

~ELIJAH 1 (1033)

(E-li'jah) [My God Is Yehowah]

- Fed By Ravens
- How Elijah Impressed Upon Israel, That Yehowah Is The True God?
- Flees From Jezebel
- Appoints Elisha As Successor
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• One of the foremost prophets of Israel. Evidently his home was in Tishbeh, thought by some to be a village in the land of Gilead, East of the Jordan River.

• And **Elijah** the Tishbite from the inhabitants of Gilead proceeded to say to Ahab; As Yehowah the God of Israel before whom I do stand is living, there will occur during these years neither dew nor rain, except at the order of my word! (**1 Kings 17:1**)

• He started his long career as prophet in Israel during the reign of King Ahab, who began to rule about **940 B.C.E.**, and continued during the reign of Ahab's son Ahaziah began **circa 919 B.C.E.**

• As for Ahaziah the son of Ahab, he became king over Israel in Samaria in the seventeenth year of Jehoshaphat the king of Judah, and he continued to reign over Israel for two years. (**1 Kings 22:51**)

• The last time he is mentioned as serving as a prophet, this time for Judah, is toward the end of the eight-year reign of King Jehoram of Judah, which rule started in **913 B.C.E.**

• Eventually there came a writing to him from **Elijah** the prophet, saying; This is what Yehowah the God of David your forefather has said; Due to the fact that you have not walked in the ways of Jehoshaphat your father or in the ways of Asa the king of Judah. (**2 Chronicles 21:12**)

• But you walk in the way of the kings of Israel and cause Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to have immoral intercourse the same way that the house of Ahab caused the having of immoral intercourse, and even your own brothers, the household of your

- father, who were better than you, you have killed. (**2 Chronicles 21:13**)
- **Look! Yehowah is dealing a great blow to your people and to your sons and to your wives and to all your goods. (2 Chronicles 21:14)**
 - **And you will be with many sicknesses, with a malady of your intestines, until your intestines have come out because of the sickness day by day. (2 Chronicles 21:15)**
 - **And in the fifth year of Jehoram the son of Ahab the king of Israel, while Jehoshaphat was king of Judah, Jehoram the son of Jehoshaphat the king of Judah became king. (2 Kings 8:16)**
 - **Through **Elijah**, Yehowah provided a pillar of strength for true worship in a time when Israel's spiritual and moral condition had fallen to an alarmingly low state.**
 - **King Ahab the son of Omri had continued the calf worship established by Jeroboam, but worse, he had married Jezebel the daughter of the Sidonian king Ethbaal. Under her influence, Ahab added greatly to his sins beyond all Israel's previous kings by introducing Baal worship on a grand scale.**
 - **Baal priests and prophets multiplied, and corruption reached an extreme state. Jezebel's hatred of Yehowah caused persecution and slaughter of the prophets, they were driven into hiding in caves.**
 - **And Ahab the son of Omri proceeded to do worse in the eyes of Yehowah than all those who were prior to him. (1 Kings 16:30)**
 - **And it came about that, as if it were the most trivial thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, he now took as wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal the king of the Sidonians and began to go and serve Baal and to bow down to him. (1 Kings 16:31)**
 - **Further, he set up an altar to Baal at the house of Baal that he built in Samaria. (1 Kings 16:32)**
 - **And Ahab went on to make the sacred pole, and Ahab came to do more to offend Yehowah the God of Israel than all the kings of Israel that happened to be prior to him. (1 Kings 16:33)**

- Has not my lord been told what I did when Jezebel killed the prophets of Yehowah, how I kept some of the prophets of Yehowah hid, a hundred men by fifties in a cave, and kept supplying them bread and water? (**1 Kings 18:13**)

• Fed By Ravens

- **Elijah** first appears in the record when he is sent by Yehowah to announce chastisement upon Israel for their sins. His first reported words are:
 - And **Elijah** the Tishbite from the inhabitants of Gilead proceeded to say to Ahab; As Yehowah the God of Israel before whom I do stand is living, there will occur during these years neither dew nor rain, except at the order of my word! (**1 Kings 17:1**)
 - **Elijah** was a man with feelings like ours, and yet in prayer he prayed for it not to rain, and it did not rain upon the land for three years and six months. (**James 5:17**)
 - After this announcement Yehowah directs **Elijah** to the torrent valley of Cherith to the East of the Jordan in the territory of the tribe of Gad. Here, miraculously, ravens bring food to him.
 - He gets water from the torrent valley, which in due time dries up because of the drought. Yehowah continues to guide him, sending him outside the territory of Israel to Zarephath, a Phoenician town dependent upon Sidon at that time. Here, near the city of Sidon, where King Ahab's father-in-law Ethbaal is ruling
 - And it came about that, as if it were the most trivial thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, he now took as wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal the king of the Sidonians and began to go and serve Baal and to bow down to him. (**1 Kings 16:31**)
 - **Elijah** meets a widow preparing a final meal for herself and her son with their very last bit of flour and oil. **Elijah** requests a cake, with the promise of Yehowah's provision for her during the drought. Because she recognizes him as a man of God, she complies and is blessed.
 - He that receives a prophet because he is a prophet will get a

prophets reward, and he that receives a righteous man because he is a righteous man will get a righteous man's reward. (Matthew 10:41)

- And whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold water to drink because he is a disciple, I tell you truly, he will by no means lose his reward. (Matthew 10:42)
- During **Elijah's** stay in her home her son dies. **Elijah** prays to God, who brings him to life, the first recorded resurrection and the third of **Elijah's** eight miracles. (1 Kings Chapter 17)

•• How Elijah Impressed Upon Israel, That Yehowah Is The True God?

