

quickly, for the time is short) **what I shall do for thee.** Elijah's love for Elisha made him long to leave him some parting gift. **A double portion of thy spirit.** The inheritance of the eldest son, by Jewish law, was double that of the others. Elisha asks to be as the first-born among the prophets, fitted to continue Elijah's work. **Thou hast asked a hard thing.** A noble spirit will welcome hard things to do. **If thou see me when I am taken.** What he asks, God, not Elijah, will bestow. He will receive it if he is faithful and fearless to the end.

**11. As they still went on, and talked;** like the disciples and their Lord at His ascension, Luke 24: 50, 51. **Behold... a chariot of fire, and horses of fire.** Compare the convoy around Elisha later (2 Kgs. 6: 17), and the legions Christ could summon, Matt. 26: 53. **Elijah went up by a whirlwind.** A storm carried him upwards out of sight. **Into heaven.** It makes heaven very real, to remember the three—Enoch (Gen. 5: 24), Elijah, and Jesus, who went thither, not by way of the grave, but of the sky.

## DAILY READINGS

M.—Elijah taken up into heaven, 2 Kgs. 2: 1-11. T.—Enoch translated, Heb. 11: 1-6. W.—Death of Moses, Deut. 34: 1-9. Th.—The Holy Spirit promised, John 16: 1-14. F.—The Spirit's power, Rom. 8: 9-17. S.—Ready! 2 Tim. 4: 1-8. S.—Ever with the Lord, 1 Thess. 4: 9-18.

**Lesson Hymns**—Book of Praise, 320; 338; 8 (Ps. Sel.); 351; 590 (from PRIMARY QUARTERLY); 319.

**Shorter Catechism**—Ques. 39. *What is the duty which God requireth of man?* A. The duty which God requireth of man, is obedience to his revealed will.

Q. 40. *What did God at first reveal to man for the rule of his obedience?* A. The rule which God at first revealed to man for his obedience, was the moral law.

**Prove from Scripture**—That death to the Christian is gain.

## FOR FURTHER STUDY

**Juniors**—What was the starting point of the Lesson journey? Where did it end?

**1-3** What was the Lord intending to do with Elijah? What did Elijah ask Elisha to do? Elisha's reply? Whither did they go first? Who lived here? Of what did these men speak to Elisha?

**4-6** Where did the second stage of the journey end? How often did Elijah ask Elisha to remain behind? Who was planning the journey?

**7, 8** What river had the two travellers to cross?

With what did Elijah smite the waters? What happened then?

**9-11** What request did Elisha make? What was Elijah's offer? Elisha's answer? What wonderful sight appeared? How was Elijah carried up to heaven? Who else were taken to heaven without death?

**Seniors and the Home Department**—Where is Gilgal? When did the call of Elisha occur? How had he since been occupied?

**1-6** Why did Elijah wish Elisha to remain behind? How many schools of the prophets are referred to? Explain "sons of the prophets." How did Paul speak of his own departure from life? (Phil. 1: 21, 23.) Where was Elisha's faithfulness most severely tested?

**7, 8** Describe the miracle wrought by Elijah? Mention two similar miracles.

**9-11** Explain Elijah's request. How was he to show his fitness for the position he asked? Where do we read of Jesus' ascension? (Luke 24: 51; Acts 1: 9.) How does our Lord describe heaven? (John 14: 2.)

**Seek-Further Questions**—When did Elijah reappear on earth? Whom did Stephen see through the opened heavens?

**Topics for Brief Papers** (To be ready on the day of the Lesson)—1. Holding fast to one's friends. 2. "Absent from the body, present with the Lord." (2 Cor. 5: 8).

## THE LESSON IN LIFE

1. The whole record of perhaps ten years of the young Elisha's life is in these two words, he "ministered" to Elijah (1 Kgs. 19: 21), and "poured water on his hands," 2 Kgs. 3: 11. Ten years well spent; for there is but one best way of learning the higher duties, that is, by doing well the humbler ones.

2. Elisha had learned two things that every young person is the richer for knowing—First, the value of a friend wiser and better than oneself; second, that true friendship is worth any price.

3. We are not really fit for earth till we are fit for heaven.

4. In order to enter heaven, we must first permit heaven to enter us. Elijah ascended by the power he had brought down by faith.

5. "It matters not at what hour o' th' day  
The Christian falls asleep. Death cannot come  
To him untimely who is fit to die.  
The less of this cold earth, the more of heaven,  
The briefer life, the earlier immortality.

## FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. How did Elisha show his faithfulness?

2. What blessing did he seek for himself?

3. In what manner was Elijah taken to heaven?