

## Elijah Is Taken Into Heaven

Elijah was getting old. He had spent his whole life listening to God and doing the things that God wanted him to do, but now he was old and tired. He knew that it was not long before he would be taken up to heaven.

Now Elijah had a companion, a young man called Elisha. Elisha had travelled with Elijah, learning everything he could from him. Elisha also knew that it was time for Elijah to go to be with God.

One day Elijah said to Elisha: "I've got to go on a journey to Bethel. You stay here and wait for me." But Elisha said: "No way Elijah. You're old and frail and I'm not leaving you to go alone." So they went to Bethel together.

When they reached Bethel, Elijah said: "I've got to go on to Jericho. You stay here and wait for me. But Elisha said : "No way Elijah! You're old and frail, and I'm not leaving you to travel alone." So they went to Jericho together.

When they reached Jericho Elijah said: "I've got to go on to the river Jordan. Stay here and wait for me." But Elisha said: "No way Elijah! You're old and frail, and I'm not leaving you!" So they travelled to the river Jordan together.

The river Jordan was wide and full. It was impossible to cross. Elisha watched as Elijah walked up to the water's edge. He took off his cloak and rolled it up. Then he hit the water with his cloak and Elisha was amazed to see a path appear through the water. Elijah and Elisha stepped out onto the path and crossed the river as if they were walking on dry land.

Elijah said to Elisha: "Today I'm going to be with God. What would you like me to do for you before I go?"

"Make me like you!" said Elisha. "in fact make me twice like you. Twice as wise, twice as brave, twice as strong, twice as....."

"Alright! alright, said Elijah. "if you see me go up into heaven then this will happen. If you don't see me there is nothing I can do."

Suddenly there was a great noise like the galloping of a thousand hooves. Then a great chariot appeared pulled by horses. The chariot and the horses were made of fire. The Chariot swooped down and swept Elijah off of his feet and up into the sky.

Elisha watched and as Elijah disappeared into the sky his cloak came fluttering down to the ground. Elisha picked it up. He rolled it up and went back to the river Jordan. He struck the water just like Elijah had and shouted: "Where are you now God!?"

Suddenly the path through the water appeared again and Elisha knew that God had not left him. Elisha crossed the path and went off to continue Elijah's work for God.

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