

ELIJAH'S PROPHETIC OATH

Today we introduce the first lesson in a new series of studies entitled, **The Life of Elijah**, taken from (1 Kings 17:1 thru 2 Kings 2:18).

Elijah's ministry was that of a national prophet to the North Kingdom, dating from King Ahab to King Joram. King Ahab was the eighth king, beginning with Jeroboam and the dividing of the Priest-Nation of Israel into two states, the North and South Kingdoms (930BC).

Most of his ministry was during the reign of the King Ahab and queen Jezebel (1 Kings 17-22).

(1 Kings 16:29b) "And Ahab the son of Omri reigned over Israel in Samaria twenty-two years."

God's description of King Ahab.

(1 Kings 16:30) "**Ahab** the son of Omri **did evil in the sight of the Lord** more than all who were before him."

(1 Kings 16:33) "**Ahab did more to provoke the Lord God of Israel** than all the kings of Israel who were before him."

The Prophet Elijah had his work cut out for him in a nation being saturated with evil.

Five aspects of Elijah's Prophetic Oath given in his introduction to King Ahab in (1 Kings 17:1).

1. The prophet Elijah suddenly appeared on the national stage.

We know nothing about his personal life prior to (1 Kings 17).

However, Elijah is well known under the New Covenant by his associated with Jesus Christ. He is mentioned **20 times in the New Testament** (Matthew (7x); Mark (6x); Luke (4x); John (1x). Romans (1x); and James (1x).

- One way to look at the name of Elijah in the Old Covenant was **(My God is my Lord)**.
- Another way to look at it in the New Covenant is **(My Lord is my God)** (John 14:9; 20:28; Col. 1:15).

2. Elijah introduced himself to King Ahab with the Prophetic Oath of authority representing Divine Authority over the Priest-Nation of Israel.

(1 Kings 17:1) "Now Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the settlers of Gilead, said to Ahab,

- **(the oath)** 'As the Lord (Yahweh), the God (Elohim) of Israel lives (chayah/ qal pf), before whom I stand (amad/ qal pf) (I serve as representative), surely (paneh) (face to face),]
- **(the prophecy)** there shall be neither dew nor rain these years, except by my word (the Directive Will of God)."

Elijah is there representing **the Lord, the God of Israel** with a warning to the King of Israel against the worship of Baal (demonic idolatry) (1 Cor. 10:6-7, 14, 19-22).

3. Elijah brought a warning of Divine Discipline of the Five Cycles of Divine Discipline against the North Kingdom (Lev.26:14-48; Deut.28:15-68).

If they chose to worship and serve Baal rather than the Lord, the God of Israel, they will receive the second cycle of Divine Discipline upon their economy (Lev.26:16-20) (read; Deut.28:23-24).

Ahab chose Baal and God's Divine Discipline started immediately and would continue until the fall of the North Kingdom to Assyria in 722BC (2 Pet.3:9; Lev.26:40-46) They ignored this promise.

4. Under King Ahab's reign, evil became the "new normal" for life in Israel.

(1 Kings 16:31) "It came about, **as though it had been a trivial thing** for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebar, that he married Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Sidonians, and went to serve Baal and worshiped him."

King Ahab had made Baal a state supported religion as a gift to Jezebel. With the king and state legal system behind her, she persecuted the Divine Agency and Custodians of the Word of God and Evangelism. By the time Elijah confronted the King, she forced them underground.

Even Elijah was not aware of the number of Pivot Believers underground. God had to reveal it to him! (1 Kings 19:18) 7000 (Rom. 11:1-6) Paul.

Elijah was the public voice of God and the face of the pivot [Ambassadorship] (2 Cor.5:17-21).

5. In our last study, we covered Effective Prayer Life, from (James 5:16b-18) and (1 Kings 17-18).

James used Elijah's prayer life to teach - "The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much." (Jas.5:16b)

(Jas.5:17) "**Elijah was a man with a nature like (homoioopathes) ours**, and he prayed earnestly (using the proper protocol) **that it would not rain**, and it did not rain on the earth for **three years and six months**." (Divine Discipline: drought and national economic collapse!)

(Jas.5:18) "**And he prayed again**, and the sky poured rain, and the earth produced its fruit." (Economic Restoration).