- In the meantime Ahab has looked everywhere in a fruitless search for **Elijah**, doubtless to put him to death.
- As Yehowah your God is living, there is not a nation or kingdom where my lord has not sent to look for you. After they had said; He is not here. He made the kingdom and the nation swear that they could not find you. (1 Kings 18:10)
- Eventually God instructs **Elijah** to show himself to Ahab. **Elijah** encounters Ahab and requests a meeting with the 450 prophets of Baal and the 400 prophets of the sacred pole or Asherah. Ahab gathers the prophets to Mount Carmel, not far from the Mediterranean Sea.
- **Elijah** now, before the people, proposes a test to prove who is the true God to be followed. The one that answers by consuming a bull sacrificed to him is to be acknowledged by all. Fair enough, the people agree. Baal is first called on, but in vain.
- There is no fire, no proof that Baal is a living god, although his prophets keep praying to him, yes, even cutting themselves according to their ritual. They limp about the altar under a burning sun for the greater part of the day while **Elijah** mercilessly mocks them, increasing their frenzy.
- To this he said; I have not brought ostracism upon Israel, but you and the house of your father have, because you men have left the commandments of Yehowah, and you went following the Baals. (1 Kings 18:18)
- And now send, collect together all Israel to me at Mount Carmel

- and also the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal and the four hundred prophets of the sacred pole, who are eating at the table of Jezebel. ([1 Kings 18:19](#))
- And Ahab proceeded to send among all the sons of Israel and collect the prophets together at Mount Carmel. ([1 Kings 18:20](#))
 - Then **Elijah** approached all the people and said; How long will you be limping upon two different opinions? If Yehowah is the true God, go following him, but if Baal is, go following him. And the people did not say a word in answer to him. ([1 Kings 18:21](#))
 - And **Elijah** went on to say to the people; I myself have been left as a prophet of Yehowah, I alone, while the prophets of Baal are four hundred and fifty men. ([1 Kings 18:22](#))
 - Now let them give us two young bulls, and let them choose for themselves one young bull and cut it in pieces and put it upon the wood, but they should not put fire to it. And I myself shall dress the other young bull, and I must place it upon the wood, but I shall not put fire to it. ([1 Kings 18:23](#))
 - And you must call upon the name of your god, and I, for my part, shall call upon the name of Yehowah, and it must occur that the true God that answers by fire is the true God. To this all the people answered and said; The thing is good. ([1 Kings 18:24](#))
 - **Elijah** now said to the prophets of Baal; Choose for yourselves one young bull and dress it first, because you are the majority, and call upon the name of your god, but you must not put fire to it. ([1 Kings 18:25](#))
 - Accordingly they took the young bull that he gave them. Then they dressed it, and they kept calling upon the name of Baal from morning till noon, saying; O Baal, answer us! But there was no voice, and there was no one answering. And they kept limping around the altar that they had made. ([1 Kings 18:26](#))
 - And it came about at noon that **Elijah** began to mock them and say; Call at the top of your voice, for he is a god, for he must be concerned with a matter, and he has excrement and has to go to the privy. Or maybe he is asleep and ought to wake up! ([1 Kings 18:27](#))

- **And they began calling at the top of their voice and cutting themselves according to their custom with daggers and with lances, until they caused blood to flow out upon them. (1 Kings 18:28)**
- **And it came about that, as soon as noon was past and they continued behaving as prophets until the going up of the grain offering, there was no voice, and there was no one answering, and there was no paying of attention. (1 Kings 18:29)**
- **Now it is **Elijah's** turn. Using 12 stones, he mends an altar that was torn down, probably at Jezebel's instance. Then he has the people soak the offering and the altar in water three times, even the trench around the altar, circumscribing an area perhaps 32 meters (103 feet) square, is filled with water.**
- **At length **Elijah** said to all the people; Approach me. So all the people approached him. Then he proceeded to mend the altar of Yehowah that was torn down. (1 Kings 18:30)**
- **So **Elijah** took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom Yehowah's word had come, saying; Israel is what your name will become. (1 Kings 18:31)**
- **And he went on to build the stones into an altar in the name of Yehowah and to make a trench, of about the area sowed with two seah measures of seed, all around the altar. (1 Kings 18:32)**
- **After that he put the pieces of wood in order and cut the young bull in pieces and placed it upon the pieces of wood. He now said; Fill four large jars with water and pour it upon the burnt offering and upon the pieces of wood. (1 Kings 18:33)**
- **Then he said; Do it again. So they did it again. But he said; Do it a third time. So they did it a third time. (1 Kings 18:34)**
- **Thus the water went all around the altar, and the trench also he filled with water. (1 Kings 18:35)**
- **About the time of the daily evening grain offering, **Elijah** prays once to Yehowah, who sends fire from the heavens to consume not just the offering but also the wood, the stones of the altar, and the water in the trench.**

