



# Stuff They Didn't Teach Me In Sunday School



## Episode 079 - God's New Starter 2 Kings 2

God's time has come. He's about to bring Elijah home without the prophet having to experience death.

- What things do you hope to accomplish before God calls you home?

The words describing Elijah's departure, "... And Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven" (2 Kings 2:11b), sound similar to Jesus' ascension, "... as they were looking on, He was lifted up, and a cloud took Him out of their sight" (Acts 1:9b). They also sound similar to Paul's description of those believers who are still alive on earth when Jesus Christ returns on Judgment Day: "Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord" (1 Thessalonians 4:17).

- How does being reminded of the day when you will look upon Christ Jesus' glorious face help you face difficult times in your earthly life?
- How can that thought comfort you in death?

Before Elijah left, Elisha requested a double portion of the Spirit (2 Kings 2:9). After Elijah was taken up into heaven, Elisha crossed back to Israel, came up out of the waters of the Jordan and worked two miracles which established him as Israel's new lead prophet.

- What lessons do you learn when friends and loved ones are taken away from you?
- What lesson was God teaching Israel and us through the she-bears He sent against those who mocked His prophet?

After His baptism, Jesus came up out of the waters of the Jordan as Israel's great Prophet as foretold by Moses in Deuteronomy 18:15-19. Like Elisha, His miracles established Him as Israel's lead Prophet—this time forever. Elisha cleansed the waters of Jericho, but Jesus proclaimed, "... 'If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. Whoever believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water'" (John 7:37b-38).

- Discuss some of Jesus' promises which give you relief in your struggles.
- With your guilt and sins removed by Jesus' death and resurrection, how are you helping others find joy and hope in their lives?