

## Old Testament Survey Lesson Sixteen

### Review:

- Monarchy: Saul, David, and Solomon (1079 BC-932 BC)
- Divided Monarchy
  1. Northern Kingdom (Israel)—Jeroboam
  2. Southern Kingdom (Judah)—Rehoboam

— North had ALL wicked or evil kings leading to their disaster (last week)

*For so it was that the children of Israel had sinned against the Lord their God, who had brought them up out of the land of Egypt, from under the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt; and they had feared other gods. 2 Kings 17:7 NKJV*

— South had a mix of godly and ungodly kings (next week)

*And he did what was right in the sight of the Lord, according to all that his father David had done. 4 He removed the high places and broke the sacred pillars, cut down the wooden image and broke in pieces the bronze serpent that Moses had made; for until those days the children of Israel burned incense to it, and called it Nehushtan. 5 He trusted in the Lord God of Israel, so that after him was none like him among all the kings of Judah, nor who were before him. 2 Kings 18:3-5 NKJV*

NOTE: In the midst of the ungodliness in Israel (North) and the ungodly leadership, God still spoke through His prophets calling the people to repentance.

TODAY: Focus will be on the prophetic ministry of the North—non-writing prophets.

NOTE: The call to repentance and the need to return to God is a message that must be heard today!

### I. Elijah

- A. Elijah's beginning

*And Elijah the Tishbite, of the inhabitants of Gilead, said to Ahab. 1 Kings 17:1a NKJV*

— No call like other prophets

*And so it was, when they had crossed over, that Elijah said to Elisha, "Ask! What may I do for you, before I am taken away from you?" Elisha said, "Please let a double portion of your spirit be upon me." 2 Kings 2:9 NKJV*

*Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: "Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I! Send me." Isaiah 6:8 NKJV*

*Then the word of the Lord came to me, saying: 5 "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations." Jeremiah 1:4-5 NKJV*

## B. Elijah in Scripture

1. 9<sup>th</sup> Century prophet
2. 24 years of prophetic ministry (22 years King Ahab and 2 years Ahaziah)
3. Story spread out over eight chapters—appears in only six chapters (1 Kings 17-19, 21; 2 Kings 1-2)
4. Additional Old Testament references

*And a letter came to him from Elijah the prophet, saying, Thus says the Lord God of your father David: Because you have not walked in the ways of Jehoshaphat your father, or in the ways of Asa king of Judah. 2 Chronicles 21:12 NKJV*

*Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. Malachi 4:5 NKJV*

5. References in the New Testament

*Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves; 2 and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light. 3 And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him. Matthew 17:1-3 NKJV*

*Some of those who stood by, when they heard that, said, "Look, He is calling for Elijah!" 36 Then someone ran and filled a sponge full of sour wine, put it on a reed, and offered it to Him to drink, saying, "Let Him alone; let us see if Elijah will come to take Him down."*

*Mark 15:35-36 NKJV*

*Now this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" 20 He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." 21 And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." John 1:19-21 NKJV*

*Now those who were sent were from the Pharisees. 25 And they asked him, saying, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" John 1:24-25 NKJV*

*God has not cast away His people whom He foreknew. Or do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel, saying, 3 "Lord, they have killed Your prophets and torn down Your altars, and I alone am left, and they seek my life"? Romans 11:2-3 NKJV*

*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. James 5:17 NKJV*

### C. Elijah and Moses

#### 1. Built altars for their people

*And Moses wrote all the words of the Lord. And he rose early in the morning, and built an altar at the foot of the mountain, and twelve pillars according to the twelve tribes of Israel. Exodus 24:4 NKJV*

*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. 1 Kings 18:31-32 NKJV*

#### 2. Escaped from foreign figures

*When Pharaoh heard of this matter, he sought to kill Moses. But Moses fled from the face of Pharaoh and dwelt in the land of Midian; and he sat down by a well. Exodus 2:15 NKJV*

*And Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, also how he had executed all the prophets with the sword. 2 Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time." 3 And when he saw that, he arose and ran for his life, and went to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and left his servant there. 1 Kings 19:2-3 NKJV*

#### 3. Visited mountain of God

*So he was there with the Lord forty days and forty nights; he neither ate bread nor drank water. And He wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant, the Ten Commandments. Exodus 34:28 NKJV*

*So he arose, and ate and drank; and he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights as far as Horeb, the mountain of God. 1 Kings 19:8 NKJV*