- And it came about at the time that the grain offering goes up that **Elijah** the prophet began to approach and say; O Yehowah, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, today let it be known that you are God in Israel and I am your servant and it is by your word that I have done all these things. (**1 Kings 18:36**)
- Answer me, O Yehowah, answer me, that this people may know that you, Yehowah, are the true God and you yourself have turned their heart back. (**1 Kings 18:37**)
- At that the fire of Yehowah came falling and went eating up the burnt offering and the pieces of wood and the stones and the dust, and the water that was in the trench it licked up. (**1 Kings 18:38**)
- The people, seeing this, fall upon their faces and say; Yehowah is the true God! Yehowah is the true God! Then **Elijah** has all the 450 prophets of Baal slaughtered at the torrent valley of Kishon.
- Answering **Elijah's** prayer, Yehowah breaks the drought by a downpour of rain. By Yehowah's power **Elijah** then runs ahead of Ahab's chariot, perhaps as much as 30 kilometers (19 miles), to Jezreel.
- When all the people saw it, they immediately fell upon their faces and said; Yehowah is the true God! Yehowah is the true God! (**1 Kings 18:39**)
- Then **Elijah** said to them; Seize the prophets of Baal! Do not let a single one of them escape! At once they seized them, and Elijah then brought them down to the torrent valley of Kishon and slaughtered them there. (**1 Kings 18:40**)
- **Elijah** now said to Ahab; Go up, eat and drink, for there is the sound of the turmoil of a downpour. (**1 Kings 18:41**)
- And Ahab proceeded to go up to eat and drink. As for **Elijah**, he went up to the top of Carmel and began crouching to the earth and keeping his face put between his knees. (**1 Kings 18:42**)
- Then he said to his attendant; Go up, please. Look in the direction of the sea. So he went up and looked and then said, There is nothing at all. And he went on to say; Go back; for seven times. (**1 Kings 18:43**)

- And it came about at the seventh time that he got to say; Look! There is a small cloud like a man's palm ascending out of the sea. He now said; Go up, say to Ahab; Hitch up! And go down that the downpour may not detain you! (**1 Kings 18:44**)
- And it came about in the meantime that the heavens themselves darkened up with clouds and wind and a great downpour began to occur. And Ahab kept riding and made his way to Jezreel. (**1 Kings 18:45**)
- And the very hand of Yehowah proved to be upon **Elijah**, so that he girded up his hips and went running ahead of Ahab all the way to Jezreel. (**1 Kings 18:46**)

•• Flees From Jezebel

- On being informed of the death of her Baal prophets, Queen Jezebel vows to have **Elijah** put to death. In fear **Elijah** flees some 150 kilometers (95 miles) South-Westward to Beer-sheba, to the West of the lower Dead Sea.
- Leaving his attendant there, he goes still farther into the wilderness, praying to die. Here the angel of Yehowah appears to him, to prepare him for a long journey to the mountain of the true God, Horeb. Sustained for the 40-day journey by what he eats then, he covers a distance of over 300 kilometers (190 miles).
- At Horeb, Yehowah speaks to him after an awe-inspiring display of power in a wind, an earthquake, and a fire. Yehowah is not in these manifestations, he is not a nature god, or just natural forces that are personified.
- These natural forces are merely expressions of his active force, not Yehowah himself. The Almighty shows **Elijah** that he still has work to do as a prophet. Yehowah corrects **Elijah's** thought, that he is the lone worshiper of the true God in Israel, by showing that there are 7,000 who have not bowed to Baal.
- He sends **Elijah** back to his assignment, naming three persons who are to be anointed, or commissioned, to do a work for Yehowah, Hazael as king over Syria, Jehu as king over Israel, and his own successor Elisha.

