

CHARACTERS OF THE BIBLE: ELIJAH AND ELISHA

MARCH 26, 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 Victory at Mount Carmel:

1 Kings 18: 20-24

Vv. 25-29

Vv. 30-40

Vv. 41-46

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Key Themes:

- The Showdown at Mount Carmel
- Elijah's Victory/Baal's Failure
- People's Conversion
- Drought Ends

Summary:

The prophet Elijah challenges king Ahab to a public test between the God of Israel and the Canaanite god Baal, due to a severe drought that was plaguing the land because of Israel's idol worship. God answers Elijah's prayer with fire from heaven. Proving God's power, which leads the people to return God and subsequently rain returns to the land. This event also results in the execution of Baal's prophets.

Small Group Discussion:

1. Describe in detail the proposed contest executed by Elijah.
2. How did the people respond to the power of God displayed at Mount Carmel?
3. What happened when Elijah prayed for rain and how does this fulfill 1 Kings 1:17?

4/2 – 1 Kings 19