

# *Resurrection Life of Jesus Church*

## ISRAEL: PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE

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### PART 10: REBUKING THE KING

#### **NATURAL DISASTERS**

Are natural disasters just that? Are they natural or a creation of mankind manipulating the weather or are they a judgment of God? **Amos 4:7-13; Revelation 7:1-3**

#### **ELIJAH**

Elijah never wrote a book but he was one of the strongest prophets in the northern kingdom of Israel. His name means "My God is Yahweh." He was from the city of Tishbe in Gilead and this is why he was known as Elijah the Tishbite. Nothing more is known about him or his family.

#### **CONFRONTING KING AHAB**

Elijah was a brave man to challenge King Ahab, who had the power to order the death of any person that opposed him. Ahab was a wicked ruler of the northern kingdom of Israel. He married the King of Zidon's daughter, Jezebel, and she immediately ordered places of worship set up across Israel where people could go a whoring after Baal. **1 Kings 16:29-33**

Elijah confronted Ahab because of this evil and flat out told the king there would be no rain because of the idolatry. **1 Kings 17:1**

We don't know what Ahab said in response, but God spoke to Elijah and told him to go into hiding, where he would be supernaturally supplied with food. **verses 2-7**

As the drought became severe, the brook where Elijah was staying dried up and God sent him out of Israel to a small city in Zidon. He was told that a widow would care for him until God called him back into Israel. **verses 8**

#### **MIRACLES FROM GOD**

Elijah took a step of faith when he finally met the widow woman, believing that God would perform a miracle. It took the joint faith of the prophet and the woman to make it happen. **verses 9-16**

There is an old saying that there is always a snake in a paradise, and in this case, the Devil decided to disrupt God's program by killing the woman's son. **verses 17-18**

Elijah reacted in the same manner as Job; he thought that God had killed the young man. Nevertheless, in faith, he asked the widow to give him the corpse, and once he had brought it to his room, he laid on top of the dead boy and cried out to the Lord. God heard his prayer and put life back into the boy. **verses 19-24**

#### **SEEKING OUT KING AHAB**

During the third year of the drought, God spoke to Elijah and told him to seek out Ahab. **1 Kings 18:1-2**



The deficiency of rain was so severe that Ahab ordered his governor, Obadiah, to seek out possible feed for the horses and mules. **verses 3-6**

Elijah met Obadiah and told him to get Ahab, but instead of going to find the king, Obadiah expressed great fear. **verses 7-15**

When Obadiah returned with King Ahab, Elijah did not mince his words, but confronted the king and challenged him to a contest between God and Baal. **verses 16-20**

## **THE CONTEST**

Elijah was full of faith in God and without fear challenged all the Baal prophets to compete against him. **verses 21-25**

I am sure that Satan, his fallen angels and demons were all eagerly watching this showdown on Mount Carmel. The word had gone out from God; there would be no interference from Satan's kingdom! **verses 26**

Elijah showed the strength of his faith when he mocked the 450 Baal prophets as they started to cut themselves in an effort to get their god to respond. **verses 27-29**

Elijah prepared an altar in the evening and laid the bullock on it. Then he had people pour water on the wood until it was saturated with water because he wanted all the Israelites to see that when the fire came, it would be supernatural and wasn't just some parlor trick. **verses 30-35**

## **FIRE COMES DOWN**

The moment of truth had come. Would God answer his request? Elijah calmly went close to the altar and prayed a simple prayer that was completely unlike what the prophets of Baal had done. **verses 36-37**

The fire which descended from heaven not only consumed the bullock and the wood, but also the rocks and the water in the trench around the altar. **verse 38**

The contest was over as the people professed that the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob is the one true God of the creation. **verse 39**

## **CLEANING UP**

Elijah must have been a strong man because he led the slaughter of the Baal prophets, cutting off the heads of 450 men. **verse 40**

## **VICTORY RUN**

Ahab lost control of the people on Mount Carmel. He must have been depressed, not knowing what to do. Elijah told him to eat and drink and get ready for the rain. **verses 41-42**

Once again Elijah showed his faith as he instructed his servant to look for rain clouds. In faith he told Ahab to drive back to the city. **verses 43-45**

The power of God was so great in Elijah that he outran the king's chariot all the way to Jezreel in the rain. **verse 46**

***Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!***

***Do you have an ear to hear with?***