



LESSONS
FROM THE
MASTER
PROPHET

Elijah

AND HOW TO
APPLY THEM
TO YOUR LIFE

 Bible Study Tools

Elijah

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Welcome to our deep dive Bible study on Elijah—a prophet whose life and ministry resonate with timeless truths and powerful lessons for us today. Elijah emerges from the pages of Scripture as a figure of boldness and faith, demonstrating God’s relentless pursuit of righteousness amidst a backdrop of spiritual decay and idolatry.

As we embark on this journey through Elijah’s story, we will uncover profound insights into prayer, courage, obedience, and the unwavering faithfulness of God. From the dramatic confrontation on Mount Carmel to the quiet moments of renewal and guidance, Elijah’s life unfolds as a compelling narrative of God’s sovereignty and provision in the midst of adversity.

Our goal in this study is not only to gain historical knowledge but to apply Elijah’s experiences to our own lives. We will explore how his encounters with God shape our understanding of prayerful dependence, prophetic courage, and steadfast trust in God’s promises. Through studying the scriptures, discovering key takeaways, reflection, and answering discovery questions, may we discover how Elijah’s journey informs and transforms our journey of faith today.

Join us as we delve into the life of Elijah—a man who dared to challenge the status quo and faithfully proclaim God’s truth in his generation. Together, let’s learn, grow, and be inspired to live out our faith boldly in the world around us.

LESSON 1

1 KINGS 17

Elijah Announces a Great Drought

1 Now Elijah the Tishbite, from Tishbe in Gilead, said to Ahab, “As the Lord, the God of Israel, lives, whom I serve, there will be neither dew nor rain in the next few years except at my word.”

Elijah Fed by Ravens

2 Then the word of the Lord came to Elijah: 3 “Leave here, turn eastward and hide in the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan. 4 You will drink from the brook, and I have directed the ravens to supply you with food there.”

5 So he did what the Lord had told him. He went to the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan, and stayed there. 6 The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning and bread and meat in the evening, and he drank from the brook.

Elijah and the Widow at Zarephath

7 Some time later the brook dried up because there had been no rain in the land. 8 Then the word of the Lord came to him: 9 “Go at once to Zarephath in the region of Sidon and stay there. I have directed a widow there to supply you with food.” 10 So he went to Zarephath. When he came to the town gate, a widow was there gathering sticks. He called to her and asked, “Would you bring me a little water in a jar so I may have a drink?” 11 As she was going to get it, he called, “And bring me, please, a piece of bread.”

12 “As surely as the Lord your God lives,” she replied, “I don’t have any bread—only a handful of flour in a jar and a little olive oil in a jug. I am gathering a few sticks to take home and make a meal for myself and my son, that we may eat it—and die.”

13 Elijah said to her, “Don’t be afraid. Go home and do as you have said. But first make a small loaf of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me, and then make something for yourself and your son. 14 For this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: ‘The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the Lord sends rain on the land.’”

15 She went away and did as Elijah had told her. So there was food every day for Elijah and for the woman and her family. 16 For the jar of flour was not used up and the jug of oil did not run dry, in keeping with the word of the Lord spoken by Elijah.

17 Some time later the son of the woman who owned the house became ill. He grew worse and worse, and finally stopped breathing. 18 She said to Elijah, “What do you have against me, man of God? Did you come to remind me of my sin and kill my son?”

19 “Give me your son,” Elijah replied. He took him from her arms, carried him to the upper room where he was staying, and laid him on his bed. 20 Then he cried out to the Lord, “Lord my God, have you brought tragedy even on this widow I am staying with, by causing her son to die?” 21 Then he stretched himself out on the boy three times and cried out to the Lord, “Lord my God, let this boy’s life return to him!”

22 The Lord heard Elijah’s cry, and the boy’s life returned to him, and he lived. 23 Elijah picked up the child and carried him down from the room into the house. He gave him to his mother and said, “Look, your son is alive!”

24 Then the woman said to Elijah, “Now I know that you are a man of God and that the word of the Lord from your mouth is the truth.”

TAKEAWAYS

1. **God's Provision:** God miraculously provides for Elijah during a severe drought by directing him to a brook where he drinks water and is fed by ravens, and later by sustaining him through a widow's meager resources.
2. **Faith and Obedience:** Elijah demonstrates unwavering faith and obedience to God's instructions, even when they seem unconventional or challenging.
3. **God's Sovereignty over Nature:** The narrative highlights God's control over natural elements like droughts and food supplies, emphasizing His power and authority.
4. **Testing and Strengthening of Faith:** Both Elijah and the widow experience testing of their faith through difficult circumstances, ultimately leading to their faith being strengthened as they witness God's provision firsthand.

5. **Compassion and Generosity:** The widow's willingness to share her last meal with Elijah demonstrates compassion and generosity, which God rewards by ensuring her resources do not run dry.
6. **Miracles and Divine Intervention:** The story illustrates God's ability to perform miracles and intervene in human affairs, showcasing His care for His people.
7. **Preparation for Future Tasks:** Elijah's experiences in this chapter prepare him for future challenges and ministry, equipping him with the faith and trust needed to confront King Ahab and the prophets of Baal.

THINK ABOUT IT

The Prophet Elijah suddenly appeared at this crucial time in the history of Judah and Israel. King Ahab's government officially supported the worship of Baal and other gods. Elijah became the dominant spiritual force in Israel during the dark days of Ahab's apostasy.

The name Elijah means, Yahweh is my God. Elijah was known for his bold faith and for God hearing his prayers. He was a Prophet used by God to demonstrate that Yahweh was mightier than Baal, who was thought to be the sky god, the god of the weather.

James 5:17-18 says: Elijah was a human being, even as we are. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.

It is important to note the source of Elijah's strength is from the Lord, not himself. His statement: "As the LORD God of Israel lives, whom I serve" demonstrates this. Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, yet God chose him to display His power.

