

CC OLD BC TESTAMENT SURVEY

1 KINGS PART 6 (1 Kings 17—2 Kings 2)

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COMING UP... MAR 17: 2 Kings part 1 (chs. 3-8) MAR 24: 2 Kings part 2 (chs. 9-15) MAR 31 NO CLASS (Easter) APR 7: 2 Kings part 3 (chs. 15-17)

1 KINGS 17—2 KINGS 2

What was a prophet?

- One specially called by God to speak for Him
- May have had just one message (e.g. Jonah) or a lifetime of messages (e.g. Jeremiah)
- One of great faith and courage

What was a prophet's role in Israel and Judah?

- To expose the sin(s) of the king or the people
- To remind the king of God's covenant promises
- To be the godly "conscience" of the state

They were God's mouthpieces

They were God's ambassadors

Ultimately, they were God's servants

- To go where He sent them
- To say what He told them

LESSON THEME: 5 characteristics of God's servants

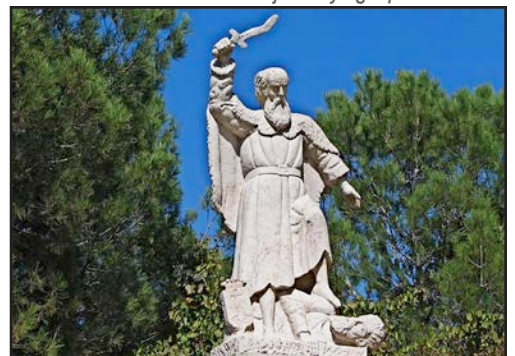
Mount Carmel



Views from atop Mount Carmel



Mount Carmel statue of Elijah slaying a priest of Baal



God's Servants ...

Have first been trained by Him in private (17)

Like Elijah

- To depend on God's provision
- To wait on God's timing (Lk 4:25-27)
- To pray for God's will (Jas 5:17)
- To learn contentment in all circumstances
- To learn that the obedient servant can count on the Lord's faithful provision
- To learn suffering

How does this apply to us?

- Are you available, or "off limits" to God?
- Are you serving and waiting faithfully in your current "behind the scenes" assignment?
- Have you learned to be patient and content?
- Have you grown in your practice of prayer?
- Have you learned to trust in spite of suffering?

Fearlessly minister in public (18)

Like Elijah

- Unashamed to be known as God's man
- Stands tall with God amidst the ungodly
- Calls on the ungodly to repent
- Trusts God for the impossible
- Doesn't tolerate evil
- Prays

How does this apply to us?

- Are you unashamed to be known as God's?
- Do you stand tall with God amidst the ungodly?
- Do you speak to the ungodly about God?
- Do others see you trust God for the impossible?
- Do you tolerate evil?

Must guard against discouragement (19)

Like Elijah

- Great despair and discouragement often follow great victory
- Despair and discouragement often come to the "Lone Ranger"
- Despair and discouragement are often caused by pride, ignorance or unmet expectations
- Despair and discouragement abate by spending time with God

How does this apply to us?

- Are you discouraged in your service?
- Are you serving as a "Lone Ranger?"
- Do you allow pride, ignorance or unmet expectations to make you discouraged?
- Are you spending adequate time alone with God?

Faithfully speak His Word in every situation (1 Kings 20—2 Kings 1)

Like an unnamed prophet, Elijah and Micaiah

- Offer messages of hope
- Wait for a response of repentance
- Deliver messages of judgment
- Speak in the confidence that God's authority can be resisted but never overcome

How does this apply to us?

- Do you offer messages of hope to others?
- Do you wait for a response *before* offering more counsel?
- Do you back away from sharing messages of warning or judgment?

Give their lives away in His service (2 Kings 2)

Like Elijah

- Elijah gave his life away in God's service
- Elisha gave his life away to God's service (1 Kin 19; 2 Kin 2)

How does this apply to us?

- How are you spending your one and only life?
- Are you giving it away in service to the Lord?



"Elijah Fed by the Ravens" by James Tissot



"The Prophets of Baal Leap Upon the Altar" by James Tissot



"Fire From Heaven Consumes the Sacrifice" by James Tissot

5 Characteristics of God's Servants

- They've first been trained by Him in private
 - They serve Him fearlessly in public
 - They're on-guard regarding discouragement
 - They faithfully speak God's Word in every situation
 - They're actively and presently giving away their one and only life in His service
- Question: Does this describe you?