- Then Ahab told Jezebel all that **Elijah** had done and all about how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. (**1 Kings 19:1**)
- At that Jezebel sent a messenger to **Elijah**, saying; So may the gods do, and so may they add to it, if at this time tomorrow I shall not make your soul like the soul of each one of them! (**1 Kings 19:2**)
- And he became afraid. Consequently he rose up and began to go for his soul and came to Beer-sheba, which belongs to Judah. Then he left his attendant behind there. (**1 Kings 19:3**)
- And he himself went into the wilderness a day's journey, and at length came and sat down under a certain broom tree. And he began to ask that his soul might die and to say; It is enough! Now, O Yehowah, take my soul away, for I am no better than my forefathers. (**1 Kings 19:4**)
- Finally he lay down and fell asleep under the broom tree. But, look! Now an angel was touching him. Then he said to him; Rise up, eat. (**1 Kings 19:5**)
- When he looked, why, there at his head was a round cake upon heated stones and a jug of water. And he began to eat and drink, after which he lay down again. (**1 Kings 19:6**)
- Later the angel of Yehowah came back a second time and touched him and said; Rise up, eat, for the journey is too much for you. (**1 Kings 19:7**)
- So he rose up and ate and drank, and he kept going in the power of that nourishment for forty days and forty nights as far as the mountain of the true God, Horeb. (**1 Kings 19:8**)
- There he finally entered into a cave, that he might spend the night there, and, look! There was Yehowah's word for him, and it went on to say to him; What is your business here, **Elijah**? (**1 Kings 19:9**)
- To this he said; I have been absolutely jealous for Yehowah the God of armies, for the sons of Israel have left your covenant, your altars they have torn down, and your prophets they have killed with the sword, so that I only am left, and they begin looking for my soul to take it away. (**1 Kings 19:10**)

- But it said; Go out, and you must stand on the mountain before Yehowah. And, look! Yehowah was passing by, and a great and strong wind was rending mountains and breaking crags before Yehowah. Yehowah was not in the wind. And after the wind there was a quaking. Yehowah was not in the quaking. (**1 Kings 19:11**)
- And after the quaking there was a fire. Yehowah was not in the fire. And after the fire there was a calm, low voice. (**1 Kings 19:12**)
- And it came about that as soon as **Elijah** heard it, he immediately wrapped his face in his official garment and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave, and, look! There was a voice for him, and it proceeded to say to him; What is your business here, **Elijah**? (**1 Kings 19:13**)
- To this he said; I have been absolutely jealous for Yehowah the God of armies, for the sons of Israel have left your covenant, your altars they have torn down, and your prophets they have killed with the sword, so that I only am left, and they begin looking for my soul to take it away. (**1 Kings 19:14**)
- Yehowah now said to him; Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus, and you must come in and anoint Hazael as king over Syria. (**1 Kings 19:15**)
- And Jehu the grandson of Nimshi you should anoint as king over Israel, and Elisha the son of Shaphat from Abel-meholah you should anoint as prophet in place of you. (**1 Kings 19:16**)
- And it must occur that the one escaping from Hazael's sword, Jehu will put to death, and the one escaping from Jehu's sword, Elisha will put to death. (**1 Kings 19:17**)
- And I have let seven thousand remain in Israel, all the knees that have not bent down to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him. (**1 Kings 19:18**)

·· Appoints Elisha As Successor

- **Elijah** next travels toward the hometown of Elisha, Abel-meholah. Finding Elisha plowing a field, **Elijah** throws his official

garment over him, indicating an appointing, or anointing. Elisha follows **Elijah** closely from that time on as his attendant.

- He is doubtless with **Elijah** when another occasion arises to prophesy against Ahab. The greedy Baal-worshiping king has illegally seized a vineyard, the hereditary possession of Naboth the Jezreelite, by allowing his wife Jezebel to use false charges, false witnesses, and unrighteous judges to have Naboth murdered.
- **Elijah** meets Ahab at the vineyard and tells Ahab that his blood will be licked up by the dogs at the same place where they had licked up the blood of Naboth. He also announces a similar fate for Jezebel.
- Accordingly he went from there and found Elisha the son of Shaphat while he was plowing with twelve spans before him, and he with the twelfth. So **Elijah** crossed over to him and threw his official garment upon him. (**1 Kings 19:19**)
- And it came about after these things that there was a vineyard that happened to belong to Naboth the Jezreelite, which was in Jezreel, beside the palace of Ahab the king of Samaria. (**1 Kings 21:1**)
- So Ahab spoke to Naboth, saying; Do give me your vineyard, that it may serve as a garden of vegetables to me, for it is close by my house, and let me give you in place of it a vineyard better than it. Or if it is good in your eyes, I will give you money as the price of this. (**1 Kings 21:2**)
- But Naboth said to Ahab; It is unthinkable on my part, from Yehowah's standpoint, for me to give the hereditary possession of my forefathers to you. (**1 Kings 21:3**)
- Consequently Ahab came into his house, sullen and dejected over the word that Naboth the Jezreelite had spoken to him, when he said; I shall not give you the hereditary possession of my forefathers. Then he lay down upon his couch and kept his face turned, and he did not eat bread. (**1 Kings 21:4**)
- Finally Jezebel his wife came in to him and spoke to him; Why is it that your spirit is sad and you are not eating bread? (**1 Kings 21:5**)
- At that he spoke to her; Because I proceeded to speak to Naboth

