

# Elijah Taken Into Heaven

by Chuck Smith

---

*Pastor Chuck Smith explores the significant events surrounding Elijah's ascension to heaven and the beginning of Elisha's prophetic ministry.*

**Duration:** 25:04

**Scripture:** 2 Kings 2:4-5, Matthew 3:16-17, Matthew 28:19-20, Mark 1:10-11, Acts 8:26-38

**Topics:** "Elijah"

---

## Description

In this sermon, Pastor Chuck Smith discusses the story of Elijah and his departure from earth. Elijah knew that his time was coming to an end and asked his disciple, Elisha, to stay with him. They traveled to Jericho, where the sons of the prophets informed Elisha that the Lord would take Elijah away that day. Elisha was aware of this and remained steadfast in his commitment to Elijah. The sermon emphasizes the power of the Holy Spirit and the need for believers to be open and receptive to His work in their lives.

---

## Transcript

Oh, let the Son of God enfold you With His Spirit and His love Let Him fill your heart and satisfy your soul  
Oh, let Him have the things that hold you And His Spirit, like a dove Will descend upon your life and make you whole  
Welcome to The Word for Today Broadcast ministry of Pastor Chuck Smith Calvary Chapel, Costa Mesa, California  
Pastor Chuck is currently leading us on a verse-by-verse venture through the entire Bible  
And on today's edition of The Word for Today We'll be concluding our look at Elijah As he is taken to heaven  
So let's begin by turning in our Bibles to 2 Kings, chapter 2, verse 4  
As Pastor Chuck Smith begins today's message Elijah knew that the time of the departure is at hand  
And so he said unto Elisha, verse 4 Tarry here, I pray thee, for the Lord hath sent me to Jericho  
And he said, As the Lord liveth and as thy soul liveth, I'll not leave thee  
So they came to Jericho The same thing, the sons of the prophets That were at Jericho came to Elisha  
And they said unto him Do you know that the Lord will take away your master from your head today?

And he said, I know it Hold your peace  
And so Elijah said unto him Tarry I pray thee here, for the Lord hath sent me to Jordan  
And he said, As the Lord liveth and as thy soul liveth, I'll not leave you  
And so the two of them went on The fifty men of the sons of the prophets went And stood to view from afar off  
And they too stood by the Jordan These prophets sort of followed them from a distance  
And they watched them as they came to the Jordan River  
And Elijah took his mantle And he wrapped it together, sort of a leather cloak  
You know, hung over his shoulders And he wrapped it together, rolled it up  
And he smote the

waters And they were divided hither and thither So that the two of them went over on dry ground God stopped the flow of the Jordan, much as he did at the time That Joshua came

in To the promised land of the children of Israel God stopping the Jordan River And it came to pass when they were gone over That Elijah said to Elisha Ask what I shall do for you Before I am taken away from you And Elisha said, I pray thee Let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me Elijah said unto him You've asked a hard thing Nevertheless, if you see me when I am taken from you It shall be so unto you But if not, it shall not be so Many commentators believe that what he was actually asking Was for the firstborn son's inheritance For the firstborn son received a double portion Over the other brothers of the father's inheritance And so he was asking for the inheritance of the firstborn A double portion of your spirit To be upon me Well, when you look at Elijah and all that he had

accomplished It was quite a request at that He said, if you see me when I am taken up It will happen, if you don't, it won't So it came to pass as they were still going on And they were talking That behold, a chariot of fire and horses of fire Parted them both asunder And Elijah went up by a storm into heaven Whirlwind is a poor translation of the Hebrew word there Which just really means a storm Don't picture a whirlwind It was just a storm that came And he went on up into heaven In this storm Three people Enoch Walked with God and was not, for God took him Translated without seeing death Elijah Taken up into heaven in the sight of Elisha And of course Jesus Christ taken up into heaven In the sight of his disciples When Elisha saw it, he cried My father, my father The chariot of Israel

and the horsemen thereof And he saw him, Elijah, no more And he took hold of his own clothes and tore them in two pieces And he took up also the mantle of Elijah that fell from him And he went back and stood by the bank of the Jordan So he watched Elijah until he went out of sight As the Lord took him up into heaven Then taking the mantle that fell as Elijah ascended Came back to the Jordan River And he took the mantle of Elijah And he smote the waters and said Where is Jehovah The God of Elijah And when he had smitten the waters They parted hither and thither And Elisha went over This was God's affirmation Upon his life and upon his ministry that he was the one To take the place of Elijah as the prophet to the nation of Israel This was the beginning now of his ministry God is confirming

