

I Kings 17 – II Kings 2

Historical Books II
Lecture #18

I Kings

Chapter 17

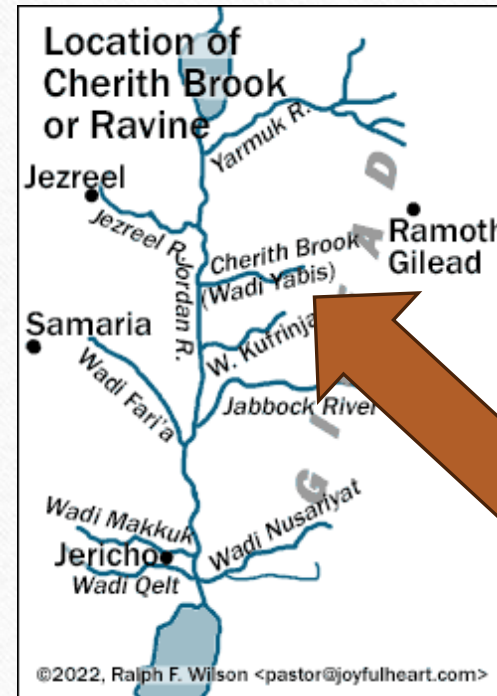
Elijah and the Drought



Elijah

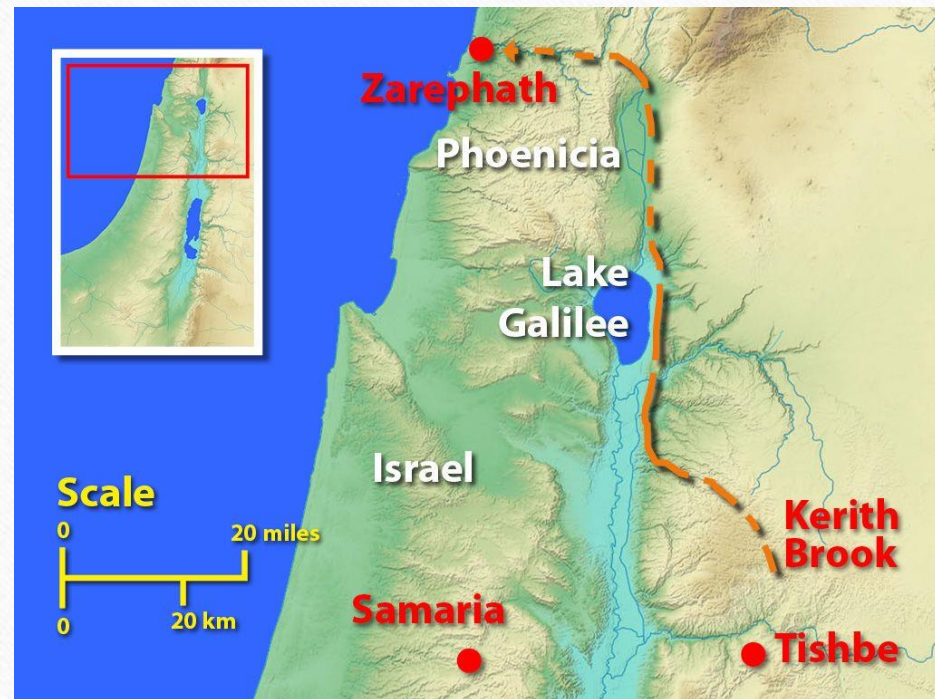
- Elijah bursts on the scene with not buildup or introduction.
- “the most dramatic personage in all history”.
- He enters with a bold proclamation that it would not rain until he said so.

Cherith



Zarephath

- Zarephath is a Phoenician village north of Israel.
- A widow and her son take in Elijah.
- God miraculously provides enough food for them each day.



A First



- The widow's son dies.
- Elisha “stretched himself upon the child three times” while praying to God.
- The son comes back to life.
- This is the first of 10 such miracles in the Bible.

I Kings

Chapter 18

Elijah at Carmel

Obadiah

- Not the same as the minor prophet.
- Steward of Ahab's house.
- Has been undermining Jezebel's attempt to exterminate the prophets by hiding and feeding 100 prophets in a cave.
- There are very mixed opinions about him.



