

Prayer of Elijah the Prophet



Saint Mary's Spiritual Revival

August 2019



Elijah the Prophet

- Ilya (Arabic)
 - Elias (Greek)
 - Elijah (English & French)
 - Eliyahu (Hebrew)
 - *Means “My God is Yahweh (the LORD)”*
-
- **1 Kings** chapters **17-19**
 - **2 Kings** chapters **1-2**
 - **Transfiguration**
(Matthew 17, Mark 9, Luke 9)



Elijah the Fiery Prophet

Prophetic Message

- commanded by God to denounce evil rulers for injustice, infidelity, and oppression of the people

Miracles

- prayed for a drought ... why?
 - to wake up Israel from their sin; praying again for rain to come 3½ years later
- providing food in time of famine, raising the dead, dividing the waters to cross the Jordan

Unique Personalities

- Elijah was taken up without dying, in the heavens by God (as was Enoch)
- Elijah appeared with the Lord at the Transfiguration (along with Moses)

Compassion, Spirituality & Asceticism

- concern for the poor, the widow and orphan
- intimate conversation with God, hearing God's voice in the gentle breeze
- taken by God to live in the desert, being fed daily with food brought by ravens

Champion of Orthodoxy

- following the One true God and opposing the worship of idols



1 Kings chapter 17

And Elijah the Tishbite, of the inhabitants of Gilead, said to Ahab, “**As the LORD God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, except at my word.**”

Context

- **King Ahab** was an **evil ruler** of the **Kingdom of Israel** in 9th Century BC
- ... *he took as wife **Jezebel** the daughter of Ethbaal, king of the Sidonians; and he went and **served Baal and worshiped him.***
- Baal, the so-called god of fertility ... to bring dew & rain on the land
- *Ahab set up an altar for Baal in the temple of Baal, which he had built in Samaria. And Ahab made a wooden image.*
- ***Ahab did more to provoke the LORD God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel who were before him.***

Kingdom of Israel



Kingdom United for 120 years



King Saul

(1050-1010 BC)

good start / evil end



King David

(1010-970 BC)

good start / good end



King Solomon

(970-930 BC)

good start / good end

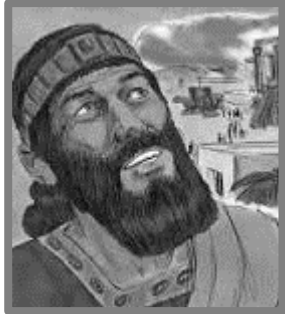


**Jeroboam,
King of Israel**



**Rehoboam,
King of Judah**





**Jeroboam,
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**Rehoboam,
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Kings of Judah (start/end)

- Rehoboam (evil/evil)
- Abijah (evil/evil)
- **Asa (good/good)**
- **Jehoshaphat (good/good)**
- Jehoram (evil/evil)
- Ahaziah (evil/evil)
- Athaliah (evil/evil)
- Joash (good/evil)
- Amaziah (good/evil)
- Uzziah aka Azariah (good/evil)
- **Jotham (good/good)**
- Ahaz (evil/evil)
- **Hezekiah (good/good)**
- **Manasseh (evil/good)**
- Amon (evil/evil)
- **Josiah (good/good)**
- Jehoahaz (evil/evil)
- Jehoiakim (evil/evil)
- Jehoiachin (evil/evil)
- Zedekiah (evil/evil)
- **Babylonian Captivity, 586 BC**

Kings of Israel (start/end)

- Jeroboam I (evil/evil)
- Nadab (evil/evil)
- Baasha (evil/evil)
- Elah (evil/evil)
- Zimri (evil/evil)
- Omri (evil/evil)
- **Ahab (evil/evil)**
- Ahaziah (evil/evil)
- Joram (evil/evil)
- Jehu (good/evil)
- Jehoahaz (evil/evil)
- Jehoash (evil/evil)
- Jeroboam II (evil/evil)
- Zechariah (evil/evil)
- Shallum (evil/evil)
- Menahem (evil/evil)
- Pekahiah (evil/evil)
- Pekah (evil/evil)
- Hoshea (evil/evil)
- **Assyrian Captivity, 722 BC**

1 Kings chapter 17

And Elijah the Tishbite, of the inhabitants of Gilead, said to Ahab, “**As the LORD God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, except at my word.**”

Context

- **King Ahab** was an **evil ruler** of Israel in 9th Century BC
- ... he took as wife **Jezebel** the daughter of Ethbaal, king of the Sidonians; and he went and **served Baal and worshiped him**.
- Baal, the so-called god of fertility, was believed to bring dew & rain
- Ahab set up an altar for Baal in the temple of Baal, which he had built in Samaria. And Ahab made a wooden image.
- **Ahab did more to provoke the LORD God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel who were before him.**

Fast-Forward 3 to 3½ years ...

