

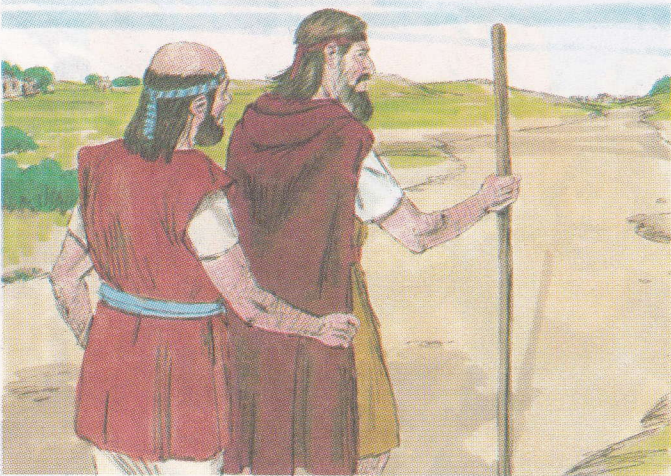
Elijah in the Whirlwind



1 One day Elijah, the prophet, and his friend Elisha were walking together. Suddenly Elijah said, "Stay here. The Lord has told me to go to Bethel." But Elisha insisted on going with him.



2 A group of prophets lived at Bethel. They said to Elisha, "Do you know that the Lord is going to take away your master from you today?" Elisha said, "Yes, I know, but do not talk about it."



3 Then Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here. The Lord has sent me to Jericho." But Elisha said, "As surely as the Lord is living, I will not leave you." So they went on to Jericho together.



4 Again at Jericho, the prophets who lived there came to Elisha and said, "Do you know that the Lord is going to take your master from you today?" Elisha answered, "Yes, but do not talk about it."



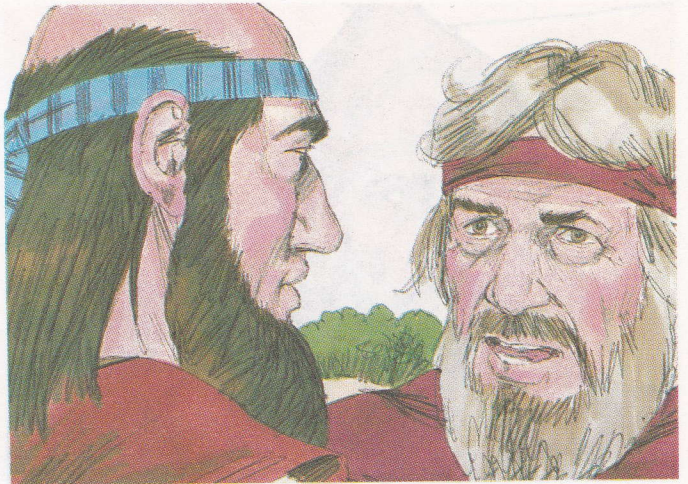
5 "Stay here," Elijah said. "The Lord has told me to go to the Jordan River." But Elisha said, "I will not leave you!" So they went on, followed by fifty prophets.



6 As the fifty prophets watched, Elijah took off his cloak and hit the water with it. The water divided! Elijah and Elisha walked across on dry ground!



7 On the other side of the Jordan, Elijah asked Elisha, "What shall I do for you before I am taken away?" Elisha answered, "Please give me a double share of your spirit."



8 "That is very difficult," said Elijah, "but if you see me as I am being taken away, you will receive it. If you do not see me being taken away, you will not receive it."



9 As they walked together, talking, a chariot of fire pulled by horses of fire suddenly came between them. Elijah was taken up into heaven by a whirlwind!



10 Elisha was watching and saw this happen. He cried out, "My father, my father! The chariots and horsemen of Israel!" He was very sad and tore his clothing into pieces. He never saw Elijah again.



11 Then Elisha picked up the cloak that Elijah had dropped and struck the Jordan just as Elijah had done. Elisha said, "Where is the Lord, the God of Elijah?" The water parted and he crossed over.



12 The fifty prophets who had been watching from a distance said to each other, "The spirit of Elijah is resting on Elisha." Then they went to meet him and bowed to the ground before him.