God told Elijah that He commanded a widow to feed His prophet. However, this woman seemed unaware of the command. This shows how God's unseen hand often works. She was very poor, and didn't have enough to share with Elijah. This was certainly putting the widow's faith to an extraordinary trial. She was asked to take and give to a stranger, of whom she knew nothing, while she and her own child were perishing. Sometimes God leads us to trust in Him, even when we can't see the outcome. And look how He showed up! The flour and oil never ran dry! God indeed chose this woman, but He chose her for more than a miracle. He chose her for service.

God told Elijah: ‘The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the Lord sends rain on the land.’ This shows why Elijah could make such a bold request. It was because God told him that He would provide a never-ending supply of food for the widow, her son, and Elijah himself. He asked the widow to put her trust in this great promise of God.

Elijah prayed out of a great intimacy with God. When the widow’s son became ill, he brought this seemingly irredeemable tragedy to God in prayer. Since he knew God led him to this widow, Elijah laid this tragedy on God and asked Him to remedy it. James 1:6 says when you ask, you must believe and not doubt. This is the type of prayer God hears.

GOING DEEPER

1. Why do you think God listened to Elijah? What was special about him?

2. How can I have faith like Elijah?

3. Why do you think God chose this poor widow?

4. Why would God allow her son to become ill after providing the miracle of provision? Why does God give and take away?

LESSON 2

1 KINGS 18:1-15

Elijah and Obadiah

1 After a long time, in the third year, the word of the Lord came to Elijah: “Go and present yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain on the land.” 2 So Elijah went to present himself to Ahab.

Now the famine was severe in Samaria, 3 and Ahab had summoned Obadiah, his palace administrator. (Obadiah was a devout believer in the Lord. 4 While Jezebel was killing off the Lord’s prophets, Obadiah had taken a hundred prophets and hidden them in two caves, fifty in each, and had supplied them with food and water.) 5 Ahab had said to Obadiah, “Go through the land to all the springs and valleys. Maybe we can find some grass to keep the horses and mules alive so we will not have to kill any of our animals.” 6 So they divided the land they were to cover, Ahab going in one direction and Obadiah in another.

7 As Obadiah was walking along, Elijah met him. Obadiah recognized him, bowed down to the ground, and said, “Is it really you, my lord Elijah?”

8 “Yes,” he replied. “Go tell your master, ‘Elijah is here.’”

9 “What have I done wrong,” asked Obadiah, “that you are handing your servant over to Ahab to be put to death? 10 As surely as the Lord your God lives, there is not a nation or kingdom where my master has not sent someone to look for you. And whenever a nation or kingdom claimed you were not there, he made them swear they could not find you. 11 But now you tell me to go to my master and say, ‘Elijah is here.’ 12 I don’t know where the Spirit of the Lord may carry you when I leave

you. If I go and tell Ahab and he doesn't find you, he will kill me. Yet I your servant have worshiped the Lord since my youth. 13 Haven't you heard, my lord, what I did while Jezebel was killing the prophets of the Lord? I hid a hundred of the Lord's prophets in two caves, fifty in each, and supplied them with food and water. 14 And now you tell me to go to my master and say, 'Elijah is here.' He will kill me!"

15 Elijah said, "As the Lord Almighty lives, whom I serve, I will surely present myself to Ahab today."

TAKEAWAYS

1. **Divine Timing:** The passage begins by emphasizing that after a long period of drought, God instructs Elijah to present himself to Ahab. This highlights God's sovereignty over timing and events.
2. **Courage in Confrontation:** Elijah demonstrates boldness and courage in confronting Ahab, despite the king's animosity towards him and the prevailing influence of Baal worship.
3. **Obstacles and Faithfulness:** Obadiah, a servant of Ahab and a secret follower of God, illustrates the challenges faced by those who remain faithful to God in a hostile environment.
4. **Hidden Remnants of Faith:** Obadiah's actions also reveal that even in difficult times, there are individuals who remain faithful to God, sometimes in hidden or unexpected ways.
5. **God's Preservation and Providence:** Despite the drought and the threat to Elijah's life, God preserves and sustains His servant, providing safety and opportunities for him to carry out his mission.
6. **Prophetic Assurance:** Elijah assures Ahab that he will soon witness the power of God, demonstrating his unwavering faith and trust in God's promises.
7. **Preparation for Divine Encounter:** This passage sets the stage for the dramatic showdown on Mount Carmel, where Elijah challenges the prophets of Baal, showcasing the contrast between true worship of Yahweh and idolatry.

THINK ABOUT IT

This drought lasted three and a half years by the fervent prayer of Elijah. Elijah simply obeyed God's command. Though it happened through the prayers of Elijah, his prayers were sensitive to the leading of God. The drought did not begin or end as a result of Elijah's will, but at God's will.

Obadiah was a brave man who stood firm for God and His prophets in a dangerous time. No matter how dark our world becomes in its opposition to the faith, we are to be strong and courageous.

The drought was so severe that King Ahab and his servant Obadiah were out searching for pastureland, so their animals did not die. Then, God arranged an unexpected meeting between Obadiah and Elijah. Obadiah knew that Ahab was searching for Elijah to punish him for the drought and feared he would be killed if Elijah was reported found but got away. Nevertheless, Elijah was steadfast on fulfilling God's mission for him.

GOING DEEPER

1. What can we learn about God's sovereignty over time, events, weather, and His unfolding plan from this passage? What can we learn about trusting God's timing in our own lives?

2. What can we learn from Elijah and Obadiah's obedience in the face of opposition? How can we remain faithful to God even in challenging environments?

3. Despite the drought and danger, God provides for Elijah's safety. How have you experienced God's provision and protection in your life during difficult times?

LESSON 3

1 KINGS 18:16-46

Elijah on Mount Carmel

16 So Obadiah went to meet Ahab and told him, and Ahab went to meet Elijah. 17 When he saw Elijah, he said to him, “Is that you, you troubler of Israel?”