D. Elijah's prophetic ministry

1. Elijah's word to Ahab: Drought

*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 NKJV*

2. God's provision of food and water

*Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, 3 "Get away from here and turn eastward, and hide by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan. 4 And it will be that you shall drink from the brook, and I have commanded the ravens to feed you there." 5 So he went and did according to the word of the Lord, for he went and stayed by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan. 6 The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning, and bread and meat in the evening; and he drank from the brook. 7 And it happened after a while that the brook dried up, because there had been no rain in the land. 8 Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, 9 "Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. See, I have commanded a widow there to provide for you." 10 So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, indeed a widow was there gathering sticks. And he called to her and said, "Please bring me a little water in a cup, that I may drink." 11 And as she was going to get it, he called to her and said, "Please bring me a morsel of bread in your hand." 12 So she said, "As the Lord your God lives, I do not have bread, only a handful of flour in a bin, and a little oil in a jar; and see, I am gathering a couple of sticks that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die." 13 And Elijah said to her, "Do not fear; go and do as you have said, but make me a small cake from it first, and bring it to me; and afterward make some for yourself and your son. 14 For thus says the Lord God of Israel: 'The bin of flour shall not be used up, nor shall the jar of oil run dry, until the day the Lord sends rain on the earth.'" 15 So she went away and did according to the word of Elijah; and she and he and her household ate for many days. 16 The bin of flour was not used up, nor did the jar of oil run dry, according to the word of the Lord which He spoke by Elijah. 1 Kings 17:2-16 NKJV*

- a. God sends Elijah to Kerith Brook
- b. God's creation—brook and ravens—become the source or avenue of His provision
- c. Lack of rain dries up the brook leaving Elijah without a source of water
- d. God uses a Phoenician widow in Zarephath to provide nourishment to Elijah

- Elijah demands bread and water
- The widow was planning on making one last meal
- Miracle—ongoing supply of flour and oil

*This material is copyrighted. Its use in the local church or in any other setting as a teaching tool or ministry presentation requires written permission from the author.*

NOTE: Imagine the woman's thought process upon hearing Elijah's request.

*"When we give God that little, His power is unleashed to take over and provide." (Victor Hamilton)*

### 3. Healing of the widow's son

*Now it happened after these things that the son of the woman who owned the house became sick. And his sickness was so serious that there was no breath left in him. 18 So she said to Elijah, "What have I to do with you, O man of God? Have you come to me to bring my sin to remembrance, and to kill my son?" 19 And he said to her, "Give me your son." So he took him out of her arms and carried him to the upper room where he was staying, and laid him on his own bed. 20 Then he cried out to the Lord and said, "O Lord my God, have You also brought tragedy on the widow with whom I lodge, by killing her son?" 21 And he stretched himself out on the child three times, and cried out to the Lord and said, "O Lord my God, I pray, let this child's soul come back to him." 22 Then the Lord heard the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came back to him, and he revived. 23 And Elijah took the child and brought him down from the upper room into the house, and gave him to his mother. And Elijah said, "See, your son lives!" 24 Then the woman said to Elijah, "Now by this I know that you are a man of God, and that the word of the Lord in your mouth is the truth." 1 Kings 17:17-24 NKJV*

- a. Widow's son dies—she's upset
- b. Elijah takes him to the upper chamber and stretches body over him three times

*But it happened in those days that she became sick and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room. Acts 9:37 NKJV*

*But Paul went down, fell on him, and embracing him said, "Do not trouble yourselves, for his life is in him." Acts 20:10 NKJV*

NOTE: Elijah would deny Jezebel's god (Baal) power in his land while readily exercising the power of his god in her land (compare with chapter 18).

- c. Jesus references the widow of Zarephath

*So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read. 17 And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written: 18 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed; 19 To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord." 20 Then He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him. 21 And He began to say to them, "Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing." 22 So all bore witness to Him, and marveled at the gracious words which proceeded out of His mouth. And they said, "Is this not Joseph's son?" 23 He said to them, "You will surely say this proverb to Me, 'Physician, heal yourself! Whatever we have heard done in Capernaum, do also here in Your country.'" 24 Then He said, "Assuredly, I say to you, no prophet is accepted in his own country. 25 But I tell you truly, many widows were in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a great famine throughout all the land; 26 but to none of them was Elijah sent except to Zarephath, in the region of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow. 27 And many lepers were in Israel in the time of Elisha the prophet, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian." 28 So all those in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath, 29 and rose up and thrust Him out of the city; and they led Him to the brow of the hill on which their city was built, that they might throw Him down over the cliff. 30 Then passing through the midst of them, He went His way. Luke 4:16-30 NKJV*

*"God's heart beats for all peoples, the pagan as well as the elect." (Victor Hamilton)*

- d. Zarephath becomes a two year hiding place

4. Contest at Mt. Carmel

— Elijah is most famous for this event

- a. Lord instructs Elijah to return to Israel—specifically to Ahab
- b. Ahab and Obadiah searching for grass to save mules and horses
- c. Obadiah and Elijah meet
- d. Elijah's request and Obadiah's hesitation

