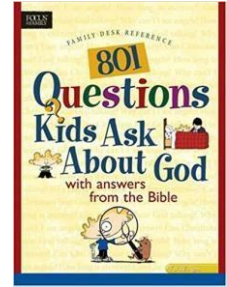




Why did Elijah go up to heaven so early?



Elijah was a famous prophet who spent most of his life telling others about God. He is the one of only two people mentioned in the Bible who didn't die before going to heaven (Enoch is the other one-see *Genesis 5:21-24*). Instead, God took them. God used a chariot of fire and a whirlwind to take Elijah to heaven. The whirlwind and fire didn't kill Elijah or burn him; rather, the chariot and horses separated Elijah from his good friend and student, Elisha. Then the whirlwind carried Elijah to heaven. This showed that God approved of Elijah and that Elijah was a good man who loved God. And God took Elijah to heaven at just the right time, not early. We don't know how old Elijah was when God took him; he may have been an old man.



As they were walking along and talking, suddenly a chariot of fire appeared, down by horses of fire. It drove between them, separating them, and Elijah was carried by a whirlwind into heaven. (*2 Kings 2:11*)

Note to the parents: Children often imagine that the chariot of fire would have killed Elijah and burned Elisha because it was on fire. We don't know what the "fire" was like. The point of the image is that God used a dramatic and miraculous event to separate Elijah and Elisha and to take Elijah to heaven.

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