

# Everyday FAITH Family Page

## Old Testament 4

### Law/Gospel

Death overtakes me because I am permeated by sin and am subject to its penalty. **The death and resurrection of Jesus, through which He reconciles us to God, is the death of death itself, assuring me that I and all believers will rise to eternal life.**

### Bible Words

[Jesus says,] "I will come again and will take you to Myself."  
John 14:3

### From the Catechism The Fourth Commandment

Honor your father and your mother.

*What does this mean?*

We should fear and love God so that we do not despise or anger our parents and other authorities, but honor them, serve and obey them, love and cherish them.

Elisha honored his teacher Elijah with faithfulness and followed the Fourth Commandment, just as God commands us to do.

## Elijah Is Taken to Heaven

2 Kings 2:1–15

**W**hen the time came for Elijah to go to heaven, God took him home in a way like no other person in history.

That day, Elijah and his student Elisha traveled to see groups of God's prophets in several places. All of the prophets knew Elijah would soon depart. Because of this, Elisha refused to leave his teacher's side. When Elijah asked Elisha what he could do for him before he left, Elisha asked for a double portion of his spirit. Elijah replied that this was a hard thing, but it would happen if Elisha saw him taken from him.

Suddenly, chariots and horses of fire divided the two men. Elisha watched as the Lord took Elijah into heaven by a whirlwind. Elisha cried, "My father, my father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" (v.12).

Why chariots? Chariots demonstrated a king's strength. They struck fear in the heart of enemies. This appearance of the fiery chariots and horses showed the strength of the Lord in His prophets and Elijah's importance in Israel's history.

Later as Elisha lay on his deathbed, Israel's King Joash tearfully offered these same affirming words: "My father, my father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" (2 Kings 13:14). God's prophets were the true chariots of the Lord God, demonstrators of His strength, power, and truth.

### Elijah's Replacement: Elisha

Elisha succeeded Elijah as God's primary prophet to the Northern Kingdom of Israel from 850–798 BC. Elisha's ministry differed from Elijah's. He did not confront the evil kings with the Law as Elijah did. Instead, his message offered grace and hope in the Lord.

Elisha performed many miracles such as purifying poisoned water, providing oil for a widow to pay her debts, multiplying food to feed a large crowd, curing a leper, and raising a boy from the dead.

The Bible compares Elijah to John the Baptist, while Elisha's ministry and message point to Jesus.

### Prayer

*Lord God, keep us in true faith today and forever. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*

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