

Celestial Grace Temple

Who Was Elijah?

Elijah is considered to be the greatest and boldest of all the Old Testament biblical prophets.

He was a wonder-worker in the northern kingdom of Israel during the reign of King Ahab (9th century B.C.) According to biblical history, referenced in the [Books of Kings](#), Elijah defended the worship of Yahweh (the living spiritual God) over that of the Canaanite God, Baal which was considered as idol worship (to a graven image of a false God).

Elijah was known to have raised the dead, brought fire down from the sky, and was taken up into the heavens "by a whirlwind."

Elijah boldly stood up for God in a time when idolatry (the worship of an object or false God) had swept his land. In fact, his name means "My God is Yah(weh)."

The false God he opposed was Baal, the favorite deity of Jezebel (the wife of King Ahab of Israel). To please his wife Jezebel, King Ahab had altars erected to Baal, and allowed the queen to murder or imprison anyone that she believed was a prophet of God.

Elijah appeared before King Ahab to announce God's curse: "As the LORD, the God of Israel, lives, whom I serve, there will be neither dew nor rain in the next few years except at my word." (First Kings 17:1).

Then Elijah fled to the brook Cherith, east of the Jordan River, where ravens brought him bread and meat. When the brook dried up, God sent Elijah to live with a widow in Zarephath. God performed another miracle there, blessing the woman's oil and flour so it did not run out. Unexpectedly, the widow's son died. Elijah stretched himself on the boy's body three times, and God restored the child's life.

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Confident in the power of God, Elijah challenged the 450 prophets of Baal and the 400 prophets of the false God Asherah to a showdown on Mount Carmel.

The idolaters sacrificed a bull and cried out to Baal from morning until nightfall, even slashing their skin until blood flowed, but nothing happened. Elijah then rebuilt the altar of the Lord, sacrificing a bull there.

He put the burnt offering on it, along with wood. He had a servant douse the sacrifice and wood with four jars of water, three times, until all was thoroughly soaked. Elijah called on the Lord, and God's fire fell from heaven, consuming the offering, the wood, the altar, the water, and even the dust around it.

The people fell on their faces, shouting, "The Lord, He is God; the Lord, He is God." (First Kings 18:39). Elijah ordered the people to slay the 850 false prophets. Then Elijah prayed, and rain fell on Israel and the drought came to an end.

Jezebel was furious at the loss of her prophets and demanded of her husband, King Ahab to have Elijah killed.

After being informed of the queen's wrath and her desire to have him killed, Elijah fled into the wilderness, sat under a broom tree, and in his despair, asked God to take his life. Instead, the prophet slept, and an angel brought him food; then strengthened Elijah went 40 days and 40 nights to Mount Horeb, where God appeared to him in a whisper.

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God ordered Elijah to anoint his successor, Elisha, whom he found plowing with 12 yoke of oxen. Elisha killed the animals for a sacrifice and followed his master. Elijah went on to prophesy the deaths of Ahab, King Ahaziah, and Jezebel.

Like [Enoch](#), Elijah did not die. God sent chariots and horses of fire and took Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind, while Elisha stood watching.

Accomplishments of Prophet Elijah:

Elijah appeared in the Land of Israel at a most crucial time. The Land of Israel was then divided into two kingdoms: the kingdom of Judah and the kingdom of the Ten Tribes.

On the throne of the latter sat King Ahab, but the true ruler of the land was his wife, Queen Jezebel, originally a Phoenician princess who never gave up her Phoenician way of life.

Her influence was very great not merely over her husband, but throughout the kingdom, and as a result, the worship of the Baal, the god of the Phoenicians, spread with ever greater force, and was the cause of much trouble that befell the land of Israel.

Elijah had incredible faith in God. He loyally carried out the Lord's instructions and struck boldly in the face of enormous opposition.

Under God's guidance, Elijah struck a heavy blow against the evil of worshiping false Gods. He had unwavering strength and was an instrument for miracles against Israel's idolaters.

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May the grace of God be with you always --- Amen.

Pastor Andy Anderson

Celestial Grace Ministry