

=MAJOR CHARACTERS OF THE BIBLE=

Lesson 6

Elijah

INTRODUCTION: Elijah is one of the greatest men in all the Bible. His ministry was during the reign of the wicked king, Ahab, who married the rebellious woman, Jezebel. Jezebel henpecked Ahab terribly and became the most bitter enemy of Elijah. Let us notice some of the things in the life of Elijah that are of interest.

- I. IN GOD'S WILL, THERE IS PROVISION.
 1. God provided a "hamburger" at Cherith. See I Kings 17:2-7.
 2. God provided "pancakes" at Zarephath. Notice I Kings 17:10-16.
 3. In the will of God, God takes care of His own. The safest place, the best place, the fullest place to be is directly in the will of God. When we are doing what our Father says to do, He is duty bound to care for us.

- II. ELIJAH'S ENEMIES. Jezebel had her own ministerial group. They were an organized group cared for by her, and they knew not God. There were 450 of these men. See I Kings 18:22. These were men who were the enemies of Elijah.

- III. ELIJAH ON MOUNT CARMEL. This is the story of the praying down of fire from Heaven. Elijah challenged the 450 prophets of Baal to a contest to see who really was God, whether it be Baal or Jehovah. He suggested that they build an altar, put a bullock on the altar, pray down fire, and see which bullock would be accepted by the Lord. The prophets of Baal tried and tried and failed, of course. Elijah succeeded, and fire came from God. The account of all that happened is truly an amazing story.
 1. It has humor. See I Kings 18:27.
 2. It has faith. Notice I Kings 18:32-35.
 3. It has power. Read I Kings 18:38.
 4. It has conversions. See I Kings 18:39.
 5. It has miracles. Review I Kings 18:42-45.

- IV. ELIJAH GOT DISCOURAGED. See I Kings 19:1-7, 14, 18. This is somewhat a blessing. Elijah was backslidden to be sure, and yet this story reminds us that the greatest prophets of God have their times of discouragement and weakness. Notice an interesting thing about this story.
 1. Elijah was not afraid of 450 men, but he ran from one bossy woman. Notice I Kings 19:1-3.
 2. Elijah became hypocritical. In I Kings 19:4, he asked to die, and yet, at the same time, he was running for his life, and he ran from Jezebel!
 3. What a picture of the security of the believer! See I Kings 19:5-7. The fact that we are away from God does **not** mean that we are not His children and that He will not care for us.
 4. Elijah thought he was the only one. Read I Kings 19:14. Have you ever been there? Did you ever feel alone?
 5. There were 7,000 others! Notice I Kings 19:18. Though they may be scattered, God has His people.

- V. ELIJAH IS LIKE WE ARE. Read James 5:17, 18. What a blessing to know that great men of God have the same needs and weaknesses we have!

- VI. ELIJAH DID NOT DIE! See II Kings 2:11. The only other man in the Bible that did not die was Enoch.

- VII. ELIJAH WILL COME AGAIN! Review Revelation 11:3-12. For three and a half years, Elijah and either Enoch or Moses will come back to preach on the earth. This will be during the Tribulation Period.
 1. Fire will proceed out of their mouths, and God will protect them. See Revelation 11:5.
 2. They will be killed by the Antichrist in Jerusalem. Read Revelation 11:7, 8.
 3. There shall be a party for three and a half days, rejoicing over their death. See Revelation 11:9, 10.
 4. They shall be raised from the dead and go back to Heaven! Notice Revelation 11:11, 12.

CONCLUSION: There is not a more colorful figure in all the Bible than Elijah. May God give us some more Elijahs and some who say with Elisha after Elijah's departure, "Where is the Lord God of Elijah?" God is the same as He always was! The Lord hasn't changed; we just desperately need some Elijahs!