- the Jezreelite and say to him; Do give me your vineyard for money. Or, if you prefer, let me give you another vineyard in place of it. But he said; I shall not give you my vineyard. (**1 Kings 21:6**)
- Then Jezebel his wife said to him; Is it you that now exercise the kingship over Israel? Rise up, eat bread and let your heart be merry. I myself shall give you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite. (**1 Kings 21:7**)
 - Accordingly she wrote letters in Ahab's name and sealed them with his seal, and sent the letters to the older men and the nobles that were in his city dwelling with Naboth. (**1 Kings 21:8**)
 - But she wrote in the letters, saying; Proclaim a fast, and have Naboth sit at the head of the people. (**1 Kings 21:9**)
 - And make two men, good-for-nothing fellows, sit in front of him, and let them bear witness against him, saying; You have cursed God and the king! And bring him out and stone him that he may die. (**1 Kings 21:10**)
 - So the men of his city, the older men and the nobles that were dwelling in his city, did just as Jezebel had sent to them, just as it was written in the letters that she had sent to them. (**1 Kings 21:11**)
 - They proclaimed a fast and had Naboth sit at the head of the people. (**1 Kings 21:12**)
 - Then two of the men, good-for-nothing fellows, came in and sat down in front of him, and the good-for-nothing men began to bear witness against him, that is, Naboth, in front of the people, saying; Naboth has cursed God and the king! After that they brought him out to the outskirts of the city and stoned him with stones, so that he died. (**1 Kings 21:13**)
 - They now sent to Jezebel, saying; Naboth has been stoned so that he is dead. (**1 Kings 21:14**)
 - And it came about that, as soon as Jezebel heard that Naboth had been stoned so that he died, Jezebel immediately said to Ahab; Rise up, take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, which he refused to give you for money, for Naboth is

no longer alive, but dead. (1 Kings 21:15)

- And it came about that, as soon as Ahab heard that Naboth was dead, Ahab at once rose up to go down to the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, to take possession of it. (1 Kings 21:16)
- And Yehowah's word came to **Elijah** the Tishbite, saying; (1 Kings 21:17)
- Rise up, go down to meet Ahab the king of Israel, who is in Samaria. There he is in the vineyard of Naboth, where he has gone down to take possession of it. (1 Kings 21:18)
- And you must speak to him, saying; This is what Yehowah has said, Have you murdered and also taken possession? And you must speak to him, saying; This is what Yehowah has said; In the place where the dogs licked up the blood of Naboth, the dogs will lick up your blood, even yours. (1 Kings 21:19)
- And Ahab proceeded to say to **Elijah**; Have you found me, O enemy of mine? To which he said; I have found you. For the reason that you have sold yourself to do what is bad in the eyes of Yehowah. (1 Kings 21:20)
- Here I am bringing calamity upon you, and I shall certainly make a clean sweep after you and cut off from Ahab anyone urinating against a wall and the helpless and worthless one in Israel. (1 Kings 21:21)
- And I shall certainly constitute your house like the house of Jeroboam the son of Nebat and like the house of Baasha the son of Ahijah, for the offense with which you have offended and then caused Israel to sin. (1 Kings 21:22)
- And also as regards Jezebel Yehowah has spoken, saying; The very dogs will eat up Jezebel in the plot of land of Jezreel. (1 Kings 21:23)
- Anyone of Ahab's that is dying in the city the dogs will eat up, and anyone dying in the field the fowls of the heavens will eat up. (1 Kings 21:24)
- Without exception no one has proved to be like Ahab, who sold himself to do what was bad in the eyes of Yehowah, whom

Jezebel his wife egged on. (1 Kings 21:25)

- **And he went acting very detestably by going after the dungy idols, the same as all that the Amorites had done, whom Yehowah drove out from before the sons of Israel. (1 Kings 21:26)**
- **About three years later Ahab dies in battle. His war chariot is washed by the pool of Samaria, and the dogs lick up his blood. Jezebel's execution, however, awaits a time perhaps 15 years later. Ahab was succeeded by his son Ahaziah.**
- **This king follows in his wicked father's footsteps, for when he is injured in an accident he turns to the false god Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron, to inquire regarding the outcome of his sickness. **Elijah** sends him Yehowah's word that because of this he will positively die.**
- **When Ahaziah sends in succession three groups to get **Elijah**, each group composed of a chief with 50 men, the prophet calls down fire from the heavens to annihilate the first two groups, but on the plea of the third chief, he goes back with him to pronounce the judgment against Ahaziah in person.**
- **And for three years they continued dwelling without war between Syria and Israel. (1 Kings 22:1)**
- **Thus the king died. When he was brought to Samaria, then they buried the king in Samaria. (1 Kings 22:37)**
- **And they began to wash off the war chariot by the pool of Samaria, and the dogs went licking up his blood, and the prostitutes themselves bathed there, according to Yehowah's word that he had spoken. (1 Kings 22:38)**
- **And Moab began to revolt against Israel after the death of Ahab. (2 Kings 1:1)**
- **Then Ahaziah fell down through the grating in his roof chamber that was in Samaria and got sick. So he sent messengers and said to them; Go, inquire of Baal-zebub the god of Ekron whether I shall revive from this sickness. (2 Kings 1:2)**
- **As for the angel of Yehowah, he spoke to **Elijah** the Tishbite; Rise up, go up to meet the messengers of the king of Samaria**

and say to them; Is it because there is no God at all in Israel that you are going to inquire of Baal-zebub the god of Ekron? (2 Kings 1:3)

