

## COMING OVER OR OVERCOMING

“Elijah took his mantle, and wrapped it together, and smote the waters, and they were divided hither and thither, so that they two [Elijah and Elisha] went over on dry ground. And it came to pass, when they were gone over, that Elijah said unto Elisha, Ask what I shall do for thee, before I be taken away from thee. And Elisha said, I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me. And he said, Thou hast asked a hard thing; nevertheless, if thou see me when I am taken from thee, it shall be so unto thee; but if not, it shall not be so. And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that...Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. And Elisha saw it . . . And he saw him no more: and he took hold of his own clothes and rent them in two pieces.

“He took up also the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and went back, and stood by the bank of Jordan; And he took the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and smote the waters, and said, Where is the Lord God of Elijah? and when he also had smitten the waters, they parted hither and thither: and Elisha went over. And when the sons of the prophets which were to view at Jericho saw him, they said, The spirit of Elijah doth rest on Elisha.” (II Kings 2)

Let us see what these verses mean from the standpoint of revealed Truth today.

Elijah took his mantle (he used intelligence, understanding), and recognizing the allness of God, the supremacy of Mind, and the consequent nothingness of matter, or the nowhere-ness of matter, he was enabled, by being imbued with that power of good, through the “unlabored motion of the divine” (*Science and Health*), to cross over to Jericho (a place of fragrance, or a higher state of consciousness, or a higher condition of thought).

Elijah was about to ascend, or to pass out of and from the cognizance of matter and material sense, even as did Jesus in later days; and when Elisha asked Elijah for a “double portion of thy spirit,” in response to his offer, Elijah realized that the recognition of the constant presence of God, or good, was not his to give away for the mere asking, but that it must always be found by each one for himself. So he said, “Thou hast asked a hard thing” (just as hard as one makes it, for this recognition of the everywhere-ness of good lies entirely with you); therefore, if you see me (that is, recognize the Principle whereby I do disappear from human consciousness), then you shall have understanding or apprehension of the true state of being, that which you asked for. Moreover, he said, if you do not understand the operation of this Principle, then you cannot receive that Word of God, even if I could give it to you, which I could not.

Jesus the Christ, referring to the same experience which he was shortly to make, said practically the same thing as Elijah did, when he said to his disciples, “He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than

these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.” (John) In other words, he that understands this *way of Mind*, or *Principle*, whereby I am enabled to enact the things that I do, shall be able to repeat these same works, and not only the same works that I have done, but even *greater* than I have done. He expected those, who do advance to this higher condition of thought, to do these greater works, too, or he would not have laid this command down for us to follow.

There follows a symbolical description of Elijah’s ascension, or “spiritual exaltation,” and the fact is stated that Elisha did recognize the spiritual enactment of the laws of God and understood the spiritual meaning, for “he took hold of his own clothes, and rent them in *two* pieces;” that is, he immediately set about to divide the material from the spiritual and true — to “put off the old man” and to “put on the new man.”

Moreover, Elisha took into his consciousness as much as he could grasp of that which Elijah had taught him and shown him, with the result that he was then and there enabled to do in part that which Elijah had done, so much so that the “sons of the Prophets” (the awakened consciousness) recognized it, and acknowledged it.

David, that grand, loving characterization of “God with us,” went through practically the same experience when his first child (material sense offspring, Bathsheba being its mother) was dying, or David was awakening to a higher condition of thought. He, too, “arose . . . and washed, and anointed himself [consecrated himself to God], and changed his apparel [put on the Christ robes], and came into the house of the Lord . . . [saw what Elijah and Elisha saw, the everywhere-ness of good]; then he came to his own house [individual consciousness],” and “worshipped” God. His eyes were opened to the only true worship, being what we are, spiritual beings *now*; not next year, not next week, or not when we are healed, or when we are more spiritual, but *now* recognizing *His* Kingdom as at hand. (II Samuel 12)

And today the same fact is being recognized by the world, for Christian Scientists are doing the same works that Jesus did, the same works that Elijah and Elisha did, and that David did; thus bringing to the attention of the world that they also understand what Jesus meant when he said, “I am the way,” and that they did “see him when he was taken away.”

It is always the childlike sense that has eyes to see the things of His kingdom, for this kingdom is not discerned in any other way than by spiritual sense. This is that willingness to “*come over to Him*” or *overcoming*.