

Character Study: Elijah
Part 6 – Elijah Ascends to Heaven
II Kings 1:1-2:14

What's happening?

- King Ahab died and his son Ahaziah became king in his place. Ahaziah got injured after an accident in his home, so he had his messengers go ask Baal-Zebub (the god of Ekron) whether he would recover or not. (1:1-2)
- The angel of the Lord had Elijah meet the messengers and ask them why they were going to talk to Baal-Zebub and not God. Elijah let them know that Ahaziah would not recover, but rather would die. (1:3-8)
- In response, Ahaziah sent three groups of men to capture Elijah. The first two groups were consumed by fire. The captain of the third group humbled himself and so his men were spared. Elijah went with them and told Ahaziah what he had told his messengers. Ahaziah died just as the Lord had said he would. (1:9-18)
- As Elijah neared his final days on earth, he traveled around with Elisha, speaking to the prophets of Israel. Then the two men crossed the Jordan River. As the men stood talking to each other, chariots of fire appeared with horses of fire and took Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind. That was the last time he was seen. (2:1-14)

What's God doing?

- > In Elijah's final days, God used him to show the Israelites the importance of looking to God for answers rather than turning to false idols.
- > God escorted Elijah to heaven without him experiencing death. Enoch is the only other person never to have faced death (Gen. 5:24).

What's to learn?

- Ahaziah displeased God by trying to look into the future apart from the words of God. We must recognize that only God knows the future, and that using means in an attempt to look into the future apart from His Word insults Him and greatly dishonors Him.
- Elijah went to heaven without dying. Should the Lord return in our lifetime, we would get to have a similar experience!