18 “I have not made trouble for Israel,” Elijah replied. “But you and your father’s family have. You have abandoned the Lord’s commands and have followed the Baals. 19 Now summon the people from all over Israel to meet me on Mount Carmel. And bring the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal and the four hundred prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel’s table.”

20 So Ahab sent word throughout all Israel and assembled the prophets on Mount Carmel. 21 Elijah went before the people and said, “How long will you waver between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him.”

But the people said nothing.

22 Then Elijah said to them, “I am the only one of the Lord’s prophets left, but Baal has four hundred and fifty prophets. 23 Get two bulls for us. Let Baal’s prophets choose one for themselves, and let them cut it into pieces and put it on the wood but not set fire to it. I will prepare the other bull and put it on the wood but not set fire to it. 24 Then you call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the Lord. The god who answers by fire—he is God.”

Then all the people said, “What you say is good.”

25 Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, "Choose one of the bulls and prepare it first, since there are so many of you. Call on the name of your god, but do not light the fire." 26 So they took the bull given them and prepared it.

Then they called on the name of Baal from morning till noon. "Baal, answer us!" they shouted. But there was no response; no one answered. And they danced around the altar they had made.

27 At noon Elijah began to taunt them. "Shout louder!" he said. "Surely he is a god! Perhaps he is deep in thought, or busy, or traveling. Maybe he is sleeping and must be awakened." 28 So they shouted louder and slashed themselves with swords and spears, as was their custom, until their blood flowed. 29 Midday passed, and they continued their frantic prophesying until the time for the evening sacrifice. But there was no response, no one answered, no one paid attention.

30 Then Elijah said to all the people, "Come here to me." They came to him, and he repaired the altar of the Lord, which had been torn down. 31 Elijah took twelve stones, one for each of the tribes descended from Jacob, to whom the word of the Lord had come, saying, "Your name shall be Israel." 32 With the stones he built an altar in the name of the Lord, and he dug a trench around it large enough to hold two seahs of seed. 33 He arranged the wood, cut the bull into pieces and laid it on the wood. Then he said to them, "Fill four large jars with water and pour it on the offering and on the wood."

34 "Do it again," he said, and they did it again.

"Do it a third time," he ordered, and they did it the third time. 35 The water ran down around the altar and even filled the trench.

36 At the time of sacrifice, the prophet Elijah stepped forward and prayed: "Lord, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, let it be known today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and have done all these things at your command. 37 Answer me, Lord, answer me, so these people will know that you, Lord, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again."

38 Then the fire of the Lord fell and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and the soil, and also licked up the water in the trench.

39 When all the people saw this, they fell prostrate and cried, "The Lord—he is God! The Lord—he is God!"

40 Then Elijah commanded them, “Seize the prophets of Baal. Don’t let anyone get away!” They seized them, and Elijah had them brought down to the Kishon Valley and slaughtered there.

41 And Elijah said to Ahab, “Go, eat and drink, for there is the sound of a heavy rain.” 42 So Ahab went off to eat and drink, but Elijah climbed to the top of Carmel, bent down to the ground and put his face between his knees.

43 “Go and look toward the sea,” he told his servant. And he went up and looked.

“There is nothing there,” he said.

Seven times Elijah said, “Go back.”

44 The seventh time the servant reported, “A cloud as small as a man’s hand is rising from the sea.”

So Elijah said, “Go and tell Ahab, ‘Hitch up your chariot and go down before the rain stops you.’”

45 Meanwhile, the sky grew black with clouds, the wind rose, a heavy rain started falling and Ahab rode off to Jezreel. 46 The power of the Lord came on Elijah and, tucking his cloak into his belt, he ran ahead of Ahab all the way to Jezreel.

TAKEAWAYS

1. **Faithfulness and Obedience:** Elijah's obedience to God's instructions led him to confront King Ahab and challenge the prophets of Baal, demonstrating faithfulness despite great opposition.
2. **God's Sovereignty and Power:** The entire episode showcases God's power over false gods. The altar of the Lord is supernaturally ignited after Elijah prays, demonstrating that God alone is the true God who answers by fire.
3. **Boldness in Prayer:** Elijah's prayer is a model of boldness and faith. He prays publicly, asking God to reveal Himself and bring repentance to the people. His confidence in God's response is unwavering.
4. **Repentance and Revival:** The miraculous display of God's power leads the people to acknowledge God's sovereignty and prompts them to repentance, turning their hearts back to Him.

5. **Commitment to God:** Elijah's actions underscore the importance of wholehearted commitment to God. He repairs the altar of the Lord and rebuilds it before calling upon God, emphasizing the need for pure worship and devotion.
6. **God's Prophetic Voice:** Elijah serves as God's prophetic voice, challenging the people to choose whom they will serve and calling them back to faithfulness.
7. **Perseverance and Endurance:** Elijah's endurance through years of drought and opposition reveals the importance of perseverance in faith, even when circumstances seem dire.

THINK ABOUT IT

Ahab was the most ungodly king to ever rule Israel. Yet, he still had the audacity to blame Elijah for its problems. Ahab believed and worshipped Baal, and he persecuted the worshippers of Yahweh. If Ahab would have stopped the active persecution of the people of God and repented, God would have ceased the drought. But this evil, blasphemous king blamed His prophet.

Verse 36 shows that this showdown was at the command of God. This is important to note. This was a God-inspired plan that Elijah obeyed, not the strategy of Elijah. We are not to test the Lord our God, and this strategy for proving God should not be copied apart from the will of the Lord.

It was important to God that Elijah confronted and eliminated these prophets of Baal before He sent rain to the land of Israel. He wanted everyone to understand that the rain came from Yahweh, not from Baal, so that Israel would turn their heart back to the Lord.

It is imperative that we cast down all idols in our lives. This is included in the first two of the 10 commandments. God will not share the throne on our lives. We cannot have two masters. He demands we be hot or cold, not lukewarm.

