

CHARACTERS OF THE BIBLE: ELIJAH AND ELISHA

MARCH 19, 2025

Background:

The name *Elijah* means “my God is Jehovah or my God is Yahweh.” Very little is known about this ninth century B.C. prophet. All the personal history known about this great man of God is stated in 1 Kings 17:1 “Elijah the Tishbite, of the inhabitants of Gilead.” Elijah prophecy during the reigns of Ahab and his son Ahaziah. The last prophet of the New Testament, John the Baptist, is associated with Elijah because of his apparel and mainly because he came in the spirit and power of Elijah (Matt. 11:14).

The name *Elisha* means “God is salvation.” Not much is known about this prophet that succeeded Elijah the Tishbite. Elisha was the son of Shaphat who lived in the Jordan valley and it appears that he was a farmer (1 Kings 19:16, 19).

Although there is very little personal information about these two men, the impact they had in biblical history still speaks today.

Lesson Outline:

Elijah’s Message to Ahab:

1 Kings 18: 1-19

Vv. 3-15

Vv. 16-19

Key Themes:

- Elijah returns to Ahab
- Obadiah encounters Elijah
- God is faithful to His word

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Summary:

The prophet Elijah, after three years, is commanded by God to return to the presence of king Ahab, and confront him about leading the people to worship idols. For three years there has been no rain in the land. Much has happened over these three years – Jezebel (wife of Ahab), has slain many of the prophets of God - God uses Obadiah to save 150 of His prophets – Obadiah trusts Elijah to man of his word.

Small Group Discussion:

1. Why was Obadiah afraid to take Elijah's message to Ahab?
2. Did it take faith for Obadiah to hide the prophets of God?
3. King Ahab called Elijah a "troubler of Israel." Why and was it an accurate statement?
4. Discuss why confrontation of evil is needed.

3/26 – 1 Kings 18: 20-40