"Elijah Raises the Widow's Son" by James Tissot

FOR NEXT TIME: _____

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YOUTUBE VIDEOS + HANDOUTS *Private link; page is not searchable*: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLGhfjAlhYpqC2XYXZJXiwt_8g7P3qhF

PODCAST: <https://feeds.transistor.fm/old-testament-survey>

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1 & 2 KINGS IN CONTRAST

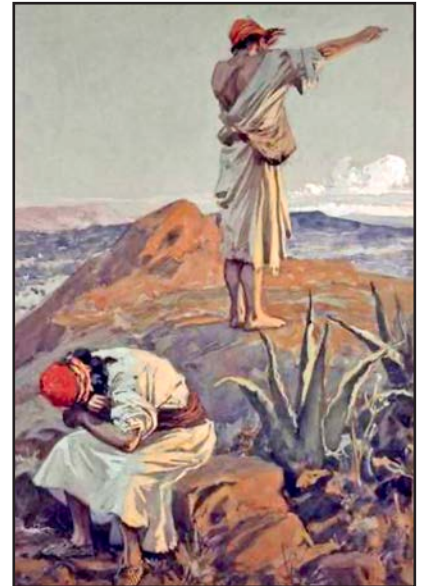
1 Kings

Begins with King David
 Opens with Solomon's glory
 Begins with the blessings of obedience
 Opens with the building of the Temple
 Traces the progress of apostasy
 Shows how kings failed to rule God's people
 Introduces the prophet Elijah
 Emphasizes the patience of the Lord

2 Kings

Ends with the king of Babylon
 Closes with Jehoiachin's shame
 Ends with the curse of disobedience
 Closes with the burning of the Temple
 Describes the consequences of apostasy
 Depicts the consequences of that failure
 Introduces the prophet Elisha
 Confirms the Lord's sure punishment of sin

The Byrne Study Bible: Expanded Edition, © 1995 Moody Bible Institute



"Elisha From Mount Carmel Sees a Cloud Afar Off" by James Tissot



"The Children Devoured by Bears" by James Tissot



"Ahab Pierced by an Arrow" by James Tissot



"Jezebel Advises Arab" by James Tissot



"Elijah Ascends in a Chariot of Fire" by James Tissot



"Elijah Runs Before the Chariot of Ahab" by James Tissot



"Elijah Bringeth Fire From Heaven" by James Tissot

ELIJAH AND ELISHA

- City
- City (uncertain location)
- ▲ Mountain peak
- ← Possible flight of Elijah
- Elisha follows Elijah and becomes his disciple



Similar Ministries

Elijah

Elisha

Natural disaster

- Pronounces a drought *1 Kings 17:1,7*
- Prophesies a famine *2 Kings 8:1*

Miraculous food and water

- Is fed by ravens and an angel *1 Kings 17:6; 19:3-8*
- Miraculously feeds others *2 Kings 2:19-22; 4:38-44*

Care for a widow

- Provides flour and oil for widow and her son *1 Kings 17:7-16*
- Fills widow's jar with oil *2 Kings 4:1-7*

Raising of the dead

- Prays and stretches himself on widow's dead son three times; boy's life returns *1 Kings 17:17-24*
- Prays and stretches himself on Shunammite's dead son two times; boy's life returns *2 Kings 4:32-37*

Execution of God's judgment

- Slaughters prophets of Baal *1 Kings 18:40*
- Calls down curse on unruly youths; 42 are mauled by bears *2 Kings 2:23-25*

Prophecy for rain

- Prays for rain and rain comes *1 Kings 18:41-45*
- Prophesies that water will fill ditches in the land; water flows from the land of Edom *2 Kings 3:14-20*

Prediction of monarch's death

- Prophesies the death of Jezebel *1 Kings 21:23; 2 Kings 9:30-37*
- Prophesies the murder of a king *2 Kings 8:10-15*

Passage through the Jordan

- Divides Jordan with cloak and walks through on dry ground *2 Kings 2:7-8*
- Strikes Jordan with cloak; it divides, and he crosses over on dry ground *2 Kings 2:13-14*

Mysterious end of life

- Goes to heaven in a whirlwind; a chariot and horses of fire appear *2 Kings 2:11*
- Dies and is buried; a dead man's body comes to life after touching his bones *2 Kings 13:20-21*