

Lesson X. ELIJAH GOES UP BY A WHIRLWIND INTO HEAVEN March 5, 1911

2 Kings 2 : 1-11. Study 2 Kings 2 : 1-18—Memory Verses, 11, 12.

Golden Text—Enoch walked with God : and he was not ; for God took him.—Genesis 5 : 24.



1 And it came to pass, when the Lord would take up Eli'jah into heaven by a whirlwind, that Eli'jah went with Eli'sha from Gil'gal.

2 And Eli'jah said unto Eli'sha, Tarry here, I pray thee ; for the Lord hath sent me to Beth'-el. And Eli'sha said unto him, As the Lord liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee. So they went down to Beth'-el.

3 And the sons of the prophets that were at Beth'-el came forth to Eli'sha, and said unto him, Knowest thou that the Lord will take away thy master from thy head to day ? And he said, Yea, I know it ; hold ye your peace.

4 And Eli'jah said unto him, Eli'sha, tarry here, I pray thee ; for the Lord hath sent me to Jer'icho. And he said, As the Lord liveth, and, as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee. So they came to Jer'icho.

5 And the sons of the prophets that were at Jer'icho came to Eli'sha, and said unto him, Knowest thou that the Lord will take away thy master from thy head to day ? And he answered, Yea, I know it ; hold ye your peace.

6 And Eli'jah said unto him, Tarry, I pray thee, here ; for the Lord hath sent me to Jer'dan. And he said, As the Lord liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee. And they two went on.

7 And fifty men of the sons of the prophets went, and stood to view afar off : and they two stood by Jer'dan.

8 And Eli'jah took his mantle, and wrapped it together, and smote the waters, and they were divided hither and thither, so that they two went over on dry ground.

9 And it came to pass, when they were gone over, that Eli'jah said unto Eli'sha, Ask what I shall do for thee, before I be taken away from thee. And Eli'sha said, I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me.

10 And he said, Thou hast asked a hard thing : nevertheless, if thou see me when I am taken from thee, it shall be so unto thee ; but if not, it shall not be so.

11 And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder ; and Eli'jah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.

THE LESSON RETOLD

The time had now come when God intended to take Elijah up to heaven, and one day in the town of Gilgal, Elijah said to his friend Elisha,—the man whom God had chosen to be prophet in his stead—"The Lord hath sent me to Bethel, but you need not come any farther." But Elisha said, "No, I will not leave thee." So they both went down to Bethel together. And when they drew near the town, the prophets who lived there, came out to meet them, and said to Elisha, "Do you know that the Lord is going to take away thy master from thee to-day?" "Yes, I know it", said Elisha sadly, "but do not speak about it."

The two friends came next to Jericho, for God sent Elijah thither. The prophets at Jericho spoke to Elisha the same words as those at Bethel, and Elisha gave them the same answer. But Elijah and Elisha were not to remain even in Jericho, for the

Lord told Elijah to go on to Jordan, and so they journeyed on till they reached the river. Away off in the distance, a company of fifty prophets watched to see what would happen.

Then Elijah took off his cloak, and with it he struck the waters of the river. Immediately the waves rolled back, leaving a dry path for the two friends to cross over to the other side. There they were once more alone, and Elijah said to his friend, "Now that I am going away from you, is there anything I can do for you?" "Yes", said Elisha, "I pray that such a portion of thy spirit may fall upon me that I shall be fit to be a leader of the prophets in thy stead." "Thou hast asked a hard thing", answered Elijah, "still, if God grant thee to see me when I am being taken up into heaven, He will also grant thee what thou askest." Suddenly, as they were speaking last loving words together, a great light shone round