

From The Pulpit

by Rev. Donald M. Clark

ELIJAH
(Predictions of Eternal Glory)

Text: II Kings - Chapter Two

THE STORY OF ELIJAH'S translation is one of the most impressive of the Old Testament history. In our study of Elijah thus far, we have learned that his whole life was a monumental wonder of divine guidance and power. Now, we catch a glimpse of his entrance into glory and see in this unusual event a prediction of eternal glory for all of God's people.

"Off the Calf of Man, near the Isle of Man stands an isolated wave-beaten lighthouse. For days at a time the keepers of the lighthouse cannot see the Isle of Man; but when the weather clears, they put their telescopes to their eyes and can see their homes, and their families gathered in the front of the cottages. There are times and seasons when the soul is in a mood to think about that life on the other side. We put our perspective glass of faith and revelation to our eye and catch a glimpse of the House of many mansions and the friends who are gathered there, for each of us, an ever-increasing company." Thus speaks McCartney of the land of glory into which Elijah is taken in a chariot of fire.



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A PREDICTION OF ELIJAH'S DEPARTURE: The day of Elijah's departure had, in some manner, been predicted to the faithful prophets of God. Elisha, the successor of Elijah, knew that the day of his master's going had dawned. Elisha, also, knew, and three times he had requested that Elisha remain behind; at Gilgal, at Bethel, and at Jericho. But each time Elisha had responded, "As the Lord liveth and as thy soul liveth I will not leave thee." He had ministered to Elijah since the day of his anointing at the plow, and he is determined to serve him until God shall call him home. The sons of the prophets at both Bethel and Jericho have also learned that Elijah will depart, and fifty of them have gathered near Jericho hoping that they might see him in his moment of glory.

The Lord who had led Elijah to Cherith, Zarephath, Samaria, and Carmel, now leads him from Gilgal to Bethel, to Jericho, across Jordan, and into heaven. And it is the Christian conviction that all who follow the leading of God in this life will also share with Elijah in this eternal life. We may not know the day of our departure, but we can know with assurance our destination. With Paul, we believe that "our commonwealth is in heaven, and from it we await a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will change our lowly body, by the power which enables Him even to subject all things to Himself."

THE TRANSLATION OF ELIJAH TO HEAVEN: As Elijah and Elisha walked and talked, they walked on the verge of heaven, and "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." And who will say that this translation of Elijah is not in a measure predictive of the ultimate glory awaiting all those who trust in Christ? Did not Jesus say, "I will come again and receive you unto myself?" And does not God's word plainly teach us that "we shall all be changed, in a moment, in a twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall all be changed?" And again, we read, "For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trump of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air; and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words." That which is predictive in the translation of Elijah is made a reality through the

(WEAVER, from page 1)

able and said they would vote for him, as they did.

"I AM PROUD that now a second President has demonstrated his belief in Mr. Weaver", said Sen. Robert F. Kennedy (D-N.Y.). Kennedy remarked that his late brother, President John F. Kennedy had intended to appoint Weaver to the Cabinet. President Kennedy did announce such intention before congressional action to create the department in 1962 was stymied by southern opposition to the proposal.

Although the new department came into existence officially last November 9, President Johnson did not announce his choice for secretary until last Thursday. The President said that he had screened 300 men for the job and finally chose Weaver as the best man available.

Senator Paul H. Douglas (D-Ill.) and Senator Robertson (Chairman of the Senate Banking Committee before whom the hearings began Monday, and who unanimously confirmed Weaver) said that it was unfair to Weaver to infer that he was a second choice for the post because of the long delay in naming him.

Senator Douglas said that he was in possession of information which made him confident Weaver "was not the second choice but was number one" on the President's list. Senator Robertson said it was his understanding that President Johnson "did not want to establish a precedent of appointing a colored man to the Cabinet while Congress was not in session".

SECRETARY WEAVER will be in charge of Federal problems dealing with housing and urban affairs, and during his appearance before the Banking Committee, Weaver said his new department--HUD--would not solve the problems of the nation's cities.

"They won't find the answer to their problems in Washington, he said. "We can only offer help and technical assistance."

Editor's Note: VOICE shares the pride of all Negroes in Mr. Weaver's appointment--Our failure to mention the fact that he is the first Negro to hold a Cabinet Post is because such a statement is historically inaccurate as our "Hidden History" feature will reveal.

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resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ.

And when Elisha saw the going of Elijah, he cried out, "My father, my father, the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof." In all probability, Elisha had in mind something of that expressed in the Targum: "My master, my master who wast better to Israel by thy prayers than horses and chariots." All of which would indicate that the spiritual defense of a nation is of primary importance. And this truth should bring us to our knees with the prayer that God will raise up spiritual giants in our day who will lead us into a spiritual revival of world impact and eternal results.

THE LORD GOD OF ELIJAH STILL LIVES: Elisha takes up the fallen mantle of Elijah and having returned to the Jordan cries, "Where is the Lord God of Elijah?" He learned in that moment that the Lord God of Elijah still lived. The waters of the Jordan parted again, and Elisha, endowed with a double portion of the Spirit of Elijah went forth as the messenger of God to Israel. Many of the people of Elijah's day acted as though God were dead. It was through the message and faith of this man that the hearts of the people were turned from idols to God again.

It is God's desire to share in the lives of His people and to use them in the spreading of His Gospel and the establishing of righteousness and truth. And God is no respecter of persons. He will use all who surrender their lives to Him. It is not so much a question of great ability, but rather one of availability. Have you surrendered your life completely to God? If so, He will use you. Elijah was a man of like weaknesses with us, but God prepared him through hardship, presented him against the forces of evil, preserved him when in dejection, and predicted him to eternal glory. And God will do the same with us today if we trust in Him.

MERRY-GO-ROUND FOR BUSY GOVERNOR

A PLANNING MEETING for the Western Governors' Conference, four speeches and a series of business appointments made up Gov. Grant Sawyer's four-day Las Vegas schedule this week.

Sawyer arrived in town Tuesday to address the Men's Club of the Griffith Methodist Church. The dinner meeting was held at the church, 1701 East Oakey Blvd.

Yesterday, the governor addressed two conventions, the Intermountain Veterinary Medical Association at the Flamingo Hotel and the National Association of State and Territorial Apprenticeship Directors at the Dunes Hotel. Several business appointments occupied him Wednesday afternoon.

PRELIMINARY PLANS for the 1966 meeting of the Western Governors' Conference, scheduled April 24-28 in Las Vegas, will be discussed this (Thursday) afternoon. Sawyer, chairman of the western governors, will meet with general chairman Harry Levy and an executive committee of Las Vegas residents.

Education, reapportionment, housing, taxation and crime will be covered in a keynote speech before the Nevada Council of Churches Conference tonight (Thursday) at the Convention Center. Theme of the three-day conference is "A Dialogue in Depth on the Five Major Issues Facing the State of Nevada."

Sawyer returns to the capitol tomorrow (Friday) afternoon for office appointments and then will take part in the Reno Advertising Club's annual "Sheep Dip" show.

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