— Obadiah feared death (Exodus 3-5 and Esther 4)

— Obadiah hid 100 prophets from Jezebel

- e. Elijah and Ahab meet
- f. Preparations and instructions

1. 450 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of Asherah instructed to go to Mt. Carmel.
2. All Israel comes to Mt. Carmel.
3. Two bulls/two altars/no fire
4. True god will set fire to the wood
5. Elijah mocks the Baal worshippers

— Baal is god of rain and fertility

***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." 1 Kings 18:27 NKJV***

6. Elijah's preparations—twelve stones, trench, and water over sacrifice three times

NOTE: This showdown mirrors that of Moses, Aaron, and the Egyptians

PURPOSE: For people to know God and return back to Him

***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!" 1 Kings 18:38-39 NKJV***

- g. Killed all the prophets of Baal
- h. Rain comes, drought ends

5. Elijah flees to Mt. Horeb—mountain of God

- a. Elijah fears the wrath of Jezebel—flees

***Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time." 3 And when he saw that, he arose and ran for his life, and went to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and left his servant there. 1 Kings 19:2-3 NKJV***

1. First stop Beersheba
2. Wilderness, tree, angel, bread
3. 40 days and nights to Mt. Sinai
4. Night in cave

- b. God's question

“What are you doing here?” (19:9)

*"Here indicates God is in the cave with Elijah. He is a God who enters our own caves of despondency."*  
(Victor Hamilton)

- c. Elijah's response
  - 1. Israel has broken covenant
  - 2. Torn down altars
  - 3. Killed all your prophets
  - 4. I am the only one left

NOTE: Elijah has given up hope for Israel until God intervenes

- d. God passes by

***Then He said, "Go out, and stand on the mountain before the Lord." And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; 12 and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice. 13 So it was, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave. Suddenly a voice came to him, and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" 1 Kings 19:11-13 NKJV***

- e. New mission
  - 1. Anoint Hazael King Aram
  - 2. Anoint Jehu King of Israel
  - 3. Anoint Elisha to take your position

- f. Anoints Elisha

***So he departed from there, and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen before him, and he was with the twelfth. Then Elijah passed by him and threw his mantle on him. 20 And he left the oxen and ran after Elijah, and said, "Please let me kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow you." And he said to him, "Go back again, for what have I done to you?" 21 So Elisha turned back from him, and took a yoke of oxen and slaughtered them and boiled their flesh, using the oxen's equipment, and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he arose and followed Elijah, and became his servant. 1 Kings 19:19-21 NKJV***

- 6. Two messages for Ahab following Naboth's Vineyard (1 Kings 21:17-29)
- 7. Elijah confronts Ahaziah (messengers and god Ekron)
- 8. Elijah's departure



***Then it happened, as they continued on and talked, that suddenly a chariot of fire appeared with horses of fire, and separated the two of them; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. 2 Kings 2:11 NKJV***

## II. Elisha

### A. Elisha's beginning

#### 1. Call

***So he departed from there, and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen before him, and he was with the twelfth. Then Elijah passed by him and threw his mantle on him. 20 And he left the oxen and ran after Elijah, and said, "Please let me kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow you." And he said to him, "Go back again, for what have I done to you?" 21 So Elisha turned back from him, and took a yoke of oxen and slaughtered them and boiled their flesh, using the oxen's equipment, and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he arose and followed Elijah, and became his servant. 1 Kings 19:19-21 NKJV***

#### 2. Status: Successor of Elijah

### B. Elisha in scripture

1. 9<sup>th</sup> Century prophet
2. Prophet to Northern Kingdom (Israel)
3. Father Shaphat (1 Kings 19:16) is unknown
4. Economically sound and spiritually sensitive

- Lots of oxen
- Ready to leave family

### C. Context of ministry

1. End of Omri dynasty beginning of Jehu's dynasty
2. 850-800 BC
3. Aramean reign—Ben-Hadad—on the rise
4. Assyrian power diminished
5. Active during the reigns of Jehoram, Jehu, Jehoahaz, and Jehoash
6. Focused on the poor of Israel
7. Leader and teacher of group of prophets

### D. Elisha's prophetic ministry

1. Call (1 Kings 19:19-21)
2. Double portion and beginning (2 Kings 2:9)
3. Elijah's cloak splits the waters of the Jordan

***Then he took the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and struck the water, and said, "Where is the Lord God of Elijah?" And when he also had struck the water, it was divided this way and that; and Elisha crossed over. 2 Kings 2:14 NKJV***

