. If you must, go ahead and send them.

They spent 3 days searching everywhere for Prophet Elijah. Giving up, they found Elisha in Jericho and said:

GROUP OF PROPHETS: Uh, ..., Elisha. Uh, ..., well, ..., uh, ... we never did find Prophet Elijah anywhere.

Elisha shook his head from side to side as he replied:

ELISHA: (*SIGH LOUDLY*) Didn't I tell you not to go?

QUESTION: Why didn't they find Prophet Elijah anywhere?
ANSWER: Because Elijah was now in Heaven.
QUESTION: Any questions or comments?