

Elijah is taken up to God

2 Kings 2:1-12

Now when the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. And Elijah said to Elisha, "Wait here, for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. And the sons of the prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the Lord will take away your master from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know it; don't say anymore."

At Jericho and at the Jordan, the same thing happened. Elijah told Elisha to wait, Elisha insisted on going, and prophets in those places warned him that Elijah was going to be taken away.

At the Jordan river, Elijah took his coat, rolled it up, and struck the water, and the water was parted to the one side and to the other, till the two of them could go over on dry ground.

When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Ask what I shall do for you, before I am taken from you." And Elisha said, "Let me inherit a double share of your spirit." And he said, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it shall be so; but if you do not see me, it shall not be so."

And as they still went on and talked, behold, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them. And Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. And Elisha saw it and he cried, "My father, my father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" And he saw him no more.

Then he took hold of his own clothes and tore them in two pieces. And he took up the coat of

Elijah that had fallen from him, and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. Then he took the coat of Elijah that had fallen from him, and struck the water, saying, "Where is the Lord, the God of Elijah?" And when he had struck the water, the water was parted to the one side and to the other; and Elisha went over. ■

An Army of Angels

2 Kings 6:11-17

The king of Syria was greatly troubled because all that he did was known to the king of Israel. He called to his servants, "Will you not show me who of us is a spy for the king of Israel?" And one of his servants said, "None, my lord, O king; but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the words that you speak in your bedchamber."

And the king of Syria said, "Go and see where he is, that I may send and seize him." He was told, "He is in Dothan." So he sent horses and chariots and a great army; and they came by night, and surrounded the city.

When Elisha's servant rose early in the morning and went out, an army with horses and chariots was round about the city. And the servant said, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?" Elisha said, "Fear not, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them." Then Elisha prayed, and said, "O Lord, I pray thee, open his eyes that he may see." So the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw; and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha. ■

Elisha Rewards the Shunammite woman

2 Kings 4:8-37

One day Elisha went to Shunem, where a wealthy woman lived, who urged him to eat some food. So whenever he passed that way, he would stop there to eat food. And she said to her husband, "This is a holy man of God, who is always passing our way. Let us make a small room for him with a bed, a table, a chair, and a lamp, so that whenever he comes to us, he can stay there."

One day he came there and said "You have gone to all this trouble for us; what is to be done for you? Would you have a word spoken on your behalf to the king or to the commander of the army?" She answered, "I dwell among my own people." And he said, "What then is to be done for her?" Gehazi, the servant, answered, "Well, she has no son, and her husband is old." And Elisha said, "At this season, when the time comes round, you shall embrace a son." And she said, "O man of God; do not lie to your maidservant." But the woman conceived, and she bore a son about that time the following spring, as Elisha had said to her.

When the child had grown, he went out one day with his father and the reapers. He said to his father, "Oh, my head, my head!" The father said to his servant, "Carry him to his mother." And when he had lifted him, and brought him to his mother, the child sat on her lap till noon, and then he died. And she went up and laid him on the bed of the man of God. Then she called to her husband, "Send me one of the servants and a donkey, that I may quickly go to the man of God, and come back again." So she set out for Mount Carmel.

When Elisha saw her coming, he said to Gehazi his servant, "Look, the Shunammite; run to meet her, and ask to her, "Is it well with you

and your family?" And she answered, "It is well." And when she came to the man of God, she caught hold of his feet. And Gehazi came to thrust her away. But the man of God said, "Let her alone, for she is in bitter distress; and the Lord has hidden it from me."

When she had told Elisha about her son, the prophet said to Gehazi, "Go, take my staff and lay it on the face of the child." Gehazi went ahead and did so, but there was no sound or sign of life. He returned to Elisha, and said, "The child has not awakened."

When Elisha came into the house, he saw the child lying dead on his bed. So he went in, shut the door, and prayed to the Lord. Then he went up and lay upon the child, putting his mouth upon his mouth, his eyes upon his eyes, and his hands upon his hands; and as he stretched himself upon him, the flesh of the child became warm. Then he got up again, and walked once back and forth in the house, and went up, and stretched himself upon him; the child sneezed seven times, and the child opened his eyes.

Then he summoned Gehazi and said, "Call the Shunammite." So he called her. And when she came, he said, "Take your son." She came and fell at his feet, bowing to the ground; then she took up her son and went out. ■



Naaman is Cleansed of Leprosy

2 Kings 5:1-14

Naaman, commander of the army of the King of Syria, was a great man and in high favor with his master, because by him the Lord had given victory to Syria. He was a mighty man of valor, but he was a leper. On one of their raids, the Syrians had carried off a little maid from the land of Israel, and she waited on Naaman's wife. She said to her mistress, "If only my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy." So Naaman asked his lord if he could go and the king of Syria agreed.

Naaman came with his horses and chariots, and halted at the door of Elisha's house. And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored, and you shall be clean." But Naaman was angry, and went away, saying, "Behold, I thought that he would surely come out to me, and stand, and call on the name of the Lord his God, and wave his hand over the place, and cure the leper. Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them, and be clean?" So he turned and went away in a rage.

But his servants came near and said to him, "My father, if the prophet had commanded you to do some great thing, would you not have done it? How much more, then, when he says to you, 'Wash, and be clean'?" So he went down and dipped himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean. ■



Naaman washes in the Jordan river

Gehazi steals

2 Kings 5:19-27

Naaman was so grateful, he tried to give Elisha gifts. When Elisha refused to take them, his servant Gehazi was disappointed. He ran after Naaman and told him a story about how two prophets needed money and clothes. Naaman gave Gehazi even more than he asked for.

But when Gehazi got back, God had informed Elisha about the lie. Gehazi denied it, but could not fool God. Elisha told Gehazi that he would now bear leprosy as punishment for his sin. ■

Other Deeds of Elisha

Made an oil jar pour until it filled several jugs.

2 Kings 2:1-14

Made bitter water sweet.

2 Kings 2:19-22

Caused a bear to maul some wicked children.

2 Kings 2:23-24

Cured a poisonous stew.

2 Kings 4:38-41

Fed a hundred people with one meal.

2 Kings 4:42-44

Made an iron axe float.

2 Kings 6:1-7

Warned the King of the Aramean's plans.

2 Kings 6:8-10

Struck an Aramean army blind.

2 Kings 6:18-19

Contact with Elisha's bones raised a dead man.

2 Kings 13:20-21