1 Kings chapter 18

Now it came to pass after many days that the word of the LORD came to Elijah, in the third year, saying, “Go, present yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain on the earth.”

¹⁷ Then it happened, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said to him, “Is that you, O troubler of Israel?”

¹⁸ And he answered, **“I have not troubled Israel, but you and your father’s house have, in that you have forsaken the commandments of the LORD and have followed the Baals.**

¹⁹ Now therefore, send and gather all Israel to me on Mount Carmel, the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal, and the four hundred prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel’s table.”

²⁰ So Ahab sent for all the children of Israel, and gathered the prophets together on Mount Carmel.

²¹ And Elijah came to all the people, and said,

**“How long will you falter between two opinions?
If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him.”**

But the people answered him not a word.

²² Then Elijah said to the people,

**“I alone am left a prophet of the LORD;
but Baal’s prophets are four hundred and fifty men.**

²³ Therefore let them give us two bulls; and let them choose one bull for themselves, cut it in pieces, and lay it on the wood, but put no fire under it; and I will prepare the other bull, and lay it on the wood, but put no fire under it.

²⁴ **Then you call on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the LORD; and the God who answers by fire, He is God.”**

So all the people answered and said, “It is well spoken.”

²⁵ Now Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, “Choose one bull for yourselves and prepare it first, for you are many; and call on the name of your god, but put no fire under it.”

²⁶ So they took the bull which was given them, and they prepared it, and called on the name of Baal from morning even till noon, saying, “O Baal, hear us!” But there was no voice; no one answered. Then they leaped about the altar which they had made.

²⁷ And so it was, at noon, that Elijah mocked them and said,
“Cry aloud, for he is a god; either he is meditating, or he is busy, or he is on a journey, or perhaps he is sleeping and must be awakened.”

²⁸ So they cried aloud, and cut themselves, as was their custom, with knives and lances, until the blood gushed out on them.

²⁹ And when midday was past, they prophesied until the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice. But there was no voice; no one answered, no one paid attention.

³⁰ Then Elijah said to all the people, “Come near to me.” So all the people came near to him. And **he repaired the altar of the LORD that was broken down.**

³¹ And Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the LORD had come, saying, “Israel shall be your name.”

³² Then with the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD; and he made a trench around the altar large enough to hold two seahs of seed.

³³ And he put the wood in order, cut the bull in pieces, and laid it on the wood, and said, **“Fill four waterpots with water, and pour it on the burnt sacrifice and on the wood.”**

³⁴ Then he said, **“Do it a second time,”** and they did it a second time; and he said, **“Do it a third time,”** and they did it a third time.

³⁵ So the water ran all around the altar; and he also filled the trench with water.

³⁶ And it came to pass, at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near and said,

**“LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel,
let it be known this day that You are God in Israel and I am Your
servant, and that I have done all these things at Your word.**

**³⁷ Hear me, O LORD, hear me,
that this people may know that You are the LORD God,
and that You have turned their hearts back to You again.”**

³⁸ Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood and the stones and the dust, and it licked up the water that was in the trench.

³⁹ Now when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces; and they said, **“The LORD, He is God! The LORD, He is God!”**

Elijah is Highly Venerated in Orthodox Tradition

*“O prophet Elias, O **lampstand** of the Church which has no evening,
having been inflamed with **divine zeal**,
you close up the **rain from heaven**;
you were **fed by a raven**;
you **reproved the king** and put the [pagan] priests to death;
you commanded **fire from heaven** and slew two captains;
you provided abundantly for the **widow**
by means of a **little oil** and a small handful of meal;
you **resurrected her son** by your prayer;
you **ignited the fire in water**;
you crossed over the currents of the **Jordan** on foot.
Indeed, you were raised up to heaven by a **fiery chariot**.
You gave a **two-fold grace to Elisha**.
Pray unceasingly to God for the salvation of our souls.”*



John the Baptist

**“He (John the Baptist) will also
go before Him (Our Lord Jesus Christ)
in the spirit and power of Elijah,
‘to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,’
and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just,
to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”**

