

Lesson II.

ELIJAH TAKEN UP INTO HEAVEN

October 10, 1915

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—In thy presence is fulness of joy; in thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.—Psalm 16: 11 (Rev. Ver.).

Memorize vs. 11, 12a. **THE LESSON PASSAGE**—2 Kings 2: 1-12a.

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, Revised Version—1 by a whirlwind into heaven; 2 as far as Beth-el; 3 Omit to him; 4 near to; 5 Tarry here, I pray thee; 6 over against them afar; 7 Omit away; 8 which parted; 9 chariots.

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.

12 And Eli'sha saw it, and he cried, My father, my father, the chariot of Is'rael, and the horsemen thereof.

*HOME DAILY BIBLE READINGS

M.—Elijah taken up into heaven, 2 Kgs. 2: 1-12.

T.—Elisha succeeds Elijah, 2 Kgs. 2: 13-22.

W.—A patriarch translated, Heb. 11: 1-8.

Th.—Paul's farewell, 2 Tim. 4: 1-8.

F.—Moses and Joshua, Deut. 34: 1-9.

S.—"Be ye therefore ready," Luke 12: 32-40.

Sunday—Elijah's reappearance, Matt. 17: 1-12.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

I. THE JOURNEY.

—1. It came to pass; perhaps ten years after the call of Elisha, 1 Kgs. 19: 19-21. During that time Elisha had been the faithful attendant of Elijah. The Lord would take up; not when Eljah would go, but when God would take him. By a whirlwind; a violent wind moving in a circle; drawing up sand, dust, straw, etc., it looks like a great pillar. From Gilgal; amongst the central hills of Palestine, 7 miles north of Bethel.

2, 3. The Lord hath sent me. Every stage



ANCIENT MANTLE

in Elijah's last journey was marked out for him. To Beth-el; 12 miles northwest of Jerusalem. Lord liveth . . . soul liveth; an expression denoting intense earnestness. I will not leave thee. Whatever lay before Elijah, the faithful Elisha was resolved to share with his master. Sons of the prophets; members of

one of the companies of prophets who lived together in various centres in 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 revelation. Hold 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; 14 miles southeast of Bethel. For a third time, at Jericho, Elijah tried to persuade Elisha to remain behind, and for a third time Elisha refused; and they two went on "to Jordan," 5 or 6 miles further on.

II. THE PROMISE.—7, 8. Fifty . . . prophets . . . stood; probably on the heights behind Jericho. To view afar off; so that they might afterwards bear witness of the events about to occur. Elijah took his mantle; the cape of sheepskin which covered his shoulders; the sign of his office as a prophet. Wrapped it together; so that it had the appearance of a rod, like that of Moses, Ex. 14: 10, 21. Smote the waters; strongly, as one smites an enemy (compare Ex. 7: 20; 8: 17; Num. 20: 11). Divided. By the use of the prophetic mantle it was shown that the power was of God.

9, 10. Gone over; to the slopes of Gil'ead, Elijah's native region (see 1 Kgs. 17: 1). He may have wished