

## **ELIJAH: A MAN OF HEROISM AND HUMILITY**

**Elijah – a remarkable man who lived one of the most amazing lives that anyone has ever lived! Here are some of his life highlights (what a resume!):**

- **He was one of only two people that never died! (other was Enoch)**
- **According to the Bible, he was the first person to raise somebody from the dead, and one of only five people to ever do so (Elijah, Elisha, Jesus, Paul, Peter).**
- **The hero in one of the greatest events of all-time --- the showdown on Mount Carmel against the 450 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of Asherah!**
- **His “spirit” was connected to the ministry of John the Baptist.**
- **He appeared at the transfiguration of Jesus along with Moses.**
- **Is widely speculated to be one of the two prophets mentioned in Revelation that could play an important role in end-time events.**
- **Lived a life with remarkable similarity to life of Christ (spent time alone; showed courage in presence of enemies when delivering message of God; felt compassion towards widow who lost a child and raised child from dead; had a time of anguish; taken to heaven at final departure).**

### **1. THE STAGE**

#### **The Setting**

At the end of King Solomon’s life a civil war broke out in the nation of Israel. Eventually the nation divided into a Northern Kingdom (usually called Israel) and a Southern Kingdom (usually called Judah). This division remained until both kingdoms fell to foreign invaders, and the Jews were led away into captivity.

From the beginning of that division until Israel’s captivity, a period of well over two hundred years, the northern kingdom had 19 monarchs, all of them evil! The environment of evil prevailed in Israel until the Assyrians invaded in 722 B.C.

The southern kingdom of Judah was under the leadership of 17 rulers for over 300 years. Eight of these monarchs were “good”; nine were “evil”. The southern kingdom ended with the destruction of Jerusalem in 586 B.C. and the subsequent seventy-year Babylonian captivity. Southern kingdom was later revived when men like Nehemiah, Ezra and Zerubbabel returned from exile, rebuilt the temple and restored worship of the one true God.

## **The Location & Time**

Elijah lived in the Northern Kingdom of Israel, which was ruled by King Ahab from 874 to 853 B.C. This was a very dark time in Israel's history, and God decided to send a prophet named Elijah to revive His people.

## **2. THE CHARACTERS**

- a) **Elijah (yeah!)** – a prophet of God. His name means “My God is Jehovah” or “The Lord is my God”. Came from obscure town of Tishbite (in a sense came from nowhere!).
- b) **God (yeah!)** – what more can you say?
- c) **Baal (boo!)** – Baal means “lord”. He was a false god worshipped as god of rain and fertility. Worship of Baal involved sacred prostitution and sometimes even child sacrifice.
- d) **Asherah (boo!)** – Another false god – a female deity who consorted with Baal.
- e) **King Ahab (boo!)** – was the most evil king that had ever lived! Son of King Omri, who was the most evil King to that point! “Like father, like son”. Married the wicked Jezebel.
- f) **Queen Jezebel (boo!)** – was the daughter of King Ethbaal of Tyre, and an ardent Baal worshipper. Jezebel was a very domineering, wicked Queen. She brought Baal worship into Israel when she married King Ahab.

## **3. THE PLOTS & 4. THE POINTS**

### **Major Events/Plots in the Story:**

- a) **I Kings 16:29-33** [We meet King Ahab & Queen Jezebel]

**What points can we make and what are the lessons can we learn?**

- b) **I Kings 17:1** [Enter Elijah – “In Your Face Ahab!”]

**What points can we make and what are the lessons can we learn?**

**c) I Kings 17:2-6 [Boot Camp at Kerith]**

**What points can we make and what are the lessons can we learn?**

**d) I Kings 17:7-24 [Widow at Zarephath – a Time for Advanced Training]**

**What points can we make and what are the lessons can we learn?**

**e) I Kings 18:1-2, 16-40 [Showdown of the Ages!]**

**What points can we make and what are the lessons can we learn?**

**f) I Kings 18:41-46 [A Man of God ... A Promise of God]**

**What points can we make and what are the lessons can we learn?**

**g) I Kings 19:1-21 [Sure Cure for the Blues]**

**What points can we make and what are the lessons can we learn?**

**h) I Kings 21:1-29 [God says “Enough is Enough”]**

**What points can we make and what are the lessons can we learn?**

**i) II Kings 1:1-18 [Watch Out for the Enemy]**

**What points can we make and what are the lessons can we learn?**

**j) II Kings 2:1-14 [What a Way to Go!]**

**What points can we make and what are the lessons can we learn?**

**CONCLUSION/SUMMARY**