Lesson X.

ELIJAH GOES UP BY A WHIRLWIND INTO HEAVEN

March 5, 1911

BETWEEN THE LESSONS-The last chapter of 1 Kings (ch. 22), narrates the closing events of Ahab's reign, his death and the succession of his son Ahaziah. 2 Kgs., ch. 1 tells the story of Ahaziah's sickness and death, and the ascension of Jehoram to the throne.

GOLDEN TEXT—Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him.—Genesis 5: 24. THE LESSON PASSAGE-2 Kings 2: 1-11. Study 2 Kings 2: Memorize vs. 11, 12. 1-18. Read 2 Kings, chs. 1, 2

And it came to pass, when the Lond would take up Ell'jah into heaven 'by a whirlwi' d, that Ell'jah went with Ell'sha from Gil'gal

2 And Eli'jah said unto Eli'sha, Tarry here. I pray thee; for the Lond hath sent me 2 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 Loro will take away thy master from thy head to day? And he answered, Yea, I know it; hold ye your peace.

Revised Version—by a whirlwind into heaven; 2 as far as; 3 Omit unto him; 4 near to; 5 Tarry here, I pray thee; 6 over against thom afar; 7 Omit away; 8 which parted.

Daily Readings-(Courtesy, I.B.R.A.)-M.-Elijah goes up into heaven, 2 Kgs. 2: 1-8. T.-Elijah goes up into heaven, 2 Kgs. 2:9-18. W.-Enoch translated, Heb. 11:1-6. Th.-Moses taken home, Deut. 34: 1-12. F.—Christ's accession, Acts 1:1-12. S.—The eternal home, 2 Cor. 5:1-12. S.—Ready! 2 Tim. 4:1-8.

6 And Eli'jah said unto him, Tarry, I pray thee, here; for the Lord hath sent me to Jor'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

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:
neuertheless, if thou see me when I am taken from
thee, it shall be so unto thee; but if not, it shall not

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 Ell'jah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED



FORDS OF JORDAN NEAR JERICHO

I. ELIJAH'S LAST VISITS.-1. It came to pass; perhaps ten years after the call of Elisha, 1 Kgs. 19: 19-21. The Lord would take up; not when Elijah would go. but when God would take him. God's servants are in His keeping, and He knows the right time to remove them from their work on earth into heaven. By a whirlwind; literally, "in a storm". With Elisha: who had been Elijah's attendant (1 Kgs. 19:21; ch. 3:11). but also his pupil and

friend. From Gilgal; not the Gilgal near Jericho (Josh, 4: 19), but a Gilgal amongst the central hills of Palestine, seven miles north of Bethel. Elijah and Elisha had been staying here; some think it was Elijah's permanent home.

2, 3, Tarry here. For some unknown reason Elijah had wished to depart from Gilgal alone. The Lord hath sent me. Elijah's last journey was clearly marked out for him. To Beth-el; twelve miles northwest of Jerusalem. (See 1 Kgs. 12: 28, 29.) Lord liveth . . soul liveth; an expression denoting intense carnestness. I will not leave Elisha was influenced by deep attachment to Elijah and a natural curiosity to see what would happen to him Sons of the prophets; members of one of the companies of prophets who lived together in various centres of Israel. Knowest thou, etc.? The removal of Elijah that very day had been revealed to these prophets From thy head; from being thy teacher and master. I know it. Elisha had received the same re-

velation. Rold ye your peace. It was too sacred a subject, and Elisha's sorrow was too deep, for idle talk.

4-6. Again, at Bethel, Elijah urges Elisha to allow him to proceed alone, and again Elisha insists on accompanying him. To Jericho ; fourteen miles southeast from Bethel, (See Geography Lesson.) The prophets at Jericho repeat to Elisha the announcement of Elijah's impending removal, and be again replies as in v. 3. For a third time, at Jericlo. Elijah tried to persuade Elisha to remain behind, and