These young prophets were sitting over there still watching They saw Elisha come back They saw him smite the waters They saw the waters part even as they saw it happen for Elijah And they realized, hey, the anointing is resting upon this man To be the prophet to Israel The question, where is the God of Elijah Where is the God who demonstrates himself in power before the people The God who stopped the heavens that it did not rain The God who sent the fire from heaven The God who fed the prophet The God who raised the dead Where is the God of Elijah Today as we look at the conditions Of the church Conditions of the world We're prone to ask the same question Where is the God of Elijah Where is the power Where are the dynamics of the spirit There's a lot of hyped up kind of emotionalism today

that I really have no desire to be involved in at all I cannot in the wildest of my imaginations Picture Jesus Doing some of the things that I see done by Some of these healing evangelists Whipping people into frenzies There's a lot of phoniness today A lot of these guys are nothing but charlatans Preying upon People's problems It's a sad and unfortunate thing when a person is terminally ill The desire to live is so strong that They'll become a prey to almost any charlatan Who promises them hope And they become victims and preys Of these people who go about Preying upon the illness and the tragedies of their lives God will deal with those charlatans in a very Powerful way but usually There's just a lot of Emotions, circus tent kind of an environment Where everybody is just brought to a

peak of Emotions and Then the supposed healings take place in the midst of this emotional frenzy Now some people are healed and that I don't deny their faith Somehow takes hold in that kind of an environment and God touches and heals them And I praise God for that I thank God for His mercy and For His grace and for His love But there are far many people Go away not healed than those that are healed And if you take an average Of those that are going there to be healed and those that actually come away truly healed You'll find that we have a better average on Saturday night prayer meetings when the elders just gather In the back room and lay hands on the people according to the scriptures and pray for the sick There are more people being healed back there than in these Big Ballyhoo kind of

meetings I long to see the power of God I long to see God demonstrate His power And my heart cries with Elijah oh where is the God of Elijah I do not believe that God is faulted or can be faulted in the weakness of the church I don't believe that God has changed I don't believe that God doesn't heal anymore that God isn't concerned with our physical needs any longer I believe that healing is for us and healing is for today And that God is able I believe that there has to be somewhere in us a lack and I think that that probably stems from The whole culture in which we live Which is a materialistic culture And it is extremely difficult in this culture and society To really be as spiritual as God would have us to be I think that all of us Are more deeply involved in the material things of

this world than God would have us to be And I think that that is the cause for the weakness Of the church As far as the demonstration of spiritual power God is the same His hand is not short that He cannot save neither is His ear heavy that He cannot hear but We've allowed the material things to come between God and our commitment to Him So when some of the prophets which were to view at Jericho saw Him they said The spirit of Elijah rests upon Elisha And they came to meet Him and bowed themselves to the ground before Him they They saw the water's part they saw the power of God was upon this man Elisha And they came and did obeisance And they said unto Him behold now there be with thy servant fifty strong men Let them go we pray thee and seek your master lest peradventure the spirit of

the Lord has taken him up And has cast him on some mountain or into some valley And he said don't go You're not to sin now It is interesting You remember when Elijah Came to Obadiah The chief servant of Ahab And he said go tell your master That I will meet him today And Obadiah says hey why would you ask me to do that don't you know what a Honorable man I am Haven't you heard that when they ordered all the prophets killed I hid some of the prophets in a cave and fed them and And cared for them you know why would you ask me to Go tell the king to meet you Because as soon as I'm gone from you the spirit of the Lord will catch you away someplace And when the king gets back here you're not here and then he's going to kill me So why would you do that to an honest God-fearing man like I am you

know And Elijah says you know I'll be here I guarantee I'll be here go tell the king I want to meet him Obadiah Felt that the Lord would perhaps catch Elijah away Now in the New Testament we remember the story of Philip Who was Preaching in Samaria Tremendous Revival and the spirit said go down to Gaza That desert area And he went down there and he saw this chariot heading for Ethiopia And so the Lord said join yourself to the chariot which he did As he came near he saw the man sitting in the chariot reading the scriptures And he said hey fellow do you understand what you're reading and he said how can I unless someone Shows me teaches me Come on up so Philip got up in the chariot with him a fellow happened to be reading in Isaiah Prophecy concerning Christ he said who is the prophet

talking about himself or someone else and Philip began at that verse and began to preach unto him Jesus And as Philip witnessed to this Ethiopian eunuch finally the fellow said Hey here's some water why can't I

be baptized And Philip said if you believe That Jesus is the Lord you can he says I believe and so they got off the chariot And Philip baptized him and when they came up out of the water The spirit of God Caught Philip away And he ended up in his Otis he landed in his Otis So These prophets thought That the Lord has probably caught him up But maybe he's dumped him someplace On a mountaintop or in a valley or something maybe he's fallen they they probably Could see him from a distance going up But figured that he May have fallen again to the earth And so they said you know let 50 of

us go out and search for him And Elijah says no no need fellas you know you know won't find him But they kept insisting They urged him till he was ashamed he Thought well you know he was embarrassed he said well okay send So they sent 50 men and for three days they searched But they could not find him and when they came again to Elisha For he stayed there at Jericho he said unto them did I not tell you Don't go you know And so the men of the city said to Elisha behold I pray thee the situation of this city is pleasant as my Lord sees But the water is terrible And thus the ground is barren Down in the Jordan Valley of course it is around 1200 feet below sea level there at Jericho And there are many springs of water that come out of the ground but most of them are brackish And you can't