Elijah had bold faith. He mocked the prophets of Baal in their error and had confidence that the Lord would send fire, even to the point of wetting down his altar three times. He trusted the Lord could and would bring fire at His command, as He knew God was displaying His power to turn His people back to Him. And indeed God did just that and even surpassed the expectation. We see Elijah's bold faith continue in believing the down pour of rain was coming, even at the sight of a cloud the size of a hand. And this, after seven times sending a servant to investigate. May we have the perseverance and faith of Elijah.

GOING DEEPER

1. In what ways do we face similar temptations of idolatry today, and how can we guard against them?

2. How has God proved Himself over other false god?

3. Why did the prophets of Baal need to be eliminated?

4. How does Elijah in this story model for us confidence and boldness of faith?

LESSON 4

1 KINGS 19:1-9

Elijah Flees to Horeb

1 Now Ahab told Jezebel everything Elijah had done and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. 2 So Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah to say, “May the gods deal with me, be it ever so severely, if by this time tomorrow I do not make your life like that of one of them.”

3 Elijah was afraid and ran for his life. When he came to Beersheba in Judah, he left his servant there, 4 while he himself went a day’s journey into the wilderness. He came to a broom bush, sat down under it and prayed that he might die. “I have had enough, Lord,” he said. “Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors.” 5 Then he lay down under the bush and fell asleep.

All at once an angel touched him and said, “Get up and eat.” 6 He looked around, and there by his head was some bread baked over hot coals, and a jar of water. He ate and drank and then lay down again.

7 The angel of the Lord came back a second time and touched him and said, “Get up and eat, for the journey is too much for you.” 8 So he got up and ate and drank. Strengthened by that food, he traveled forty days and forty nights until he reached Horeb, the mountain of God. 9 There he went into a cave and spent the night.

TAKEAWAYS

1. **Despair and Prayer:** Elijah felt utterly alone and discouraged. So, he turned to God in prayer.
2. **Divine Provision:** An angel provides food and water for Elijah, sustaining him on his journey to Mount Horeb (Mount Sinai), emphasizing God's care even in Elijah's moment of weakness.
3. **Healthy Ministry:** Elijah was overwhelmed and need sustenance and rest. God strengthened him in his time of need and restored him to be fit for service.

THINK ABOUT IT

Elijah flees from Queen Jezebel's threats after his triumph over the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel. He is afraid and runs for his life, despite God's recent demonstration of power. This shows that even strong men of God can experience moments of weakness and vulnerability. How does he go from one extreme to another, showing incredible confidence and faith to praying for his own death in defeat?

This is a powerful example of how important it is to do ministry from a healthy place. If we are not caring for ourselves with proper rest and nutrients, it can impact our ability to be fit for service in the Kingdom. God knew that Elijah simply needed a snack and some rest. We ought to be careful to do ministry out of a healthy place.

GOING DEEPER

1. What causes you to be significantly overwhelmed and exhausted? How was this impacted your usefulness for service?

2. What do you currently need to do to do ministry from a healthy place?

3. Have you experienced the Spiritual warfare of strong temptation after great victory? How can you guard yourself against this?

4. Elijah was a man of great prayer, where God even withheld rain for three years at his request. But God answered with a blessed “No” to Elijah’s prayer for death. When has God’s “No” to you proved to be a greater blessing than you anticipated?

LESSON 5

1 KINGS 19:10-21

The Lord Appears to Elijah

And the word of the Lord came to him: “What are you doing here, Elijah?”

10 He replied, “I have been very zealous for the Lord God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too.”

11 The Lord said, “Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.”

Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. 12 After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. 13 When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave.

Then a voice said to him, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”

14 He replied, “I have been very zealous for the Lord God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too.”

15 The Lord said to him, “Go back the way you came, and go to the Desert of Damascus. When you get there, anoint Hazael king over Aram. 16 Also, anoint Jehu son of Nimshi king over Israel, and anoint Elisha son of Shaphat from Abel Meholah to succeed you as prophet. 17 Jehu will put to death any who escape the sword of Hazael, and Elisha will put to death any who escape the sword of Jehu. 18 Yet I reserve seven thousand in Israel—all whose knees have not bowed down to Baal and whose mouths have not kissed him.”

19 So Elijah went from there and found Elisha son of Shaphat. He was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen, and he himself was driving the twelfth pair. Elijah went up to him and threw his cloak around him. 20 Elisha then left his oxen and ran after Elijah. “Let me kiss my father and mother goodbye,” he said, “and then I will come with you.”

“Go back,” Elijah replied. “What have I done to you?”

21 So Elisha left him and went back. He took his yoke of oxen and slaughtered them. He burned the plowing equipment to cook the meat and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he set out to follow Elijah and became his servant.

TAKEAWAYS

1. **Elijah's Despair:** Elijah expresses his frustration and despair to God, feeling that he is the last faithful prophet remaining in Israel, and that his life is threatened by Queen Jezebel. This shows Elijah's humanity and vulnerability despite his powerful ministry.
2. **God's Presence in Silence:** God manifests Himself not in the wind, earthquake, or fire, but in a gentle whisper (or a still small voice, depending on translation). This emphasizes that God's communication often comes in subtle and unexpected ways rather than in dramatic displays.
3. **Divine Sovereignty:** The passage underscores God's control over human events and His faithfulness to His covenant people, despite their unfaithfulness and the threats they face.

4. **God's Encouragement:** God reassures Elijah that he is not alone and that there are still 7,000 faithful Israelites who have not bowed down to Baal. This encourages Elijah and reminds him that God's purposes are still being fulfilled even when Elijah feels isolated.
5. **Commissioning of Elisha:** God instructs Elijah to anoint Elisha as his successor, symbolizing the continuity of God's prophetic work beyond Elijah's ministry. This passing of the mantle reinforces the idea that God's plans continue despite individual prophets' challenges.
6. **Leaving the Past Behind:** Elisha's action of saying farewell to his family indicates his willingness to leave his former life behind and prioritize his new calling above personal ties.