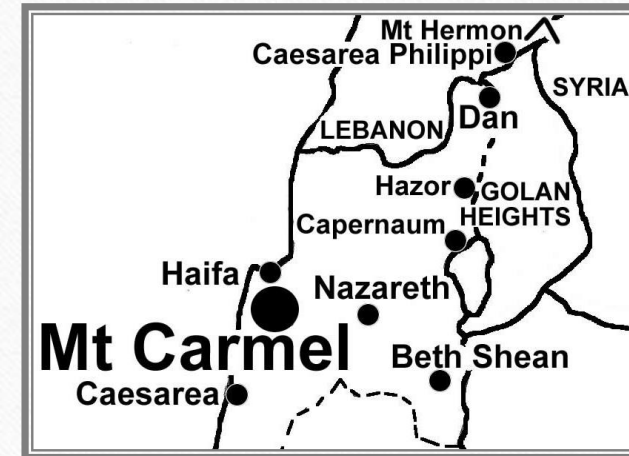
The Situation in Israel

- The ongoing drought has caused desperation to set in.
- Perhaps trying to break the drought, Jezebel appears to have been murdering God's prophets.
- Jezebel is sponsoring at least 850 prophets of Baal – vs. 19



Showdown Set

- Elijah and Ahab meet.
- Ahab blames Elijah for the drought.
- Elijah blames Ahab and his father (Omri) for their idolatry.
- A showdown is set for



God vs. Baal

- The challenge: pray down fire on a sacrifice.
- The prophets of Baal fail.
- Elijah soaks his sacrifice in water, prays a short prayer, and God sends fire that utterly consumes the sacrifice.



RAIN!



- Elijah prays and rain returns.
- Ahab rushes to Jezreel.
- Elijah outruns the horses and arrives there first.

I Kings Chapter 19

Elijah's Flight

Jezebel's Wrath

- Ahab tells Jezebel of the events at Carmel.
- Jezebel swears that she will kill Elijah.
- Elijah leaves the country.



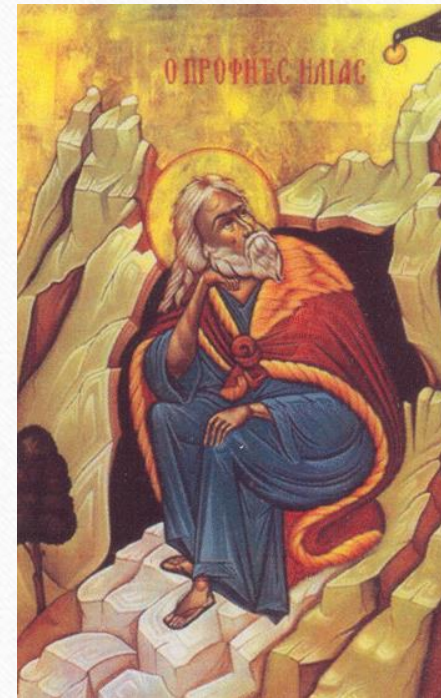
Elijah on the Run

- Elijah flees south, basically leaving Jewish territory south of Beersheba.
- An angel ministers to him there.
- From there he goes to a cave at Mt. Horeb (Sinai).



God and Elijah

- God probed his heart – “what doest thou here?”
- God shows him with wind, earthquake, fire, and a small voice that He does not always use the dramatic.
- God would judge the wicked in His own time and way.
- God was still working in men’s hearts.



The Call of Elisha



- Elijah finds Elisha plowing a field.
- Elijah puts his mantle (outer coat) on him as a sign of his calling.
- Elisha has a barbeque with the oxen and leaves to go with Elijah.

I Kings

Chapter 20

Ahab Besieged

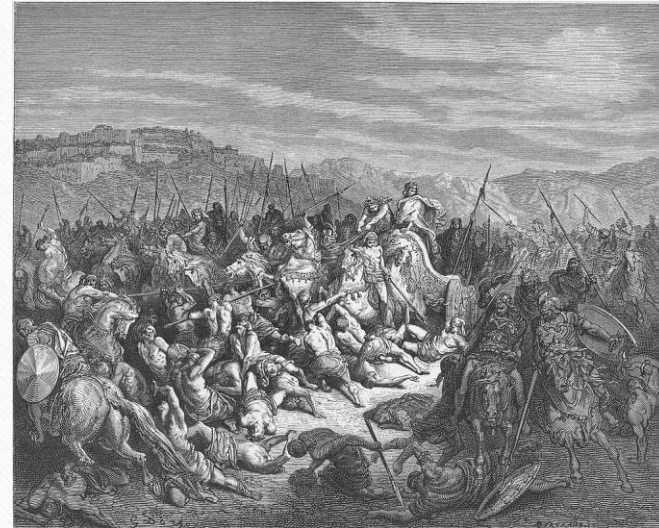
First Battle with Syria



- Benhadad leads a force of Syrians into Israel and besieges Jerusalem.
- He demands tribute of Ahab's wealth and family.
- Ahab initially agrees but balks when it is added that the Syrian be able to spoil the city.
- An unnamed prophet tells Ahab to attack the Syrian forces.
- Ahab attacks with 7,000 and drives the Syrians away.

