

# Elijah

Elijah ministered from about 874 to 852 BC, primarily in the reign of Ahab of the Northern Kingdom of Israel. He stands out as the chief representative of the prophetic office (Matt. 17:4), and as the model for John the Baptist, the “forerunner” of the Messiah (Mal. 4:5-6; Lk. 1:16-17; Matt. 11:14; 17:11-13).

What is it about Elijah that gave him such a status among the many courageous prophets of God? What might we learn from him that will help us to better understand some of the chief characteristics of effective service to the Father?

## The Drought

I Kings 17:1-24

- ⌘ The Lord uses those who have suited themselves for service (II Tim. 2:20-21).
- ⌘ The Lord uses those who trust Him (Matt. 6:33).

## Mount Carmel

I Kings 18:1-46

- ⌘ Boldness is required of God’s servants (II Tim. 1:7).
- ⌘ Decisiveness, courage, and the ability to endure hardship are needed to serve God well (II Tim. 4:1-5).

## Jezebel

I Kings 19:1-21

- ⌘ Overcoming fear is a sign of strong, growing faith (cf. Acts 4:18-20).
- ⌘ The “gentle” voice of God finds a place in the hearts of great servants (Matt. 11:28-30).

## Ahab and Ahaziah

I Kings 21:1-29; 22:51-II Kings 1:18

- ⌘ Special servants are very pointed when needed (Gal. 2:11-14).
- ⌘ Outstanding servants give place for repentance (II Tim. 4:11).
- ⌘ Strong leaders know there can be no forgiveness, however, apart from true repentance (Lk. 17:3).

## Elisha and the Whirlwind

II Kings 2:1-14

- ⌘ Special leaders train others to take up their work (II Tim. 2:2).
- ⌘ Though service earns nothing (Lk. 17:10), God takes special note of those who give serve Him well (Matt. 25:34-40).