

Chapter 2

Elifeus wil not part from Elias. 7. Fiftie difciples folow them to Iordan. 8. The water is diuided by Elias cloke, and they two pafse the drie chanel. 9. Elias is afsumpted in a fire chariote, and his duple fpirite is geuen to Elifeus, 13. who returning by like miraculous meanes our Iordan, the difciples receiue and honour him as their religious Superiour. 16. They feeke Elias, but find him not. 19. Elifeus amendeth the waters by cafting in falt. 23. Boyes are torne by beares for mocking Elifeus.

ayre, or lovver
heauen.

And it came to paffe, when our Lord would take ^a)vp Elias by a hurle winde into heauen, Elias and Elifeus went from Galgal. ² And Elias fayd to Elifeus: Sitte here, becaufe our Lord hath fent me as far as Bethel. To whom Elifeus fayd: Our Lord liueth, and thy foule liueth, I wil not leaue thee. And when he was come downe to Bethel, ³ the children of the prophetes, that were in Bethel, went forth to Elifeus, and fayd to him: Doeft thou know, that this day our Lord wil take thy maifter from thee? Who answered: I alfo know it: hold your peace. ⁴ And Elias fayd to Elifeus: Sitte here, becaufe our Lord hath fent me into Iericho. And he fayd: Our Lord liueth, & thy foule liueth, I wil not leaue thee. And when they were come to Iericho, ⁵ the children of the prophetes, that were in Iericho, came to Elifeus, and fayd to him: Doeft thou know that this day our Lord wil take away thy maifter from thee? And he fayd: I alfo know it, hold your peace. ⁶ And Elias fayd to him: Sitte here, becaufe our Lord hath fent me as farre as Iordan. Who fayd: Our Lord liueth, and thy foule liueth, I wil not leaue thee: They went therefore both together, ⁷ & fiftie men of the children of the prophetes folowed them, who alfo ftood ouer

^a VVither Elias was carried being taken vp into the ayre, is vncertain: but certaine that he yet liueth, and muft dye. As S. Auguftin teacheth. *li. 9. c. 6. de Gen. ad lit.* See *Annot. in Gen. 6. & Apocalip. 11.*

agaynft them, farre of: but they two ftood vpon Iordan. ⁸ And Elias tooke his mantel, and folded it together, and fmote the waters, which were diuided into two partes, and they both paffed ouer by the drie land. ⁹ And when they were ouer, Elias fayd to Elifeus: Aske what thou wilt haue me to doe for thee, before I be taken from thee. And Elifeus fayd: I befech thee that in me may be ^a)thy duple fpirit. ¹⁰ Who answered: Thou haft asked a hard thing: Neuertheleffe if thou fee me, when I fhall be taken from thee, thou fhalt haue that thou haft asked: but if thou fee me not, thou shalt not haue it. ¹¹ And when they went forward, and going talked together, behold a fyrie chariote, and fyrie horfes parted them two afunder: and Elias afcended by a hurle winde into heauen. ¹² And Elifeus faw him, and cried: My father, my father, the chariote of Ifrael, and the guider therof. And he faw him no more: and he tooke his garmentes, and rent them in two peeces. ¹³ And he tooke vp the mantel of Elias, that was fallen to him: and returning he ftood vpon the banke of Iordan, ¹⁴ and with the mantel of Elias, that fel downe to him, he fmote the waters, and they were not diuided. And he fayd: Where is the God of Elias, now alfo? and he fmote the waters, and they were diuided this way and that way, and Elifeus paffed ouer. ¹⁵ And the children of the prophetes, that were in Iericho, ouer agaynft him feing him, fayd: The fpirit of Elias hath refted vpon Elifeus. And coming to meete him, ^b)adored him flatte to the ground, ¹⁶ and they fayd to him: Behold, there are with thy feruantes fiftie ftrong men, that can goe, and feeke thy maifter, left perhaps the fpirit of our Lord hath taken him, and caft him vpon one of the mountaines, or into one of the valleyes. Who fayd: Send not. ¹⁷ And they forced him, til he agreed, and fayd: Send. And they fent fiftie men. Who when

^a He defired not duple fpirite to his mafter, but the duple fpirite of prophecyng, and of working miracles, which Elias had. *v. 15.*

^b They adored him for his holines, and becaufe God had geuen him the fpirit of fo great a prophete, not for worldlie, but fpiritual excellencie, & therefore not with ciuil but religious honour.

they had fought three daies, found not. ¹⁸ And they returned to him: but he dwelt in Iericho, and he fayd to them: Did I not fay to you: Send not? ¹⁹ The men also of the citie fayd to Elifeus: Behold the habitation of this citie is very good, as thy felfe my lord perceiueft: but the waters are very il, and the ground barren. ²⁰ But he fayd: Fetch me a new veffel, and put falt into it. Which when they had brought, ²¹ going out to the fountayne of the waters, he caft falt into it, and fayd: Thus fayth our Lord: I haue amended these waters, and death shal no more be in them, nor barrenesse. ²² The waters therefore were amended vntil this day, according to the word of Elifeus, which he spake. ²³ And from thence he went vp into Bethel: & when he went vp by the way, little laddes came forth out of the citie, and mocked him, saying: Come vp baldhead, come vp baldhead. ²⁴ Who when he had looked backe, he saw them, & curfed them in the name of our Lord: and two beares came forth out of the foreft, & tore of them two and fourtie boyes. ²⁵ And from thence he went into the mount of Carmel, and from thence he turned into Samaria.