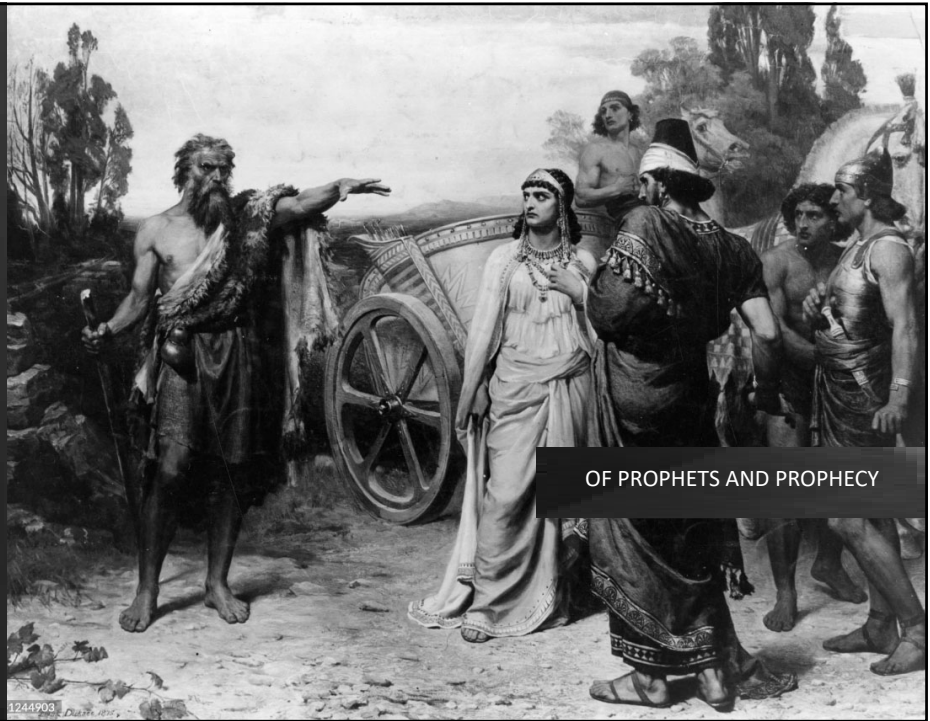


# Lessons from the Life of Elijah



THE WORD OF  
GOD IN THE LIFE  
OF BELIEVERS








OF PROPHETS AND PROPHECY



## Elijah | Like Passions

THE WORD OF GOD IN THE LIFE OF BELIEVERS

OF PROPHETS AND PROPHECY

-  Prophecy always supposes failure and sin.
-  That evil was idolatry.
-  From the patriarchs, God separated unto Himself a favored people
-  This then supplies the key to understanding those OT books known as the "Prophets."
-  The same principle holds true in the NT.



## Elijah | Like Passions

THE WORD OF GOD IN THE LIFE OF BELIEVERS

OF PROPHETS AND PROPHECY

OF PROPHETS AND PROPHECY –



Prophets in whatever age walk alone with God.



The nature of prophets and their message was always twofold. First, to arouse the conscience of God's people. And second, to comfort those people in a day of ruin.

The tool to awaken the conscience and remind people of their responsibility and guilt is always the Word of God applied to existing conditions.

The tool to comfort people in a day of ruin was encouragement, directing their eyes above the ruin and fixing their eyes on future glory.



But these messages are never heeded by more than an insignificant number of people.



## Elijah | Like Passions

THE WORD OF GOD IN THE LIFE OF BELIEVERS

OF PROPHETS AND PROPHECY

The appearance on the scene of a prophet of God indicates . . .

1. A season of departure from the Lord (usually starting with syncretism)
2. His message is necessitated by the gross failure of those that preceded him
3. His chief work is to awaken the slumbering public conscience and to call for repentance and return to the Lord
4. His message is most unpalatable for it deals with sin, righteousness and judgment to come
5. Accordingly, his message is rejected by the masses, with only a remnant responding








## Elijah | Like Passions

THE WORD OF GOD IN THE LIFE OF BELIEVERS

ELIJAH'S DRAMATIC APPEARANCE

THE APPEARANCE ON THE SCENE OF A PROPHET OF GOD INDICATES . . .

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ELIJAH'S DRAMATIC APPEARANCE

ELIJAH STEPS ONTO THE STAGE OF PUBLIC ACTION AT THE BEGINNING OF 1 KINGS 17. WHY?

-  Because Israel had flagrantly and repeatedly departed from their God. Never before had the favored Nation sunk so low.
-  58 years had passed since the death of Solomon. The fall of Solomon (1 Kings 11:1-13).  
*Solomon loved many foreign women besides Pharaoh's daughter—Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians and Hittites so his wives turned his heart after other gods, and his heart was not fully devoted to the LORD his God, as the heart of David his father had been. And although he had forbidden Solomon to follow other gods, Solomon did not keep the LORD's command. So the LORD said to Solomon, "Since this is your attitude and you have not kept my covenant and my decrees, which I commanded you, I will most certainly tear the kingdom away from you and give it to one of your subordinates.*
-  Since Solomon, 7 kings reigned over the 10 tribes, and without exception all of them were wicked men.









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ELIJAH'S DRAMATIC APPEARANCE

### WHO WERE THE 7 KINGS?

-  The first was Jeroboam (1 Kings 12:25-32)
-  Next Nadab (1 Kings 15:26)
-  Then Baasha (1 Kings 15:27-30)
-  Next is Elah, a drunkard (1 Kings 16:8-10) who was murdered by Zimri (16:9-20).
-  Omri, an opportunist general, is next (1 Kings 16:25-26)
-  Finally, Ahab



## Elijah | Like Passions

THE WORD OF GOD IN THE LIFE OF BELIEVERS

ELIJAH'S DRAMATIC APPEARANCE

### WHY WAS AHAB SO EVIL?

*Ahab son of Omri did more evil in the eyes of the LORD than any of those before him. He not only considered it trivial to commit the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, but he also married Jezebel daughter of Ethbaal king of the Sidonians, and began to serve Baal and worship him. – 1 Kings 16:30-31*

*(There was never anyone like Ahab, who sold himself to do evil in the eyes of the LORD, urged on by Jezebel his wife. He behaved in the vilest manner by going after idols, like the Amorites the LORD drove out before Israel.) – 1 Kings 21:25-26*

NEXT WEEK | HOW DID WE GET HERE? A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE OLD TESTAMENT