THINK ABOUT IT

God asked Elijah what he was doing here. Elijah protested that he had been faithful and zealous in serving God but now is in danger. He felt it seemed unfair that a faithful servant of God should be made to suffer. God, however, appoints suffering for our growth. This is true for all of God's people.

2 Timothy 3:12

In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,

1 Peter 2:19-21

19 For it is commendable if someone bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because they are conscious of God. 20 But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. 21 To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

Although it was inaccurate, Elijah felt utterly alone in his mission, believing that he was the only faithful prophet left. Sometimes, discouraging times make God's servants feel more isolated and alone than they are. This highlights the need to belong to the body of Christ and to be actively part of the Community of Faith he calls us to.

God knew what Elijah needed. He was depressed and discouraged, and he needed a personal encounter with the Lord. Our study of theology is important, but there are times when we need experience to lift our spirits.

God's people often look for Him to appear in dramatic ways. But God often reveals Himself in the common, day to day areas of life. God brought His presence before Elijah, but first, He was strategic to show where He was not. The LORD was not in the wind, the earthquake, or the fire. Rather, He was in the still small voice. This was an important lesson to Elijah and us after God's dramatic demonstration on Mount Carmel to not feel that God's presence isn't near in less dramatic surroundings. In fact, it is often the still small voice of God speaking to the human heart that is actually more powerful than an outward display of power.

God encouraged Elijah by ensuring him that he was not the only faithful one left. In fact, God would reserve seven thousand in Israel, who have not bent the knee to Baal. God had more work for Elijah to do. He would demonstrate God's choice of Jehu to be the king to succeed the corrupt Ahab and his wife Jezebel. God encouraged Elijah further by giving him a friend and a successor, Elisha. Finally, God gave hope to Elijah with the promise that ultimately justice would be done, and He would not allow the corporate persecution and promotion of idolatry to go unpunished.

GOING DEEPER

1. Have you ever felt lonely in your ministry or in suffering? How does this story speak truth to that?

2. Who has God given you to share life and serve Him with?

3. Why does God appoint suffering to His people? How does that promote growth in Him? How might God currently be using suffering to grow you? How does Jesus' example of suffering bring encouragement to that?

4. Where have you been searching for God in your life? How have you experienced God in the “still small voice”?

LESSON 6

1 KINGS 21:17-29

17 Then the word of the Lord came to Elijah the Tishbite: 18 “Go down to meet Ahab king of Israel, who rules in Samaria. He is now in Naboth’s vineyard, where he has gone to take possession of it. 19 Say to him, ‘This is what the Lord says: Have you not murdered a man and seized his property?’ Then say to him, ‘This is what the Lord says: In the place where dogs licked up Naboth’s blood, dogs will lick up your blood—yes, yours!’”

20 Ahab said to Elijah, “So you have found me, my enemy!”

“I have found you,” he answered, “because you have sold yourself to do evil in the eyes of the Lord. 21 He says, ‘I am going to bring disaster on you. I will wipe out your descendants and cut off from Ahab every last male in Israel—slave or free. 22 I will make your house like that of Jeroboam son of Nebat and that of Baasha son of Ahijah, because you have aroused my anger and have caused Israel to sin.’

23 “And also concerning Jezebel the Lord says: ‘Dogs will devour Jezebel by the wall of Jezreel.’

24 “Dogs will eat those belonging to Ahab who die in the city, and the birds will feed on those who die in the country.”

25 (There was never anyone like Ahab, who sold himself to do evil in the eyes of the Lord, urged on by Jezebel his wife. 26 He behaved in the vilest manner by going after idols, like the Amorites the Lord drove out before Israel.)

27 When Ahab heard these words, he tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and fasted. He lay in sackcloth and went around meekly.

28 Then the word of the Lord came to Elijah the Tishbite: 29 “Have you noticed how Ahab has humbled himself before me? Because he has humbled himself, I will not bring this disaster in his day, but I will bring it on his house in the days of his son.”

TAKEAWAYS:

1. **Consequences of Greed and Injustice:** The story begins with King Ahab's desire for Naboth's vineyard, leading to Naboth's unjust execution through manipulation and abuse of power. This passage highlights the consequences of greed, injustice, and the abuse of authority.
2. **Prophetic Confrontation:** Elijah confronts Ahab with a message of judgment from God for his actions. This demonstrates the role of prophets in speaking truth to power, holding leaders accountable to God's standards of justice and righteousness.
3. **Repentance and Mercy:** Despite Ahab's wickedness, he demonstrates a degree of repentance and humility upon hearing Elijah's words. God responds by delaying the judgment on Ahab's household, showing His mercy and willingness to respond to genuine repentance.
4. **God's Justice and Sovereignty:** The passage underscores God's sovereignty over human affairs. Even though Ahab and Jezebel committed grave sins, God's justice is executed according to His timing and purposes.
5. **Personal Responsibility:** Each individual, including rulers like Ahab, is accountable for their actions before God. This narrative serves as a reminder of the importance of ethical behavior, integrity, and righteousness in leadership and personal conduct.

6. **The Power of Prophetic Words:** Elijah's prophecy against Ahab and his household serves as a powerful example of how God uses prophetic voices to pronounce judgment or deliverance based on people's actions and attitudes.

THINK ABOUT IT

Elijah boldly and courageously confronted this wicked king and queen of Israel and charged them with the crimes of murder and the theft of Naboth's land. We too must have the courage to confront sin and not fear to the point of remaining silent. After all, we are the salt and light of the Earth. Ahab had completely surrendered himself to wickedness. He sold himself to do evil in the eyes of the Lord. And, he allowed his wife, Jezebel, to stir him up with increasing sin and idol worship. We must be careful what company we keep. Bad company corrupts good character, according to 1 Corinthians 15:33.