- So therefore this is what Yehowah has said; As regards the couch upon which you have gone up, you will not come down off it, because you will positively die. With that **Elijah** went off. (2 Kings 1:4)
- When the messengers came back to him, he immediately said to them; Why is it that you have come back? (2 Kings 1:5)
- So they said to him; There was a man that came up to meet us, and he proceeded to say to us; Go, return to the king who sent you, and you must speak to him; This is what Yehowah has said; Is it because there is no God at all in Israel that you are sending to inquire of Baal-zebub the god of Ekron? Therefore, as regards the couch upon which you have gone up, you will not come down off it, because you will positively die. (2 Kings 1:6)
- At this he spoke to them; What was the appearance of the man that came up to meet you and then spoke these words to you? (2 Kings 1:7)
- So they said to him; A man possessing a hair garment, with a leather belt girded about his loins. Immediately he said; It was **Elijah** the Tishbite. (2 Kings 1:8)
- And he proceeded to send to him a chief of fifty with his fifty. When he went up to him, there he was sitting upon the top of the mountain. He now spoke to him; Man of the true God, the king himself has spoken; Do come down. (2 Kings 1:9)
- But **Elijah** answered and spoke to the chief of the fifty; Well, if I am a man of God, let fire come down from the heavens and eat up you and your fifty. And fire came descending from the heavens and went eating up him and his fifty. (2 Kings 1:10)
- So he sent again to him another chief of fifty with his fifty. In turn he answered and spoke to him; Man of the true God, this is what the king has said; Do come down quickly. (2 Kings 1:11)
- But **Elijah** answered and spoke to them; If I am a man of the true God, let fire come down from the heavens and eat up you

and your fifty. And fire of God came descending from the heavens and went eating up him and his fifty. (2 Kings 1:12)

- And he went sending again a third chief of fifty and his fifty. But the third chief of fifty went up and came and bent down upon his knees in front of **Elijah** and began to implore favor of him and speak to him; Man of the true God, please let my soul and the soul of these fifty servants of yours be precious in your eyes. (2 Kings 1:13)
- Here fire came down from the heavens and went eating up the two former chiefs of fifty and their fifties, but now let my soul be precious in your eyes. (2 Kings 1:14)
- At that the angel of Yehowah spoke to **Elijah**; Go down with him. Do not be afraid because of him. So he rose and went down with him to the king. (2 Kings 1:15)
- Then he spoke to him; This is what Yehowah has said; For the reason that you have sent messengers to inquire of Baal-zebub the god of Ekron, is it because there is no God at all in Israel of whose word to inquire? Therefore as regards the couch upon which you have gone up, you will not come down off it, because you will positively die. (2 Kings 1:16)
- And he gradually died, according to the word of Yehowah that **Elijah** had spoken, and Jehoram began to reign in place of him, in the second year of Jehoram the son of Jehoshaphat the king of Judah, because he had not come to have a son. (2 Kings 1:17)

•• Elisha Succeeds Him

- In harmony with **Elijah's** action in appointing Elisha years earlier, the time comes when **Elijah** must transfer the mantle of this prophetic office to Elisha, who has been well trained. This takes place during the rule of Ahaziah's successor, his brother Jehoram of Israel.
- At that time **Elijah** goes to Bethel, from there to Jericho and down to the Jordan, Elisha sticking close to him all the way. There Elisha is rewarded for his faithfulness by seeing a fiery war chariot and fiery horses and **Elijah** ascending in a windstorm to the heavens.
- Elisha takes up **Elijah's** official garment that had fallen off him, and two parts, like a firstborn sons portion, in **Elijah's** spirit, a spirit of

courage and of being absolutely jealous for Yehowah the God of armies, come on him.

