

The Life and Times of Elijah the prophet (1Kings 17 – 2 Kings 2)

Week 1: Elijah announces himself and spends three years in hidden obscurity, while there is drought

Week 2: Elijah contests with the prophets of Baal and is victorious and then flees for his life

Week 3: Elijah encounters God who speaks to him in a still small voice and is given further orders

Today's reading: 1Kings 16: 29 – 1Kings 17: 9

Setting the scene

- A divided kingdom (Israel and Judah)
 - A succession of wicked kings
 - Ahab was particularly bad
 - God speaks through his prophets
 - Elijah one of a long succession
 - Prophets so different in character
 - Elijah a mighty man of faith yet flawed
 - Privilege and dangers of being a prophet



Kings of Judah and Israel

Saul	1050-1010 BC
David	1010-970
Solomon	970-930

Judah (and Benjamin)					Israel (Ten Northern Tribes)				
King	Reign		Character	Prophets	King	Reign		Character	Prophets
1. Rehoboam	931-913	17 years	Bad	Shemaiah	1. Jeroboam I	931-910	22 years	Bad	Ahijah
2. Abijah	913-911	3 years	Bad		2. Nadab	910-909	2 years	Bad	
3. Asa	911-870	41 years	Good		3. Baasha	909-886	24 years	Bad	
					4. Elah	886-885	2 years	Bad	
					5. Zimri	885	7 days	Bad	
					6. Omri	885-874*	12 years	Bad	Elijah
					7. Ahab	874-853	22 years	Bad	Micaiah
4. Jehoshaphat	870-848*	25 years	Good		8. Ahaziah	853-852	2 years	Bad	
5. Jehoram	848-841*	8 years	Bad		9. Joram	852-841	12 years	Bad	
6. Ahaziah	841	1 years	Bad		10. Jehu	841-814	28 years	Bad	Elisha
7. Athaliah	841-835	6 years	Bad		11. Jehoahaz	814-798	17 years	Bad	
8. Joash	835-796	40 years	Good	Joel	12. Jehoash	798-782	16 years	Bad	
9. Amaziah	796-767	29 years	Good		13. Jeroboam II	782-753*	41 years	Bad	
10. Uzziah (Azariah)	767-740*	52 years	Good	Isaiah Micah	14. Zechariah	753-752	6 mo	Bad	
11. Jotham	740-732*	16 years	Good		15. Shallum	752	1 mo	Bad	
12. Ahaz	732-716	16 years	Bad		16. Menahem	752-742	10 years	Bad	
13. Hezekiah	716-687	29 years	Good		17. Pekahiah	742-740	2 years	Bad	
14. Manasseh	687-642*	55 years	Bad-repent		18. Pekah	740-732*	20 years	Bad	
15. Amon	642-640	2 years	Bad	Nahum Habakkuk Zephaniah	19. Hoshea	732-712	9 years	Bad	
16. Josiah	640-608	31 years	Good		722 BC Fall of Isreal / Assyrian Captivity				
17. Jehoahaz	608	3 mo	Bad						
18. Jehoiakim	608-597	11 years	Bad						
19. Jehoiachin	597	3 mos	Bad	Daniel Ezekiel Jeremiah					
20. Zedekiah	597-586	11 years	Bad						
Destruction of Jerusalem, 9th Av, 586 BC, Babylonian Captivity									

18 • The Prophets of the Old Testament (870 bc – 465 bc)

Prophet*	Prophesied	Kings Who Ruled During Prophet's Time	Approximate Date (bc)	Prophet's Place of Birth
Elijah	To Israel	Ahab, Ahaziah, Joram	870-845	Tishbe
Elisha	To Israel	Joram, Jehu, Jehoahaz	845-800	Abel Meholah
Isaiah	To Judah	Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, Hezekiah, Manasseh	760-673	Jerusalem
Jeremiah	To Judah	Manasseh, Amon, Josiah, Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, Zedekiah	650-582	Anathoth
Ezekiel	To Exiles in Babylon	Josiah, Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, Zedekiah, Babylonian Exile	620-570	Jerusalem
Daniel	To Exiles in Babylon	Josiah, Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, Zedekiah, Babylonian Exile	620-540	Judah (Jerusalem?)
Hosea	To Israel	Jeroboam II, Zechariah, Shallum, Menahem, Pekahiah, Pekah, Hoshea	758-725	Israel
Joel	To Judah	Governor Ezra	450	Jerusalem
Amos	To Israel	Jeroboam II	765-754	Tekoa**
Obadiah	Concerning Edom	Zedekiah	590	Jerusalem
Jonah	To Nineveh	Jeroboam II	781	Gath Hepher**
Micah	To Judah	Jotham, Ahaz, Hezekiah, Manasseh	738-698	Moresheth-gath**
Nahum	Concerning Nineveh	Manasseh, Amon, Josiah	658-615	Elkosh**
Habakkuk	To Judah	Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin	608-598	Unknown
Zephaniah	To Judah	Amon, Josiah	640-626	Unknown
Haggai	To Judah	Governor Zerubbabel	520	Jerusalem
Zechariah	To Judah	Governor Zerubbabel	522-509	Jerusalem
Malachi	To Judah	Governor Zerubbabel	465	Jerusalem

* Prophets are listed in the order they are found in the Bible.

