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**Elijah Your Ride Is Coming**

(2 Kings 2:11-12 KJV)

*11And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.12And Elisha saw it, and he cried, My father, my father, the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof. And he saw him no more: and he took hold of his own clothes, and rent them in two pieces.*

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he death of Elijah is interesting. It is interesting how the prophet's death is so exclusive yet has become emblematic of every believer's death. We sing the familiar strains of the old spiritual ''Swing Low Sweet Chariot, I looked over Jordan and what did I see, comin' for to carry me home'' often without knowing that it is based on the death of Elijah. In fact innumerable old hymns speak of ''crossing Jordan'' as a metaphor of death. Now parenthetically it too comes without delay out of this text.

Our text records one of the interesting things about the songs inspired by this particular text is that the songs get it all wrong. Notice that verse 11 says, “a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated them; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.” Elijah was not in the chariot of fire! It was not the chariot that came to get Elijah; it was the whirlwind. When God was ready to get him—God in my sanctified imagination said to Elijah, “Elijah Your Ride Is Coming.”

It is fitting that Elijah's departing has become such a familiar symbol for every passing of a love one. Remember what James said, *''He was a man just like us*.'' Maybe so, but his death was unique. But so is every death.

There appears to be similarity to death the way we often experience it. In fact Funerals, funeral homes, and cemeteries all have something in common. Ironically some are bigger and fancier than others. But the differences are minor. Once upon a time, people experienced death up close and personal. Elderly and sick relatives remained at home to die in their own beds, surrounded by family members of all ages—wakes or visitations were held in the family home. Most funerals took place in the normal surroundings of church and home. And just like in those days death was and still is a part of life.

1. **Your Ride Is Certain To Arrive**

(2 Kings 2:1 KJV)

*When the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal.*

I want you to notice something interesting about this text—that it’s not IF but WHEN your ride shows up. The storyteller begins the story by giving away the undisclosed secret of what’s going to come to pass when the ride shows up. Usually, the story-teller will save the climax to the very end and keep the listener in suspense until then. But our story begins with these words, “*When the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind*”.

Then as the tale unfolds, everywhere Elijah goes there are people who already know what is going to happen. First he goes to Bethel where he finds a company of prophets. These prophets take Elisha aside and say to him, “*Do you know that the Lord is going to take your master from you today*?” They already know that this is the day.