- **And it came about that when Yehowah was to take **Elijah** in a windstorm up to the heavens, **Elijah** and Elisha proceeded to go from Gilgal. (2 Kings 2:1)**
- **And **Elijah** began to say to Elisha; Sit here, please, because Yehowah himself has sent me clear to Bethel. But Elisha said; As Yehowah is living and as your soul is living, I will not leave you. So they went down to Bethel. (2 Kings 2:2)**
- **Then the sons of the prophets that were at Bethel came out to Elisha and said to him; Do you really know that today Yehowah is taking your master from headship over you? At this he said; I, too, well know it. Be silent. (2 Kings 2:3)**
- ****Elijah** now said to him; Elisha, sit here, please, because Yehowah himself has sent me to Jericho. But he said; As Yehowah is living and as your soul is living, I will not leave you. So they came on to Jericho. (2 Kings 2:4)**
- **Then the sons of the prophets that were at Jericho approached Elisha and said to him; Do you really know that today Yehowah is taking your master from headship over you? At this he said; I, too, well know it. Be silent. (2 Kings 2:5)**
- ****Elijah** now said to him; Sit here, please, because Yehowah himself has sent me to the Jordan. But he said; As Yehowah is living and as your soul is living, I will not leave you. So both of them went on. (2 Kings 2:6)**
- **And there were fifty men of the sons of the prophets that went and kept standing in view at a distance, but, as for both of them, they stood by the Jordan. (2 Kings 2:7)**
- **Then **Elijah** took his official garment and wrapped it up and struck the waters, and gradually they were divided this way and that way, so that both of them went across on the dry ground. (2 Kings 2:8)**
- **And it came about that as soon as they had gone across **Elijah** himself said to Elisha; Ask what I should do for you before I am taken from you. To this Elisha said; Please, that two parts in**

your spirit may come to me. (2 Kings 2:9)

- At that he said; You have asked a difficult thing. If you see me when taken from you, it will happen to you that way, but if you do not, it will not happen. (2 Kings 2:10)
- And it came about that as they were walking along, speaking as they walked, why, look! A fiery war chariot and fiery horses, and they proceeded to make a separation between them both, and **Elijah** went ascending in the windstorm to the heavens. (2 Kings 2:11)
- All the while Elisha was seeing it, and he was crying out; My father, my father, the war chariot of Israel and his horsemen! And he did not see him anymore. Consequently he took hold of his own garments and ripped them into two pieces. (2 Kings 2:12)
- After that he picked up the official garment of **Elijah** that had fallen off him, and went back and stood by the shore of the Jordan. (2 Kings 2:13)
- To this he said; I have been absolutely jealous for Yehowah the God of armies, for the sons of Israel have left your covenant, your altars they have torn down, and your prophets they have killed with the sword, so that I only am left, and they begin looking for my soul to take it away. (1 Kings 19:10)
- To this he said; I have been absolutely jealous for Yehowah the God of armies, for the sons of Israel have left your covenant, your altars they have torn down, and your prophets they have killed with the sword, so that I only am left, and they begin looking for my soul to take it away. (1 Kings 19:14)
- For he should recognize as the firstborn the hated ones son by giving him two parts in everything he is found to have, because that one is the beginning of his generative power. The right of the firstborns position belongs to him. (Deuteronomy 21:17)
- **Elijah** does not die at this time, nor does he go into the invisible spirit realm, but he is transferred to another prophetic assignment.
- Moreover, no man has ascended into heaven but he that descended from heaven, the Son of man. (John 3:13)

- This is shown by the fact that Elisha does not hold any period of mourning for his master. A number of years after his ascension in the windstorm **Elijah** is still alive and active as a prophet, this time to the king of Judah. Because of the wicked course taken by King Jehoram of Judah, **Elijah** writes him a letter expressing Yehowah's condemnation, which is fulfilled shortly thereafter.
- Eventually there came a writing to him from **Elijah** the prophet, saying; This is what Yehowah the God of David your forefather has said; Due to the fact that you have not walked in the ways of Jehoshaphat your father or in the ways of Asa the king of Judah. (2 Chronicles 21:12)
- But you walk in the way of the kings of Israel and cause Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to have immoral intercourse the same way that the house of Ahab caused the having of immoral intercourse, and even your own brothers, the household of your father, who were better than you, you have killed. (2 Chronicles 21:13)
- Look! Yehowah is dealing a great blow to your people and to your sons and to your wives and to all your goods. (2 Chronicles 21:14)
- And you will be with many sicknesses, with a malady of your intestines, until your intestines have come out because of the sickness day by day. (2 Chronicles 21:15)

See Also HEAVEN (Ascension to Heaven)

·· Miracles

- Eight miracles are credited to **Elijah** in the Bible account. They are:

- (1) shutting off rain from heaven,
- (2) keeping the flour and oil supply of the widow of Zarephath renewed,
- (3) resurrecting the widows son,
- (4) having fire fall from heaven in answer to prayer,
- (5) having rain break the drought in answer to prayer,
- (6) calling down fire on King Ahaziah's captain and his 50 men,
- (7) calling down fire on a second captain and his 50, and

(8) parting the Jordan River by smiting it with his official garment.

- His ascension to the heavens was also miraculous, but it was the direct act of God, not something initiated by a prayer or proclamation made by **Elijah**.

- **Elijah** was a powerful advocate of the true worship of Yehowah. He did a tremendous destructive work against Baalism in Israel, the work begun by him was carried on by Elisha, and the execution of Jezebel and the destruction of unclean Sidonian Baalism were accomplished by Jehu.