4. Miracles of Elisha (13 in all vs. 8 of Elijah)
  - a. Strikes Jordan with Elijah's mantle (2 Kings 2:13-14)
  - b. Transformation of bad water to good by adding salt (2 Kings 2:19-22)
    - Men mock Elisha and call him baldy
    - 2 bears mauled 42 of them

***Then he went up from there to Bethel; and as he was going up the road, some youths came from the city and mocked him, and said to him, "Go up, you baldhead! Go up, you baldhead!" 24 So he turned around and looked at them, and pronounced a curse on them in the name of the Lord. And two female bears came out of the woods and mauled forty-two of the youths. 25 Then he went from there to Mount Carmel, and from there he returned to Samaria. 2 Kings 2:23-25 NKJV***

- c. Dry valley filled with pools of water without any storm or rain causing the sun to shine and appear as blood to Moab
  - Israel, Judah, and Edom gain victory
- d. Abundant supply of olive oil paid debt of widow (2 Kings 4:1-7)
- e. Prophecy that barren woman with old husband would have a son—fulfilled

***But the woman conceived, and bore a son when the appointed time had come, of which Elisha had told her. 2 Kings 4:17 NKJV***

NOTE: God is able to bring life and hope in dead and hopeless places.

- f. Raised the son to life

***When Elisha came into the house, there was the child, lying dead on his bed. 33 He went in therefore, shut the door behind the two of them, and prayed to the Lord. 34 And he went up and lay on the child, and put his mouth on his mouth, his eyes on his eyes, and his hands on his hands; and he stretched himself out on the child, and the flesh of the child became warm. 35 He returned and walked back and forth in the house, and again went up and stretched himself out on him; then the child sneezed seven times, and the child opened his eyes. 36 And he called Gehazi and said, "Call this Shunammite woman." So he called her. And when she came in to him, he said, "Pick up your son." 37 So she went in, fell at his feet, and bowed to the ground; then she picked up her son and went out. 2 Kings 4:32-37 NKJV***

- g. Turned poisonous stew into edible stew

***Then they served it to the men to eat. Now it happened, as they were eating the stew, that they cried out and said, "Man of God, there is death in the pot!" And they could not eat it. 41 So he said, "Then bring some flour." And he put it into the pot, and said, "Serve it to the people, that they may eat." And there was nothing harmful in the pot. 2 Kings 4:40-41 NKJV***

- h. Fed large group—100 people

***So he set it before them; and they ate and had some left over, according to the word of the Lord. 2 Kings 4:44 NKJV***

- i. Cleansed Naaman the leper (2 Kings 5)
- j. Floating ax head (2 Kings 6:1-7)
- k. Opened blind eyes and made blind enemies (2 Kings 6:17-18)
- l. Prophecy of end of famine fulfilled

***Then Elisha said, "Hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord: "Tomorrow about this time a seah of fine flour shall be sold for a shekel, and two seahs of barley for a shekel, at the gate of Samaria.'" 2 Kings 7:1 NKJV***

***Then the people went out and plundered the tents of the Syrians. So a seah of fine flour was sold for a shekel, and two seahs of barley for a shekel, according to the word of the Lord. 2 Kings 7:16 NKJV***

- m. Dead corpse in Elisha's grave comes to life

***Then Elisha died, and they buried him. And the raiding bands from Moab invaded the land in the spring of the year. 21 So it was, as they were burying a man, that suddenly they spied a band of raiders; and they put the man in the tomb of Elisha; and when the man was let down and touched the bones of Elisha, he revived and stood on his feet. 2 Kings 13:20-21 NKJV***

#### E. Elisha and Jesus

1. Receiving of the Spirit near the Jordan
2. Cleansing of Namaan the leper (2 Kings 5) with Jesus cleansing of lepers—especially 10 lepers (Luke 17:11-19)
3. Feeding a large multitude
4. Brought to life the son of Shunnamite woman (2 Kings 4:8-37) with Jesus bringing to life the son of the widow of Nain (Luke 7:11-17)

**III. Micaiah** (1 Kings 22:5-28)

- A. Prophet of the Lord
- B. Hated by Ahab
- C. Prophesied Ahab's doom
- D. Put in prison

**IV. Ahijah**

- A. Designated Jeroboam King of ten tribes of Israel
- B. Later condemned Jeroboam for religious apostasy

**V. Jehu**

— Condemned dynasty of Baasha

\*Other prophets to the North—Hosea, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Nahum

**Conclusion:**

1. In the midst of spiritual chaos and apostasy, God continued to demonstrate His power, declare His word, and denote His faithful character.
2. The Kingdom of God is not just for a few elect believers, but it is for both Jew and Gentile, wealthy and poor, widow and orphan—it is for ALL!
3. God always equips His servants to carry out His mission!