



TODAY'S MESSAGE:



Jesus in the Old Testament: Elijah

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Elijah is a prophet in a period of Israel's history where there idolatry and King Ahab has led the people from from God

His full story can be found from 1 Kings 17 through 2 Kings 2.

1 Kings 17:12-16 (NIV)

"As surely as the Lord your God lives," she replied, "I don't have any bread—only a handful of flour in a jar and a little olive oil in a jug. I am gathering a few sticks to take home and make a meal for myself and my son, that we may eat it—and die."

Elijah said to her, "Don't be afraid. Go home and do as you have said. But first make a small loaf of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me, and then make something for yourself and your son. For this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: 'The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the Lord sends rain on the land.'"

She went away and did as Elijah had told her. So there was food every day for Elijah and for the woman and her family. For the jar of flour was not used up and the jug of oil did not run dry, in keeping with the word of the Lord spoken by Elijah.

Matthew 14:18-20 (NIV)

"Bring them here to me," he said. And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over.

| Elijah | Jesus |
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| Raised the dead (1 Kings 17:17-24) | Raised the dead (Matthew 9:23-26) |
| Prayed for rain (1 Kings 18:41-45) | Prayed against the storm (Matthew 8:23-27) |
| Fasted 40 days and nights (1 Kings 19:8) | Fasted forty days and nights (Matthew 4:2) |
| Taken up to heaven (2 Kings 2:11) | Taken up to heaven (Acts 1:9-11) |

exegesis:

Theological scholars have long been preoccupied with interpreting the meanings of various passages in the Bible. In fact, because of the sacred status of the Bible in both Judaism and Christianity, biblical interpretation has played a crucial role in both of those religions throughout their histories. English speakers have used the word exegesis—a descendant of the Greek term *exēgeisthai*, meaning "to explain" or "to interpret"—to refer to explanations of Scripture since the early 17th century.

Humans will let me down:

- Elijah is just a man, though powerful, he is not the savior
- Easy to put our hope in superhuman figures.
- Jews are looking for Elijah's return in Jesus' day

Matthew 11:14-15 (NIV)

And if you are willing to accept it he is the Elijah who was to come. Whoever has ears, let them hear.

God uses complex characters:

- Elijah has great power and aurora, yet has to repeatedly be taken care of by God
- Calls down fire, prays against rain, severely depressed
- Has to be repeatedly refreshed, refueled, and encouraged by God, what does that say about us
- God doesn't give up on him

1 Kings 19:2-4 (NIV)

So Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah to say, "May the gods deal with me, be it ever so severely, if by this time tomorrow I do not make your life like that of one of them."

Elijah was afraid and ran for his life. When he came to Beersheba in Judah, he left his servant there, while he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness. He came to a broom bush, sat down under it and prayed that he might die. "I have had enough, Lord," he said. "Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors."

Elijah and Jesus both model handing down power/influence:**2 Kings 2:9 (NIV)**

When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me, what can I do for you before I am taken from you?" "Let me inherit a double portion of your spirit," Elisha replied.

John 14:12 (NIV)

Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.

The call to repentance is the same

1 Kings 18:36-37 (NIV)

At the time of sacrifice, the prophet Elijah stepped forward and prayed: "Lord, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, let it be known today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and have done all these things at your command. Answer me, Lord, answer me, so these people will know that you, Lord, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again."

Mark 1:15 (NIV)

"The time has come," he said. "The Kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news."

Reflection Questions:

- 1) Can you recall a time when you saw God's power at work in your life? Since that time have you ever doubted God's care for you?
- 2) We often discredit ourselves from God's work in our lives due to our complexities and brokenness. Take that to God in prayer, what might he want to speak to our heal?
- 3) Elijah hands off to Elisha, Jesus to the early church. Who has God given you influence with that you can pass your faith to?
- 4) Where might I need to repent and ask for God's grace in my life?



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