

Elijah: Prophet on the Run



Biography of Elijah

- Elijah is from Eliyahu, meaning “My God is Yahweh” or Jehovah
- Elijah the Tishbite of Tishbe in Gilead
 - 1Kings 17:1, 21:17, 28; 2Kings 1:3, 8, 9:36; Judges 12:4-6
- A prophet ranked with Moses - Matt. 17:3
 - He journeyed to Mount Horeb and fasted for 40 days while traveling, and the Lord spoke to Him on that mountain - 1Kings 19:8
 - He raised the dead - 1Kings 17:22; Luke 4:25-26
 - He rebuked a king - 2Kings 1:6
 - He parted the water - 2Kings 2:8

Prophet On The Run

- He had a gift for running
 - 1Kings 18:45-46
 - Mount Carmel to Jezreel - 31 miles, though mud after a rain that ended a drought of over three years, outrunning the royal chariot

On The Run For His Life

- Fleeing from Jezebel in Jezreel to Beersheba in Judah
 - 1Kings 19:1-3
- Despondency and desire for death
 - 1Kings 19:4
- Fed by an angel
 - 1Kings 19:5-8

On The Run For His Life

- In spite of success, he feels all is amiss
 - 1Kings 19:9-10
- Lesson from the Lord is lost on him
 - 1Kings 19:11-14
- The Lord re-assigns Elijah
 - 1Kings 19:15-18

Carrying Messages To Ahab & Ahaziah

- Jezebel has Naboth killed so Ahab can have his vineyard
 - 1Kings 21:1-16
- Elijah announces shameful deaths for Ahab and Jezebel
 - 1Kings 21:17-26
- Ahab's humility delays judgment
 - 1Kings 21:27-29

Carrying Messages To Ahab & Ahaziah

- An injured Ahaziah, son of Ahab, sends an inquiry to Baal-Zebub
 - 2Kings 1:1-2
- Elijah is sent to turn the messengers back to Ahaziah with a rebuke and a prophecy concerning his death
 - 2Kings 1:3-8
- Three companies of soldiers are sent to bring Elijah to the king
 - Two are consumed by fire from heaven - 2Kings 1:9-12
 - The third is spared by the plea of its captain - 2Kings 1:13-15
- Elijah rebukes Ahaziah and foretells his death in person
 - 2Kings 1:16-17

His Whirlwind Journey To Heaven

- Elisha accompanies Elijah from Gilgal, to Bethel, to Jericho
 - 2Kings 2:1-5
 - Elijah, in humility, does not wish for anyone to see the honor about to be given him by God
- Elisha accompanies Elijah across the Jordan River
 - 2Kings 2:6-10
 - Silences the pettiness of the schools of prophets
 - Elisha asks for a double portion of Elijah's spirit; Elijah seems to think he doesn't realize what he is asking for
- Elijah is transported to heaven
 - 2Kings 2:11-18

Elijah's Message

- The power of prayer
 - James 5:16-18 - “Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. 17 Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. 18 And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.”
 - 1Kings 18:41-45

Elijah's Message

- Do we have confidence in prayer?
 - Mark 11:24 - “Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.”
 - 1John 5:14-15 - “Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. 15 And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.”

Elijah's Message

- The Providence of God
 - By the Brook Cherith, through the ravens that brought him food
 - At the house of the widow at Zarephath
 - When an angel brought him bread and water, and survived on it for 40 days

Elijah's Message

- Do we trust in the Providential care of God?
 - Matt. 6:31-34 - “Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' 32 For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. 33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. 34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.”

Elijah's Message

- Do we trust in the Providential care of God?
 - Mark 10:29-30 - “So Jesus answered and said, Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My sake and the gospel's, 30 who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time--houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions--and in the age to come, eternal life.”
 - 2Cor. 9:8 - “And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.”

Elijah's Message

- The challenge of discouragement
 - Elijah was not beyond becoming discouraged and depressed; he wanted to die, feeling that he had failed; he had been zealous for the Lord, but thought that no one listened
 - 1Kings 19:4-14
 - The Lord's response was to put Elijah to work, and to show him that he was not alone
 - 1Kings 19:15-18

Elijah's Message

- Do we find ourselves discouraged and depressed?
 - 2Cor. 7:5-6 - “For indeed, when we came to Macedonia, our bodies had no rest, but we were troubled on every side. Outside were conflicts, inside were fears. 6 Nevertheless God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the coming of Titus”
 - 2Cor. 1:3-4 - “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.”

Elijah's Message

- The answer is still the same:
 - Get busy with something productive and useful
 - Understand that we are not alone
 - Elijah was not permitted to sit in a dark cave feeling sorry for himself, praying to die, and talking himself into believing that things would never improve
 - And we are not permitted to do that, either

Elijah's Message

- The serious consequences of sin
 - The judgment on the prophets of Baal
 - The deaths of Jezebel and Ahab

Elijah's Message

- Do we believe we are somehow exempt from the consequences of sin?
 - Rom. 6:23 - “For the wages of sin is death...”
 - Rev. 21:8 - “But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”

Elijah's Message

- The hope of the righteous
 - Elijah illustrates the hope of the righteous who persevere to the end; he was translated to heaven, so death had no power over him
 - Luke 9:28-31 - “Now it came to pass, about eight days after these sayings, that He took Peter, John, and James and went up on the mountain to pray. 29 As He prayed, the appearance of His face was altered, and His robe became white and glistening. 30 And behold, two men talked with Him, who were Moses and Elijah, 31 who appeared in glory and spoke of His decease which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.”

Elijah's Message

- What is the hope of the righteous today who persevere to the end?
 - 1Cor. 15:50-54 - “Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: Death is swallowed up in victory.”

Elijah's Message

- What is the hope of the righteous today who persevere to the end?
 - 1Thes. 4:14-17 - “For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. 15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.”