



An Extraordinary Ordinary Man

Lesson 1 • James 5:17-18

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 earth for three years and six months. Then he prayed again, and the sky poured rain and the earth produced its fruit. James 5:17-18

What's So Extraordinary About Ordinary Elijah?

1. The AMOUNT OF SPACE Given to the Stories of Elijah & Elisha in 1-2 Kings.

1 KINGS 1-16	1 KINGS 17- 2 KINGS 13	2 KINGS 14-25
16 Chapters	19 Chapters = ELIJAH & ELISHA are 40%	12 Chapters

2. Elijah is 1 of Only 2 Men Who NEVER DIED but Were Raptured into Heaven.

Genesis 5:24; 2Kings 2:11; Jude 14-16

3. Elijah is 1 of Only 2 Men Who Were GLORIFIED with Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration.

Matthew 16:28-17:8; Mark 9:1-8; Luke 9:27-36

*And behold, two men were talking with Him; and they were Moses and Elijah, who, appearing in glory, **WERE SPEAKING OF HIS DEPARTURE WHICH HE WAS ABOUT TO ACCOMPLISH AT JERUSALEM.** Luke 9:28*

"TRULY I SAY TO YOU, THERE ARE SOME OF THOSE WHO ARE STANDING HERE WHO WILL NOT TASTE DEATH UNTIL THEY SEE THE SON OF MAN COMING IN HIS KINGDOM." Six days later Jesus *took with Him Peter and James and John his brother, and *led them up on a high mountain by themselves. And He was transfigured before them... Matthew 16:28-17:2

4. Elijah Has an Important Connection to Moses the LAW GIVER.

5. Elijah Will Appear Before the Coming of the Messiah and His KINGDOM.

Matthew 17:9-13; Mark 9:9-13; Malachi 3:1; 4:1-6

*And His disciples asked Him, "Why then do the scribes say that **ELIJAH MUST COME FIRST?**" Matthew 17:10*

The OT Expectation of the Coming of the Messiah and His Kingdom

E ELIJAH > M MESSIAH > K KINGDOM

"Behold, I am going to send My messenger, and he will clear the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple; and the messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight, behold, He is coming," says the LORD of hosts. Malachi 3:1

"For behold, the day is coming, burning like a furnace; and all the arrogant and every evildoer will be chaff; and the day that is coming will set them ablaze," says the LORD of hosts, "...But for you who fear My name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings; and you will go forth and skip about like calves from the stall. You will tread down the wicked... Remember the law of Moses My servant, even the statutes and ordinances which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel. **BEHOLD, I AM GOING TO SEND YOU ELIJAH THE PROPHET BEFORE THE COMING OF THE GREAT AND TERRIBLE DAY OF THE LORD. He will restore the hearts of the fathers to their children and the hearts of the children to their fathers, so that I will not come and smite the land with a curse." Malachi 4:1-6**

6. Elijah Will Appear Before the Coming of Messiah and His Kingdom like JOHN THE BAPTIST already did.

*The **PREDICTION** at John's Birth that He Would Come in the Power and Spirit of Elijah - Luke 1:15-17*

The **PARALLELS** between Elijah and John the Baptist

The **PRONOUNCEMENT** of Jesus that Elijah Has Already Come - Matthew 17:11-13; Mark 9:12-13

The **PUZZLE** of Whether John the Baptist Has Completely Fulfilled the Prophecy of E-M-K!

SOLVING the **PUZZLE** According to Scripture by Fulfilling Prophecy Literally and Completely - Revelation 11:1-19

7. Elijah's Ministry Is One Major Peak in the Mountain Range of **MIRACLES** in the Bible.

OT MOUNTAIN RANGE of MIRACLES		NT MOUNTAIN RANGE of MIRACLES	
MOSES & JOSHUA <i>Book of Exodus</i>	ELIJAH & ELISHA <i>Book of Kings</i>	JESUS & APOSTLES <i>Gospels and Acts</i>	ELIJAH & MOSES (?) <i>Book of Revelation</i>
Before Great DELIVERANCE <i>Passover & Exodus</i>	Before Great JUDGMENT <i>Separation by Exile No More Earthly Kingdom</i>	Before Great DELIVERANCE <i>Christ Our Passover & Exodus Kingdom Is Now/Not Yet</i>	Before Great FINAL JUDGMENT & FINAL DELIVERANCE <i>Great Tribulation & Millennial Kingdom Separation by Eternal Wrath Kingdom on Earth Then New Creation</i>

How Will You Benefit from Studying the Life and Times of Elijah?

1. Expect to **BE ENCOURAGED** to Grow in Godliness. *2Timothy 3:16-17*
2. Expect to **BE WARNED** to Watch Out for Apostasy. *Romans 15:4-6; 1Corinthians 10:1-13*
3. Expect to **BE MOTIVATED** to Reject Apostasy by Persevering with Loyalty to the "I AM" God.