** Exact location unknown.

Elijah referred to elsewhere

And there came a writing to him from Elijah the prophet, saying, Thus saith the Lord God of David thy father, Because thou hast not walked in the ways of Jehoshaphat thy father, nor in the ways of Asa king of Judah, 2Chronicles 21:12

Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. Malachi 4:5

And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Matthew 17:3

But I tell you that Elijah has already come, and they did not recognize him, but did to him whatever they pleased. So also the Son of Man will certainly suffer at their hands. Matthew 17:12

Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. James 5:17

Elijah announces himself

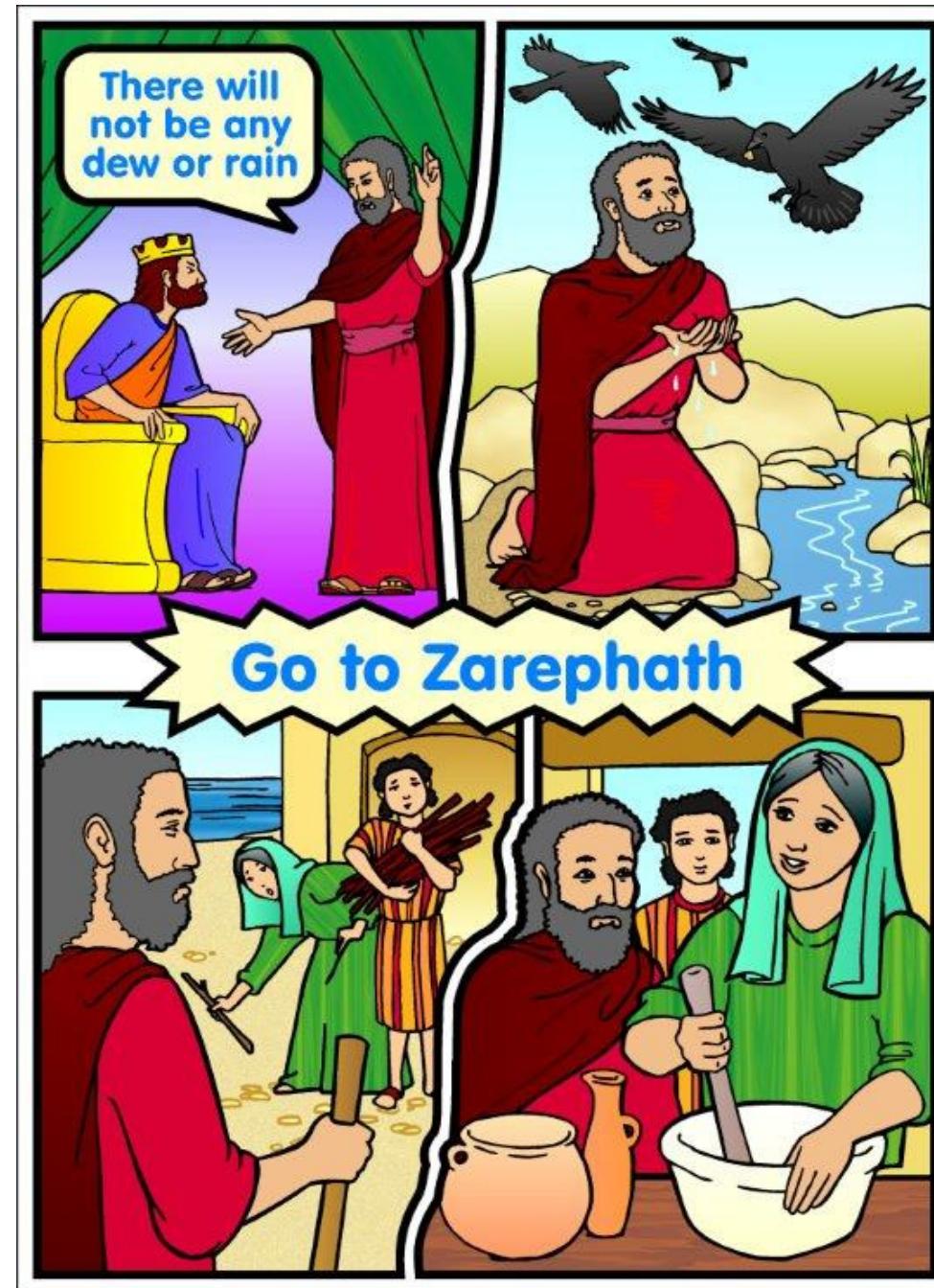
And Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the inhabitants of Gilead, said unto Ahab, As the LORD God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word. 1 Kings 17:1

... and then goes into exile ...



Two episodes to consider

- Elijah stays at Cherith and is fed by ravens
- Elijah stays with the widow and her son



Elijah at Cherith



Elijah and the widow