For all his wickedness, Ahab received this prophecy of judgment exactly as he should have. He understood that the prophecy of judgment was in fact an invitation to repent, humble one's self, and to seek God for mercy. Let us not take God's mercy for granted. God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. When we are shown grace, we must humble ourselves and repent.

Unfortunately, this humility of Ahab was only external and superficial, arising from the terror of God's judgments. We must be sincere in bearing with the fruit of repentance. In the following chapter, we see Ahab return to his vomit like a dog. And three years later, he is found dead under God's judgment.

GOING DEEPER

1. What sin or evil is the Lord leading you to confront? How do you know when to speak up or remain silent?

2. Is there anyone in your life stirring you up or leading you away from a truly surrendered life of following Jesus?

3. Has your repentance been sincere, bearing fruit of true change?

4. Have you taken advantage of or mocked God's Grace?

LESSON 7

2 KINGS 1

The Lord's Judgment on Ahaziah

1 After Ahab's death, Moab rebelled against Israel. 2 Now Ahaziah had fallen through the lattice of his upper room in Samaria and injured himself. So he sent messengers, saying to them, "Go and consult Baal-Zebub, the god of Ekron, to see if I will recover from this injury."

3 But the angel of the Lord said to Elijah the Tishbite, "Go up and meet the messengers of the king of Samaria and ask them, 'Is it because there is no God in Israel that you are going off to consult

Baal-Zebub, the god of Ekron?’ 4 Therefore this is what the Lord says: ‘You will not leave the bed you are lying on. You will certainly die!’” So Elijah went.

5 When the messengers returned to the king, he asked them, “Why have you come back?”

6 “A man came to meet us,” they replied. “And he said to us, ‘Go back to the king who sent you and tell him, “This is what the Lord says: Is it because there is no God in Israel that you are sending messengers to consult Baal-Zebub, the god of Ekron? Therefore you will not leave the bed you are lying on. You will certainly die!”’”

7 The king asked them, “What kind of man was it who came to meet you and told you this?”

8 They replied, “He had a garment of hair and had a leather belt around his waist.”

The king said, “That was Elijah the Tishbite.”

9 Then he sent to Elijah a captain with his company of fifty men. The captain went up to Elijah, who was sitting on the top of a hill, and said to him, “Man of God, the king says, ‘Come down!’”

10 Elijah answered the captain, “If I am a man of God, may fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty men!” Then fire fell from heaven and consumed the captain and his men.

11 At this the king sent to Elijah another captain with his fifty men. The captain said to him, “Man of God, this is what the king says, ‘Come down at once!’”

12 “If I am a man of God,” Elijah replied, “may fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty men!” Then the fire of God fell from heaven and consumed him and his fifty men.

13 So the king sent a third captain with his fifty men. This third captain went up and fell on his knees before Elijah. “Man of God,” he begged, “please have respect for my life and the lives of these fifty men, your servants! 14 See, fire has fallen from heaven and consumed the first two captains and all their men. But now have respect for my life!”

15 The angel of the Lord said to Elijah, “Go down with him; do not be afraid of him.” So Elijah got up and went down with him to the king.

16 He told the king, “This is what the Lord says: Is it because there is no God in Israel for you to consult that you have sent messengers to consult Baal-Zebub, the god of Ekron? Because you have

done this, you will never leave the bed you are lying on. You will certainly die!” 17 So he died, according to the word of the Lord that Elijah had spoken.

Because Ahaziah had no son, Joram succeeded him as king in the second year of Jehoram son of Jehoshaphat king of Judah. 18 As for all the other events of Ahaziah’s reign, and what he did, are they not written in the book of the annals of the kings of Israel?

TAKEAWAYS

1. **Seeking God's Guidance:** When King Ahaziah falls ill, rather than seeking God's counsel through prophets like Elijah, he sends messengers to inquire of Baal-Zebub, the god of Ekron. This action highlights the folly of seeking spiritual guidance from sources other than God.
2. **Prophetic Authority:** Elijah, as a prophet of God, demonstrates his authority and the power of God's word. He confronts Ahaziah's messengers and pronounces God's judgment upon the king for seeking counsel from a pagan deity.
3. **Consequences of Disobedience:** Ahaziah's refusal to acknowledge and seek the God of Israel leads to his downfall. Elijah's prophecies regarding Ahaziah's fate and the fate of those sent to arrest him are fulfilled precisely as foretold.
4. **God's Protection of His Servants:** Despite the king's attempts to harm Elijah by sending a captain with fifty soldiers to bring him to the palace, God protects Elijah by consuming them with fire. This demonstrates God's defense of his servants and his supremacy over earthly powers.

THINK ABOUT IT

Ahaziah showed that he was a worshipper of the pagan god Baal-Zebub, because he turned to this god in his time of trouble. Following the steps of his father, he brought wickedness and idolatry to Israel. God once again used his prophet Elijah to demonstrate that He is the true God and that Israel must cast aside all idols. You would think Ahaziah would have learned from his father’s mistakes. How stubborn man can be with idolatry. We must be guarded that we don’t act in a similar fashion with our modern-day idols. We must cast them down and learn from the mistakes of our forefathers.

There are consequences for sin, and Ahaziah would now have to face them. Not only he, but his captains and companies of men. Elijah prayed and fire was sent to consume them. In the book of Luke in the New Testament, Jesus was heading to Jerusalem to prepare to be taken up to heaven. But the Samaritans rejected him. So Jesus' disciples, James and John, asked Jesus if they should call fire down from heaven to destroy them. No doubt, they had this story of Elijah in mind. However, Jesus rebuked them. We must be careful not to assume the New Covenant will operate in the same way as for the Nation of Israel. Jesus has shown as a greater way, especially in how we interact with our enemies.

The third captain was wise enough to see his potential fate. No matter how vast the world is in its opposition to God, let us not fall victim of being led astray. Be wise and repent while there is still opportunity. Turn to the Lord and away from all the world's idols. And may your life be spared.

