

We were looking last time at number 9, the Baal Crisis in Judah, and then we just at the end of the hour began to look at number 10 which is the death of Elisha. Under this heading of the death of Elisha we noticed that when Elisha died the king of Israel comes to see him. When Elijah departed from this earth he was over across the Jordan. A few sons of the prophets who were not very well instructed on things in general were familiar with the fact that he was now taken away and nobody else seemed to care much about it. A great change had taken place in the relationship of the people of the land in relation to the prophet. The king himself now comes to see the prophet and to tell him how much he has meant to the kingdom. Under these circumstances when Josahs, the king of Israel, comes and says to Elisha, "My father, my father, the chariot of Israel and the horseman thereof" it is very plain that what he says is exactly the same as if a president of the United States ~~were~~ were to go to a great leader of public opinion on his death bed and say, "Oh, you are the tanks and the airplanes. You are the defense of the nation. You mean more than several divisions of soldiers for the protection of the nation." I am sure that that was true of Elisha. God had used Elisha repeatedly to protect the nation from its enemies in a military way and the king had sense enough to know that the tremendous ~~improvement~~ improvement in the moral condition of this people and the great increase in their loyalty and their willingness to try to do their duty in all points was to a large extent due to the work which the prophet had done. So he very rightly called the prophet the chariot of Israel and the ~~horsemen~~ horsemen thereof. In this instance it has no relation whatever to the fact that Elisha had gone up to heaven in a chariot of fire. In view of that I think we are entirely justified to consider that in the previous instance where the same phrase was used where Elisha was on his death bed that at that instant Elijah was about to go up to heaven, that in that instance Elisha was not making some reference to the chariot of fire which carried him up into heaven but that he was ~~expressing the same~~ expressing the same thought which Joash