Second Battle with Syria

- The unnamed prophet warns Ahab that the Syrians would return.
- Benhadad strengthens his power and returns.
- Ahab wins in a great victory.
- Benhadad surrenders to Ahab.



Sparing Benhadad

- An unnamed prophet uses an object lesson to confront Ahab.
- The prophet claimed to have lost a prisoner that had been placed in his charge.
- Ahab said he was guilty and should be punished.
- The prophet turns it around on Ahab and condemns his sparing of Benhadad.



I Kings

Chapter 21

Ahab and Naboth

“Payday Someday”

- I think this is the greatest sermon of the 20th century.
- R.G. Lee preached it over 1,200 times to over 3,000,000 people.



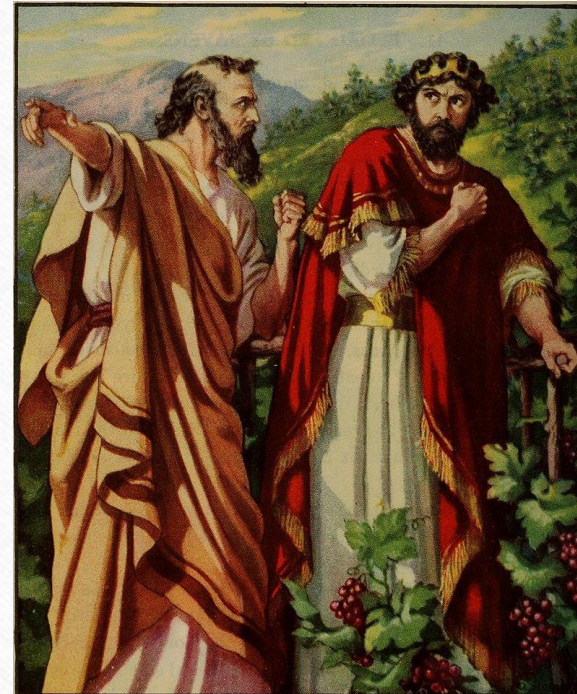
Naboth's Vineyard



- Ahab desired to buy Naboth's property in Jezreel.
- Naboth refuses to sale.
- Jezebel plots Naboth's death.
- Naboth is falsely accused and murdered.
- Ahab takes possession of the property.

Judgment Against Ahab

- Graphic judgment:
 - Dogs will lick Ahab's blood.
 - Dogs will eat Jezebel's body.
- Ahab's house would end.
- Ahab repents!!!
 - The house would not end in his lifetime.



I Kings

Chapter 22

Ahab, Jehoshaphat, Jehoram, Ahaziah

Ahab and Jehoshaphat

- NOTE – The Northern and Southern Kingdoms have a lot of alliances during this time.
- Ahab seeks to get Jehoshaphat and Judah to help his war with Syria.
- Ahab enlists 400 false prophets.
- Michaiiah gives a true report



Death of Ahab

- Ahab disguises himself to avoid being a target.
- A “nameless, aimless” bowman hits him with an arrow.
- Ahab dies and the dogs lick his blood in the chariot.
- His son Ahaziah inherits the throne.



Jehoshaphat

- Reigns 25 years over Judah.
- A good king.
- His son Jehoram inherits the throne.



Ahaziah

- Reigns two years over Israel.
- Did evil, like his family before him.



THREE BOOKS DOWN



THREE MORE TO GO

II Kings Chapter 1

Elijah and Ahaziah

Ahaziah's Fall

- Israel is weakened after their defeat by the Syrians.
 - Moab rebels.
- Ahaziah is injured in a fall at the palace.
- He sends messengers to inquire of Baalzebub in Philistia.
- Elijah meets the messengers and tells them Ahaziah will die.



Elijah and Ahaziah

- Ahaziah sends soldiers to arrest Elijah.
- The first two times God sends fire on the soldiers.
- The third humbly asks Elijah to come.
- Elijah tells the king that he will die.
- His brother Jehoram inherits the throne.
 - Yes, there are two Jehorams...



II Kings

Chapter 2

Elijah and Elisha

Elijah's Ascension

- The time for Elijah's departure is at hand.
- Elisha follows him and asks for a "double portion".
- Elijah is taken to heaven on a fiery chariot in a whirlwind.
- Elijah's mantle is taken up by Elisha.



Elisha's Beginning

- Elisha smites the Jordan River with Elijah's mantle and the water parts.
- Others seek Elijah but cannot find him.
- At Jericho, Elisha heals a bitter spring by casting salt into it.
- At Bethel, some young people mock him and are attacked by bears.



WE MADE IT!!!