*But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times **SOME WILL FALL AWAY FROM THE FAITH**, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons... **1Timothy 4:1-6***

*I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, **AND BY HIS APPEARING AND HIS KINGDOM: PREACH THE WORD**; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. **FOR THE TIME WILL COME** when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, **AND WILL TURN AWAY THEIR EARS FROM THE TRUTH AND WILL TURN ASIDE TO MYTHS.** **2Timothy 4:1-4***

*Beloved...I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you **CONTENTD EARNESTLY FOR THE FAITH** which was once for all handed down to the saints. For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, **UNGODLY PERSONS WHO TURN THE GRACE OF OUR GOD INTO LICENTIOUSNESS AND DENY OUR ONLY MASTER AND LORD, JESUS CHRIST.** **Jude 3-4***

*But you, beloved, ought to remember the words that were spoken beforehand by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ, that they were saying to you, **"IN THE LAST TIME THERE WILL BE MOCKERS, FOLLOWING AFTER THEIR OWN UNGODLY LUSTS."** These are the ones who cause divisions, worldly-minded, devoid of the Spirit. **Jude 17-19***

4. Expect to **BE CHALLENGED** to Lead with a Bold Faith as a Spiritual Leader.

*Now Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the settlers of Gilead, **SAID TO AHAB**, "As the LORD, the God of Israel lives, **BEFORE WHOM I STAND**, surely there shall be neither dew nor rain these years, except by my word." **1Kings 17:1***

*"Behold, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the LORD. He will **RESTORE** the **HEARTS** of the fathers to their children and the **HEARTS** of the children to their fathers, so that I will not come and smite the land with a curse." **Malachi 4:5-6***

Let's Pray This Prayer

"Whatever it takes, Lord, decrease the hold that unbelieving fear has over me and increase my boldness to declare the gospel to everyone you put in my path."

5. Expect to **BE HUMBLLED** to Worship the "I AM" God in the Person and Work of Jesus Christ.

*He said, "I have been **VERY ZEALOUS FOR THE LORD**, the God of Hosts; for the sons of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars and killed Your prophets with the sword. And I alone am left; and they seek my life, to take it away." **1Kings 19:10, 14***

LET'S PREPARE OUR HEARTS to ENCOUNTER ELIJAH and HIS GOD!



How Should We Prepare Our Hearts to Encounter Elijah and His God?

1. PREPARE Yourself Like Elijah!

- God loves to do the extraordinary through ordinary people like us, but we still have a part to play in the process! Elijah **prepared all his life** for the moment when he suddenly burst on the scene to confront the apostate King Ahab and his wicked queen, Jezebel! He lived up to the name given to him by his parents, **"My God Is Yahweh"**
- He **prepared spiritually** by quietly – *secretly* – humbly getting alone with God in the rugged land of Gilead to prepare his heart in the presence of the LORD. We should prepare by spending time in our own secret place with the LORD.
- The LORD also taught Elijah to **prepare physically** by getting enough sleep and eating properly! Get a good night's rest Saturday night before coming to worship.

2. READ the Word Like Elijah!

- Elijah was a doer of the Word and not a hearer only. The main theme of the Book of Kings is to trust and obey the Word spoken by the LORD to His people.
- Elijah took the Bible seriously and literally. Like Jesus, he read the Book of Deuteronomy and took it to heart – compare *Deuteronomy 11* with *1Kings 17:1* and *James 5:17-18*.

3. LISTEN to the Spirit Like Elijah!

- Elijah learned how to listen to God speak according to His written Word!
- He heard God's call to be a prophet and obeyed. He learned to hear God speak in the still, small voice of His Holy Spirit! We should do the same.

4. PRAY to the Lord Like Elijah!

- Elijah took what he read in God's Word and turned it into prayer – fervent prayer – persevering prayer!

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5. RESPOND with a Bold Faith Like Elijah.

- Faith without works is dead!
"Later exilic readers [those exiled in Assyria and Babylon when Yahweh's judgment finally fell on] would remember the awesome judgment on apostasy that came 'according to the word of Yahweh', but would also find hope as they hear of God's grace when people, no matter how wicked, turn to Him. They would be encouraged to be faithful to Yahweh despite many cultural pressures. Elijah was not perfect, but he knew Yahweh's sending, provision, compassion and finally affirmation in his ascension." – John W. Olley, *The Message of Kings*, The Bible Speaks Today
- Elijah stood in the presence of his God – *the living LORD* – *the great I AM God* – to hear from Him and then he went out into the world to serve Him, even in the worst of times – *times of great apostasy!*

How Can We Who Know Jesus Is the I AM God Do Any Less?

Loyalty in Times of Apostasy • Reading Plan

DAY	PASSAGE	DAY	PASSAGE
SOLOMON'S SIN			
1.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Kings 11	27.	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Kings 11
ISRAEL IS DIVIDED NORTH & SOUTH			
2.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Kings 12:1-24	28.	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Kings 12
N. ISRAEL & JEROBOAM'S HERESY			
ELISHA DIES + ONE LAST MIRACLE			
3.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Kings 12:25-33	29.	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Kings 13
4.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Kings 13	30.	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Kings 14
5.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Kings 14:1-20	31.	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Kings 15
6.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Kings 14:21-31	32.	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Kings 16
7.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Kings 15:1-24	N. ISRAEL IN EXILE AND...	
8.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Kings 15:25-16:7	33.	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Kings 17
AHAB & JEZEBEL'S APOSTASY			
...HAS YET TO RETURN to the LAND!			
9.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Kings 16:8-20	ISRAEL IS STILL WAITING for E-M-K!	
10.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Kings 16:21-34	ELIJAH > MESSIAH > KINGDOM	
ELIJAH BOLDLY CONFRONTS			
11.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Kings 17		
12.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Kings 18		
13.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Kings 19		
14.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Kings 20		
15.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Kings 21		
16.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Kings 22		
17.	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Kings 1		
18.	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Kings 2		
ELIJAH RAPTURED & ELISHA REMAINS			
19.	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Kings 3		
20.	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Kings 4		
21.	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Kings 5		
22.	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Kings 6		
23.	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Kings 7		
24.	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Kings 8		
25.	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Kings 9		
26.	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Kings 10		

