



# 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 secret place with the LORD.
- The LORD also taught him 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 trust and obey the Word spoken by the LORD.
- Elijah took the Bible seriously and literally. Like Jesus, he read the Book of Deuteronomy and he took it to heart – compare Deuteronomy 11 and 1Kings 17:1.

## 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!  
*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*

## 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 God – 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 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
<b>SOLOMON'S SIN</b>			
1.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Kings 11	27.	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Kings 11
<b>ISRAEL IS DIVIDED NORTH &amp; SOUTH</b>			
2.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Kings 12:1-24	28.	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Kings 12
<b>N. ISRAEL &amp; JEROBOAM'S HERESY</b>			
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	<b>N. ISRAEL IN EXILE AND...</b>	
8.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Kings 15:25-16:7	33.	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Kings 17
<b>AHAB &amp; JEZEBEL'S APOSTASY</b>			
9.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Kings 16:8-20	<b>...HAS YET TO RETURN to the LAND!</b>	
10.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Kings 16:21-34	<b>ISRAEL IS STILL WAITING for E-M-K!</b>	
<b>ELIJAH BOLDLY CONFRONTS</b>			
11.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Kings 17	<b>ELIJAH &gt; MESSIAH &gt; KINGDOM</b>	
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		
<b>ELIJAH RAPTURED &amp; ELISHA REMAINS</b>			
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		