really drink them nor can you irrigate with them because of the high salt content And so there was this one spring there at Jericho And the water was brackish So they they came to Elisha and they said man you know Great place to live everything will grow here but this water is rotten It's brackish And so he said bring me a new cruise and put salt in it And so they brought it to him And he went forth unto the spring of waters and he cast the salt there Now salt is a symbol of purifying There was a covenant of salt Jesus said to his disciples you are the salt of the earth talking about the purifying Effect because salt In an area where there was no refrigeration was used to Preserve the meat you cut your meat And the bacteria immediately sets in on the warm meat and so They would take and

salt it down real good and that kills the surface bacteria keeps the meat from spoiling And so he said bring me this cruise of salt And he went forth under the spring of waters he cast the salt in there and said Thus saith Jehovah I have healed these waters There shall not be from hence anymore death or barren land So the waters were healed unto this day according to the saying of Elisha That he spoke today Right across the street from the tell of Jericho You can go To Elisha's spring Still a very healthy spring good flow of water comes out And I've drunk the water and it is good even to this day That spring was healed the water is not brackish It's very palatable And of course the area below where the water flows Is just verdant garden area Beautiful and so During the time of Elisha

That spring was healed and it remains so to the present day So he went up from there to Bethel And as he was going up by the way there came forth And the word little children is a bad translation Better translated young lads you think little children you see a bunch of little five six year old kindergartners Not so you're talking more about teenage boys And you go over to those cities today and there's still a lot of bratty little teenage boys around That not all of them like tourists and they will Yell at you and So there came forth these young boys out of the city and they mocked him Taunting him And they set up said to him go on up For he was heading up the hill towards Bethel go on up you old bald head Go on up And so he turned back And he looked on them and he cursed them in the name

of Jehovah And there came forth to she bears out of the woods And tore up 42 of these young fellows And he went up from there to Mount Carmel And from there he returned to Samaria So again You're dealing with the Old Testament period of time And They were mocking this fellow bringing To attention is bald head And he took care of them So let me just warn you be careful what you say We'll return with more of

our verse-by-verse study through the Bible In our next lesson as we follow the rebellion of Moab And we do hope you'll make plans to join us But right now I'd like to remind you that if you missed any part of today's message Or perhaps you'd like to order a copy for that special friend or loved one You can do so by simply contacting one of our customer service representatives And they'd

be more than happy to assist you with the ordering details Simply call 1-800-272-WORD And phone orders can be taken Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Pacific Time Once again our toll free number is 1-800-272-9673 And for your added convenience You can order online anytime When you go to the [thewordfortoday.org](http://thewordfortoday.org) While you're there be sure to browse through the additional resources That include Bible studies, commentaries, CDs, DVDs and so much more Once again that's the word for today online at [thewordfortoday.org](http://thewordfortoday.org) And for those of you who still prefer to write You can use our mailing address which is The Word for Today P.O. Box 8000 Costa Mesa, California 92628 And be sure to include the call letters of this station with your correspondence And now on behalf of The Word for Today We'd like to thank all of you who share in supporting this ministry With your prayers and financial support And be sure to join us again next time As Pastor Chuck Smith continues his verse-by-verse study Through the book of 2 Kings That's right here on the next edition of The Word for Today And now once again here's Pastor Chuck Smith With today's closing prayer Father how we thank you for this age of grace in which we live Your love that is shed abroad upon our hearts through Jesus Christ We thank you Lord for these men who walked in power Whose lives were a demonstration of the power of your spirit And Lord even as you revealed yourself to that apostate generation Reveal yourself Lord to this apostate generation Come Lord in the power of your spirit Walk in the midst of your people Work O God in meeting the needs And let our hearts O Lord be open and let our hearts be sensitive To receive that work of your spirit In Jesus name we pray Amen We're excited to announce that the Word for Today Bible is back With more notes by Pastor Chuck highlighting a clear understanding of the scriptures And after much research and consideration We have produced quality leather and paperback bindings That are durable and strong Able to withstand the test of time Features include words of Christ in red In exhaustive concordance Cross-references In-depth Special study notes by Pastor Chuck With Hebrew and Greek word origins and definitions The history of Calvary Chapel And the book How Can a Man Be Born Again?

Which can be very informative for new believers It's our prayer that as you read the Word for Today Bible Pastor Chuck's commentaries will give you an insightful understanding into the scriptures Causing God's word to come to life in your own heart For more information please call the Word for Today At 1-800-272-WORD You can read a sneak preview of the Word for Today Bible By visiting [thewordfortoday.org](http://thewordfortoday.org) This program has been sponsored by The Word for Today In Costa Mesa, California

---

Audio: <https://sermonindex1.b-cdn.net/25/SID25719.mp3>

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/chuck-smith/elijah-taken-into-heaven/>

# *Grow in Your Walk with Christ*

---

Listen and read messages that will stir your heart for Christ and point you to deeper repentance and devotion.

- 50,000+ Sermons from speakers past and present
- 3,900+ Classic Christian Books freely readable online
- 1,200+ Bible Translations and Commentaries
- Over 450k forum posts — Join our vibrant online Christian forum

**[www.sermonindex.net](http://www.sermonindex.net)**