

**GREAT EVENTS OF THE BIBLE --
ELIJAH TAKEN UP TO HEAVEN!**

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Introduction:

- A. **(Slide #2)** Elijah -- One Of The Eccentric Prophets Of The Old Testament; He Prophesied During The Days Of Ahab, King Of Israel. II Ki. 2. [II Ki. 1:8 Describes Him As: “A hairy man wearing a leather belt around his waist.”]

- B. Elijah -- One Of The Amazingly Unique Men Of The Bible -- One Of Only Two Men Who Were Translated (Taken Directly) Into Heaven!
 1. Elijah:
 - a. He was a courageous prophet of God.
 - b. He was a man who faced great victories and terrible disappointments and fears as he did God’s work.

 2. He was one of only two men who were translated straight into Heaven (did not experience death). These two men experienced something that not even the Son of God experienced!!!! We know that the Son of God died like all other men!
 - a. Enoch was the first one taken into Heaven.
 1. This man was the father of Methuselah.
 2. He was 65 when Methuselah was born. Gen. 5:21
 3. He lived 300 years after Methuselah was born. Gen. 5:22,23
 4. He was taken by God because he walked with God! Gen. 5:24
 5. He was here on earth; then he was taken into Heaven! “And he was not!” Gen. 5:24
 - b. Elijah was a great prophet of God who was taken into Heaven.
 1. He was a prophet in the days of Ahab and Jezebel.
 2. He was perhaps the most influential of the O.T. prophets.
 3. He is described as a “type” of the coming “forerunner of the Messiah!” Mal. 4:5,6 “Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. ⁶And he will turn The hearts of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.”
 4. Mt. 17:3,4 Moses (representing the Law) and Elijah (representing the prophets) were with Jesus on the Mt. of Transfiguration!

I. Great Events In Elijah's Life!

A. (Slide #3) He Prayed And It Did Not Rain!

1. Ahab Immediately Dove Into Idolatry!
2. I Ki. 16:33 "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."
3. Elijah Condemned Ahab.
 - a. Elijah prayed that it would not rain.
 - b. His message to Ahab of God's punishment -- no dew or rain!
 1. I Ki. 17:1 "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.'"
 2. Imagine the impact upon a nation -- no rain for 3 ½ years!
 - c. James talks about this event: "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. ¹⁸And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit." Js. 5:17,18
 - d. (Slide #4) 3 ½ years later he prayed and it rained again in Israel!

B. God Sent Him To Zarapheth During That Famine; He Fed The Widow And Her Son; He Raised Her Son From The Dead! I Ki. 17:8-24

1. She only had a handful of flour and a little oil; she was fixing their last meal and preparing to die.
2. Elijah's miraculous deeds at the house of the widow of Zarapheth:
 - a. (Slide #5) Her supply of flour and oil will not diminish during the time of the famine.
 - b. (Slide #6) Her son died; Elijah raised him from the dead.

C. (Slide #7) Ahab Called Elijah The "Troubler Of Israel!" I Ki. 18:17

1. Elijah's response: "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.'"
2. Ahab's sin was the reason for God's punishment upon Israel; it WAS NOT Elijah's fault!
3. Elijah immediately called Ahab, the idolatrous prophets, and the whole nation of Israel to come to Mt. Carmel. "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." I Ki. 18:18

D. **(Slide #8)** Elijah Courageously Challenged And Opposed And Defeated The Prophets Of Baal At Mt. Carmel. I Ki. 18

1. Imagine -- Elijah is all by himself; he faces Ahab, the idolatrous prophets, and the people of the nation.
2. ““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.’ ²⁰So Ahab sent for all the children of Israel, and gathered the prophets together on Mount Carmel.” I Ki. 18:19,20
3. The prophets of Baal received a bull and Elijah received a bull. I Ki. 18:23
4. The prophets of Baal put a bull of an altar, prayed all morning long for their gods to send down fire upon the altar, and nothing happened. Elijah mocked them. I Ki. 18:24-29
5. Then Elijah built an altar, put his bull on the altar, drowned the altar and the bull with 12 waterpots of water, and then prayed to God who sent fire for heaven and consumed the bull and the altar! I Ki. 18:30-38
6. The people of Israel glorified God; Elijah killed the false prophets! I Ki. 18:39,40
7. Then the rains returned. I Ki. 18:41-46

E. **(Slide #9)** When Jezebel Threatened Elijah, He Became Sorely Depressed And Fled Into The Wilderness. I Ki. 19:1-21

1. Her threat: “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.’” I Ki. 19:2
2. He ran into the wilderness and begged God to take his life! I Ki. 19:3,4
3. God’s response: “Get up, anoint Hazael as king over Syria, 19:15, Jehu as king over Israel, 19:16, and Elisha as your successor as a prophet. 19:16 (Elijah anointed him in 19:19).