Luke 1:17

Elijah the Prophet

- Boldly Rebuked evil rulers (King Ahab & Queen Jezebel)
- Jezebel hated Elijah
- **Turned the people back to God**
- **Elijah Baptized the OT Sacrifice**
- God **accepted** the sacrifice ... the fire of the Lord consumed the burned sacrifice on Mount Carmel



John the Baptist

- Boldly Rebuked evil rulers (King Herod & Queen Herodias)
- Herodias hated John the Baptist
- **Turned the people back to God**
- **John Baptized the True Sacrifice**
- God the Father **accepted** the Sacrifice of His Only-Begotten Son on the Cross at Golgotha



Review

- The kingdom of Israel was divided after King Solomon in two
- The kings of both kingdoms were generally growing more evil
- Judah's kings were perhaps more righteous than those of Israel
- Corruption, idol worship, sexual immorality, were growing rampant
- Foreign idol worship was encouraged by evil King Ahab and his evil wife, Queen Jezebel, who worshipped Baal, the so-called fertility god
- Elijah prayed that the heavens would be shut, so that a drought would awaken Israel from their grave sin
- After 3½ years, Elijah confronted the 450 idol priests of Baal to a duel on Mount Carmel, to prove to the people who is the true God

Elijah's effective, fervent prayer

*“... pray for one another, that you may be healed.
The **effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.**
Elijah was a man with a nature like ours,
and **he prayed earnestly** that it would not rain;
and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months.
And he prayed again,
and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.”*

-- James 5:16-18

Elijah's prayer on Mount Carmel

And it came to pass, at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near and said,

**“Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel,
let it be known this day that You are God in Israel and I am Your servant,
and that I have done all these things at Your word.
Hear me, O Lord, hear me, that this people may know that You are the
Lord God, and that You have turned their hearts back to You again.”**

Then the fire of the Lord fell and consumed the burnt sacrifice,
and the wood and the stones and the dust,
and it licked up the water that was in the trench.

Now when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces;
and they said, **“The Lord, He is God! The Lord, He is God!”**

-- 1 Kings 18:36-39

Prayer of Confidence

Why are you confident?

- Strength in God's Presence
(God is alive, before whom I stand)

**“Preserve me, O God, for in You I put my trust ...
I have set the Lord always before me;
because He is at my right hand I shall not be moved”**

Psalm 16

Confidence

Strength in God's Presence

*And Elijah the Tishbite, of the inhabitants of Gilead, said to Ahab, “**As the LORD God of Israel lives, before whom I stand**, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, except at my word.”*

-- 1 Kings 17:1

Elijah before proclaiming a drought

Confidence

Strength in God's Presence

*Then Elijah said,
“**As the Lord of hosts lives, before whom I stand,**
I will surely present myself to him today.”*

-- 1 Kings 18:15

Elijah before confronting evil King Ahab

Confidence

Strength in God's Presence

And Elisha said,

***“As the Lord of hosts lives, before whom I stand,**
surely were it not that I regard the presence of
Jehoshaphat king of Judah, I would not look at
you, nor see you.*

-- 2 Kings 3:14

*Elisha speaking to Jehoram, the son of
Ahab, evil son of an evil king of Israel*

Confidence

Strength in God's Presence

*But he said,
"As the Lord lives, before whom I stand,
I will receive nothing."
And he urged him to take it, but he refused.*

-- 2 Kings 5:16

*Elisha after healing
Naaman the Syrian
of his leprosy*

Have Confidence in the Presence of the Lord

The last verse of the last chapter of Saint Matthew's Gospel:

***"I am with you always,
even to the end of the age."
Amen.***

-- Matthew 28:20

Have Confidence to ask in the Name of Jesus

And **whatever you ask** in My name, that I will do,
that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

(John 14:13)

... that **whatever you ask the Father** in My name He may give you.

(John 15:16)

Most assuredly, I say to you,
whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give **you**.

Until now you have asked nothing in My name.

Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

(John 16:23-24)

Confidence

Confidence in the **Presence of the Lord** at all times;

Confidence that **God Hears & Answers** Prayers;

also:

Confidence that **God is the ONLY True God.**

***“How long will you falter between two opinions?
If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him.”***

Key Learnings

- **Confidence** in the Lord (as the Lord lives before whom I stand!)
- **Decide** who to worship ...
“No one can serve two masters;
for either he will hate the one and love the other,
or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other.
You cannot serve God and mammon.” – Matt 6:24 & Luke 16:13
- **Rulers need to be good Leaders**
 - How do I lead my children?
 - How do I rule my senses?
 - Is my heart like that of **Ahab** or **David**?
 - Am I a good role-model for others ...
 - Am I a light to the world?