GOING DEEPER

1. Ahaziah followed in his father's footsteps in idol worship. Are there any idols that have passed through to you through the generations in your family tree? Are there still any you need to cast down?

2. Ahaziah was stubborn enough to continue sending captains and companies of 50 men, even after seeing the Lord consume them with fire each time. Are there areas of your life where you are being stubborn and holding on to sin, even with God warning you?

3. What consequences of sin have you experienced in life? How do you know when you are facing consequence versus being disciplined as a child?

LESSON 8

2 KINGS 2:1-18

Elijah Taken Up to Heaven

1 When the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. 2 Elijah said to Elisha, “Stay here; the Lord has sent me to Bethel.”

But Elisha said, “As surely as the Lord lives and as you live, I will not leave you.” So they went down to Bethel.

3 The company of the prophets at Bethel came out to Elisha and asked, “Do you know that the Lord is going to take your master from you today?”

“Yes, I know,” Elisha replied, “so be quiet.”

4 Then Elijah said to him, “Stay here, Elisha; the Lord has sent me to Jericho.”

And he replied, “As surely as the Lord lives and as you live, I will not leave you.” So they went to Jericho.

5 The company of the prophets at Jericho went up to Elisha and asked him, “Do you know that the Lord is going to take your master from you today?”

“Yes, I know,” he replied, “so be quiet.”

6 Then Elijah said to him, “Stay here; the Lord has sent me to the Jordan.”

And he replied, “As surely as the Lord lives and as you live, I will not leave you.” So the two of them walked on.

7 Fifty men from the company of the prophets went and stood at a distance, facing the place where Elijah and Elisha had stopped at the Jordan. 8 Elijah took his cloak, rolled it up and struck the water with it. The water divided to the right and to the left, and the two of them crossed over on dry ground.

9 When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Tell me, what can I do for you before I am taken from you?”

“Let me inherit a double portion of your spirit,” Elisha replied.

10 “You have asked a difficult thing,” Elijah said, “yet if you see me when I am taken from you, it will be yours—otherwise, it will not.”

11 As they were walking along and talking together, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated the two of them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind. 12 Elisha saw this and cried out, “My father! My father! The chariots and horsemen of Israel!” And Elisha saw him no more. Then he took hold of his garment and tore it in two.

13 Elisha then picked up Elijah’s cloak that had fallen from him and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. 14 He took the cloak that had fallen from Elijah and struck the water with it. “Where now is the Lord, the God of Elijah?” he asked. When he struck the water, it divided to the right and to the left, and he crossed over.

15 The company of the prophets from Jericho, who were watching, said, “The spirit of Elijah is resting on Elisha.” And they went to meet him and bowed to the ground before him. 16 “Look,” they said, “we your servants have fifty able men. Let them go and look for your master. Perhaps the Spirit of the Lord has picked him up and set him down on some mountain or in some valley.”

“No,” Elisha replied, “do not send them.”

17 But they persisted until he was too embarrassed to refuse. So he said, “Send them.” And they sent fifty men, who searched for three days but did not find him. 18 When they returned to Elisha, who was staying in Jericho, he said to them, “Didn’t I tell you not to go?”

TAKEAWAYS

1. **Elisha's Loyalty and Persistence:** Elisha demonstrates unwavering loyalty to Elijah, refusing to leave his side despite Elijah's repeated instructions to stay behind. This persistence shows Elisha's determination to receive a double portion of Elijah's spirit, indicating his readiness to take up the prophetic mantle.
2. **Elijah's Ascension:** As Elijah and Elisha reach the Jordan River, Elijah strikes the water with his cloak, miraculously parting it. This event mirrors Moses parting the Red Sea and signifies Elijah's authority as a prophet. After crossing the river on dry ground, Elijah is taken up to heaven in a whirlwind, witnessed by Elisha. This miraculous ascension underscores God's power and the honor bestowed upon Elijah.
3. **Elisha's Inheritance of Elijah's Spirit:** Before Elijah is taken, Elisha requests a double portion of Elijah's spirit. Elijah conditions this on Elisha seeing him being taken. Elisha witnesses the ascension and receives Elijah's cloak, symbolizing the transfer of prophetic authority. Elisha then performs a miracle, parting the Jordan with Elijah's cloak, confirming that he has indeed received the spirit and power of Elijah.
4. **Confirmation of Elisha's Authority:** The miraculous events surrounding Elijah's departure and Elisha's subsequent actions serve to confirm Elisha as Elijah's successor and a true prophet of God. The witnesses among the prophets and people affirm Elisha's new role.
5. **God's Continual Presence:** Throughout the passage, God's presence and power are evident in the miracles performed by Elijah and later by Elisha. The parting of the Jordan River and Elijah's ascension illustrate God's control over nature and his involvement in the lives of his prophets.

THINK ABOUT IT

Elijah appeared to test the devotion of Elisha. It was known that Elijah would soon depart to heaven, and Elisha wanted to stay as close as possible to his mentor. It is a blessing when God places spiritual mentors in our lives. God's Word instructs us to obey and submit to them, make their work a joy, and to share all good things with them.

Galatians 6:6 says: Nevertheless, the one who receives instruction in the word should share all good things with their instructor. Paul refers to Timothy as a son in a spiritual sense. Philippians 2:22 says:

But you know that Timothy has proved himself, because as a son with his father he has served with me in the work of the gospel. We can clearly see God’s heart for us towards those that lead us in Him. Elijah tested Elisha three times by telling him to stay behind. I’m sure Elisha’s refusal gave him great confidence on passing the mantel to him. We should be pouring into others and raising them up to continue the growth of God’s Kingdom.

