

## **Elijah Taken Up**

2 Kings 2:1-18

by Don Falkos

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Elijah said to Elisha, "The Lord has sent me to Bethel; you stay here." But Elisha refused to leave his master. They went to Bethel.

A group of prophets in Bethel asked Elisha, "Do you know the Lord is going to take your master away?"

Elisha replied, "Yes, I know. But don't talk about it."

Elijah said to Elisha, "The Lord has sent me to Jericho; you stay here." But Elisha refused to leave his master. They went to Jericho.

A group of prophets in Jericho asked Elisha, "Do you know the Lord is going to take your master away?"

"Yes, I know. But don't talk about it."

Elijah said to Elisha, "The Lord has sent me to the Jordan River; you stay here." But Elisha refused to leave his master. They went down to the Jordan.

A group of fifty prophets watched as Elijah rolled up his cloak and struck the water with it. The water parted. Elijah and Elisha crossed over on dry ground.

Elijah asked Elisha, "What can I do for you before I'm taken away?"

"Please, let me receive a double portion of your spirit."

"That's a hard thing, but if you see me when I'm taken from you, it will be yours." Suddenly, a chariot of fire with horses of fire appeared and Elijah was taken up into heaven in a whirlwind.

Elisha cried out, "My father! My father! You have been the true strength of Israel." And he tore his robe in sorrow. He picked up Elijah's cloak, which had fallen to the ground. He went back to the Jordan. He struck the water with the cloak. The water parted and he crossed over on dry ground.

The fifty prophets bowed to Elisha and then went in search of Elijah, but of course, they couldn't find him.