- In **Elijah's** day 7,000, including Obadiah, Ahab's household manager, were found to be faithful to Yehowah, **Elijah** doubtless strengthened some of them greatly. **Elijah** appointed Elisha as his successor, but the anointing of Hazael and that of Jehu were left for Elisha to carry out.

- The apostle Paul undoubtedly refers to **Elijah** when he speaks of Samuel and the other prophets, who through faith effected righteousness. Women received their dead by resurrection. He is therefore among the cloud of faithful witnesses of old.

- And what more shall I say? For the time will fail me if I go on to relate about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David as well as Samuel and the other prophets. (**Hebrews 11:32**)

- Who through faith defeated kingdoms in conflict, effected righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions. (**Hebrews 11:33**)

- Stayed the force of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, from a weak state were made powerful, became valiant in war, routed the armies of foreigners. (**Hebrews 11:34**)

- Women received their dead by resurrection, but other men were tortured because they would not accept release by some ransom, in order, that they might attain a better resurrection. (**Hebrews 11:35**)

- So, then, because we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also put off every weight and the sin that easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us. (**Hebrews 12:1**)

- The disciple James points to **Elijah** as proof of the efficacy of prayers of a man with feelings like ours, who righteously serves God.
- Therefore openly confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may get healed. A righteous man's supplication, when it is at work, has much force. (**James 5:16**)
- **Elijah** was a man with feelings like ours, and yet in prayer he **prayed for it not to rain**, and it did not rain upon the land for three years and six months. (**James 5:17**)
- And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the land put forth its fruit. (**James 5:18**)

•• Work Prophetic Of Things To Come

- About 450 years after **Elijah's** time, Malachi prophesied that **Elijah** the prophet would appear before the coming of the great and fear-inspiring day of Yehowah.
- Look! I am sending to you people **Elijah** the prophet before the coming of the great and fear-inspiring day of Yehowah. (**Malachi 4:5**)
- And he must turn the heart of fathers back toward sons, and the heart of sons back toward fathers, in order, that I may not come and actually strike the earth with a devoting of it to destruction. (**Malachi 4:6**)
- The Jews of Jesus day were in expectation of **Elijah's** coming to fulfill this prophecy.
- However, the disciples put the question to him; Why, then, do the scribes say that **Elijah** must come first? (**Matthew 17:10**)
- Some thought that Jesus was **Elijah**.
- They said; Some say John the Baptist, others **Elijah**, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets. (**Matthew 16:14**)
- John the Baptizer, who wore a hair garment and a leather girdle around his loins as did **Elijah**, denied that he actually was **Elijah** in person.

- So they said to him; A man possessing a hair garment, with a leather belt girded about his loins. Immediately he said; It was **Elijah** the Tishbite. (**2 Kings 1:8**)
- But this very John had his clothing of camels hair and a leather girdle around his loins, his food too was insect locusts and wild honey. (**Matthew 3:4**)
- And they asked him; What, then? Are you **Elijah**? And he said; **I am not**. Are you The Prophet? And he answered; No! (**John 1:21**)
- The angel had not told John's father Zechariah that John would be **Elijah**, but that he would have **Elijah's spirit and power** to get ready for Yehowah a prepared people.
- Also, he will go before him with **Elijah's** spirit and power, to turn back the hearts of fathers to children and the disobedient ones to the practical wisdom of righteous ones, to get ready for Yehowah a prepared people. (**Luke 1:17**)
- Jesus indicated that John did that work but was not recognized by the Jews.
- In reply he said; **Elijah**, indeed, is coming and will restore all things. (**Matthew 17:11**)
- However, I say to you that **Elijah** has already come and they did not recognize him but did with him the things they wanted. In this way also the Son of man is destined to suffer at their hands. (**Matthew 17:12**)
- Then the disciples perceived that he spoke to them about John the Baptist. (**Matthew 17:13**)
- After John's death a visionary appearance of **Elijah** along with Moses occurred at Jesus transfiguration, indicating that there was something yet to take place as represented by the work that **Elijah** had done.
- Furthermore, he went on to say to them; Truly I say to you, There are some of those standing here that will not taste death at all until first they see the kingdom of God already come in

power. (**Mark 9:1**)

- Accordingly six days later Jesus took Peter and James and John along, and brought them up into a lofty mountain to themselves alone. And he was transfigured before them. (**Mark 9:2**)
- And his outer garments became glistening, far whiter than any clothes cleaner on earth could whiten them. (**Mark 9:3**)
- Also, **Elijah** with Moses appeared to them, and they were conversing with Jesus. (**Mark 9:4**)
- And responsively Peter said to Jesus; Rabbi, it is fine for us to be here, so let us erect three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for **Elijah**. (**Mark 9:5**)
- In fact, he did not know what response he should make, for they became quite fearful. (**Mark 9:6**)
- And a cloud formed, overshadowing them, and a voice came out of the cloud; This is my Son, the beloved. Listen to him. (**Mark 9:7**)
- Suddenly, however, they looked around and saw no one with them any longer, except Jesus alone. (**Mark 9:8**)