Striking the water, the water parting to the right and left, and them walking on dry ground allowed Elijah and Elisha to walk in the steps of Moses and Joshua, as ones whom God used miraculously. God often repeats themes between Moses, Eliijah, and Jesus to signify the times of the law, the prophets, and the coming of the New Covenant in Jesus. Both Moses and Elijah: stood alone for righteousness, were associated with fire upon mountains, wandered in the desert, fasted for 40 days, met God on Sinai, received God’s miraculous provision for food and water, and parted waters. The biggest and most obvious repeated theme found in these verses are with Elijah ascending to heaven, which clearly foreshadows Jesus’ resurrection.

GOING DEEPER

1. Who has God placed as a spiritual mentor in your life? Are you showing them the appropriate respect and honor God desires?

2. Are you pouring into anyone else and passing the mantel in your ministry?

3. What other repeated themes have you observed from the times of the law (Moses), prophets (Elijah), and New Covenant (Jesus)?

LESSON 9

MALACHI 4:4-6

4 “Remember the law of my servant Moses, the decrees and laws I gave him at Horeb for all Israel.

5 “See, I will send the prophet Elijah to you before that great and dreadful day of the Lord comes. 6 He will turn the hearts of the parents to their children, and the hearts of the children to their parents; or else I will come and strike the land with total destruction.”

MATTHEW 11:13-15

13 For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John. 14 And if you are willing to accept it, he is the Elijah who was to come. 15 Whoever has ears, let them hear.

MATTHEW 17:1-13

The Transfiguration

1 After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. 2 There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. 3 Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus.

4 Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.”

5 While he was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!”

6 When the disciples heard this, they fell facedown to the ground, terrified. 7 But Jesus came and touched them. “Get up,” he said. “Don’t be afraid.” 8 When they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus.

9 As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus instructed them, “Don’t tell anyone what you have seen, until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”

10 The disciples asked him, “Why then do the teachers of the law say that Elijah must come first?”

11 Jesus replied, “To be sure, Elijah comes and will restore all things. 12 But I tell you, Elijah has already come, and they did not recognize him, but have done to him everything they wished. In the same way the Son of Man is going to suffer at their hands.” 13 Then the disciples understood that he was talking to them about John the Baptist.

MATTHEW 27:45-50

The Death of Jesus

45 From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land. 46 About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “*Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?*” (which means “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”).

47 When some of those standing there heard this, they said, “He’s calling Elijah.”

48 Immediately one of them ran and got a sponge. He filled it with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. 49 The rest said, “Now leave him alone. Let’s see if Elijah comes to save him.”

50 And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit.

TAKEAWAYS

1. **Elijah's Expected Return:** Matthew highlights the Jewish belief that Elijah would return as a precursor to the Messiah. This is referenced in Matthew 17:10-13 where Jesus confirms that John the Baptist came in the spirit of Elijah, fulfilling the prophecy of Malachi 4:5-6.
2. **Transfiguration:** Elijah appears alongside Moses during Jesus' transfiguration on the mountain (Matthew 17:1-8). This event emphasizes Elijah's role as a witness to Jesus' divine nature and his continuity with the Old Testament prophets.
3. **John the Baptist as Elijah:** Jesus identifies John the Baptist as the one who fulfills the prophecy of Elijah's return (Matthew 11:14; Matthew 17:12-13). John's ministry and character mirror Elijah's prophetic role in preparing the way for the Lord.
4. **Symbol of the Prophetic Tradition:** Elijah represents the continuity of the prophetic tradition in Israel, and his appearances in Matthew underscore Jesus' fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies and his role as the ultimate fulfillment of Israel's hopes.

THINK ABOUT IT

In Matthew 11, Jesus is quoting the scripture in Malachi 4. The messenger appears to be a prophetic figure who is going to appear. This messenger is “the prophet Elijah,” whom Jesus identifies as John the Baptist. The Bible is clear that John the Baptist is called Elijah because he came in the “spirit and power of Elijah” (Luke 1:17), not because he was Elijah in a literal sense. John the Baptist is the New Testament forerunner who points the way to the arrival of the Lord, just as Elijah filled that role in the Old Testament. Jesus again affirms this truth after the transfiguration.

The transfiguration beautifully depicts the key figures that represented God's unfolding plan of the law, the prophets, and the New Covenant as described in lesson 8. Also, in His glorified form they saw a preview of His coming glorification and enthronement as King of kings and Lord of lords. Moses and Elijah represent those who are caught up to God (Moses at Jude 9 and Elijah at 2 Kings 2:11). Moses represents those who die and go to glory, and Elijah represents those who are caught up to heaven without death. God's voice from heaven – “Listen to Him!” - clearly showed that the Law and the Prophets must give way to Jesus. The One who is the new and living way is replacing the old – He is the fulfillment of the Law and the countless prophecies in the Old Testament.

Some in the crowd at Jesus' crucifixion mistakenly thought He was crying out to Elijah. Elijah was taken up in a whirlwind rather than dying, and Malachi prophesied his return. This would have left the Jewish people with the expectation that Elijah would one day be sent again to the world of men, and would "restore all things" as the forerunner of the Messiah.

GOING DEEPER

1. In what ways did John the Baptist come in the spirit and power of Elijah?

2. What was significant about Moses, Elijah, and Jesus all being present at the transfiguration? How does Jesus fulfill and supersede the other two?

3. What are some of the main takeaways you want to remember from this Elijah study?

CONCLUSION

You did it! Our prayer is that God transformed you to become more like Him through this deep-dive study of Elijah, the Master Prophet. We hope you were reminded of the enduring relevance of Elijah's story and were able to apply the lessons from it to your life today. Elijah's journey challenges us to examine our own faith, courage, and obedience in the context of God's sovereignty and providence.

Throughout our study, we have witnessed Elijah's unwavering commitment to God's truth, even in the face of overwhelming opposition and personal struggles. His boldness in prayer, his trust in God's provision, and his willingness to confront injustice serve as powerful examples for us as modern-day followers of Christ. May we, like Elijah, find our strength and purpose in God alone, trusting Him to work through us for His glory and the advancement of His kingdom.