G. **(Slide #10)** God Sent Him To Naboth’s Vineyard To Prophecy Death To:

1. Ahab. I Ki. 21:17
 - a. This was after child-like Ahab ached for Naboth’s vineyard.
 - b. Whiny Ahab had a pity party when Naboth refused to sell Ahab his field.
 - c. Jezebel secured two men who lied by accusing Naboth of blasphemy; he was stoned to death.
 - d. Then Ahab took possession of Naboth’s vineyard.

- e. God's pronouncement by Elijah: "Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying, ¹⁸'Arise, go down to meet Ahab king of Israel, who *lives* in Samaria. There *he is*, in the vineyard of Naboth, where he has gone down to take possession of it. ¹⁹You shall speak to him, saying, 'Thus says the LORD: 'Have you murdered and also taken possession?' ' And you shall speak to him, saying, 'Thus says the LORD: 'In the place where dogs licked the blood of Naboth, dogs shall lick your blood, even yours.' ' " I Ki. 21:17-19
 - e. Ahab humbled himself; therefore, God declared that he would not take the kingdom away from him during his lifetime; he did so during the days of his son. I Ki.21:28,29
 - f. Ahab's death was postponed for a while; he died in battle when he convinced Jehoshaphat, the king of Judah, to dress like Ahab; a soldier shot an arrow piercing Ahab; dogs in Samaria licked up his blood from a chariot! I Ki. 22:29-38
2. Jezebel.
- a. And God's pronouncement to Jezebel by Elijah was "And concerning Jezebel the LORD also spoke, saying, 'The dogs shall eat Jezebel by the wall of Jezreel.' ²⁴The dogs shall eat whoever belongs to Ahab and dies in the city, and the birds of the air shall eat whoever dies in the field." I Ki. 21:23,24
 - b. **(Slide #11)** During the days of Jehu, Jezebel was thrown from her window, her body splattered on the ground, and the dogs ate her body leaving only the bones of her skull, feet, and the palms of her hands! II Ki. 9:30-37

II. **(Slide #12) Elijah Was Taken Into Heaven In A Whirlwind!**

- A. II Ki. 2:1-25
- B. God Told Elijah To Anoint Elisha. I Ki. 19:16-21
 - 1. He found Elisha plowing with twelve yoke of oxen.
 - 2. Elijah threw his mantle on Elisha; after telling his parents goodbye, Elisha became Elijah's fellow prophet.
- C. God Separated Elijah And Elisha; He Took Elijah To Heaven In A Whirlwind!
 - 1. A chariot PARTED them -- Elijah DID NOT go to Heaven in a fiery chariot as is so often depicted! **(Slide #13)** Here is an example of how this event is usually described and portrayed.
 - 2. Elijah tried to get Elisha to remain in Gilgal; Elisha refused to stay. He followed Elijah to Bethel, then to Jericho, and then across the Jordan River.

3. While 50 of the men of the prophets were observing, Elijah took his mantle, rolled it up, and struck the water; it divided; and they walked through the Jordan River bed on dry ground to go east of the Jordan.
 4. Elisha asked for a double portion of Elijah's spirit. Elijah told him that he would have to see him taken into Heaven in order to receive that double portion of his spirit.
 5. Elijah was taken into Heaven by a whirlwind. II Ki. 2:1, 11,12
 6. Elisha pick up his mantle and returned to the Jordan River; he smote it with Elijah's mantle and it parted as it had when they had come through the River earlier.
- D. **Elijah Was Seen Later At The Mount Of Transfiguration! Mt. 17:1-5**
1. When Jesus was transfigured, Moses and Elijah appeared with Him!
 2. Peter wanted to make 3 tabernacles to honor all three.
 3. Moses was the great spokesman for Israel; Elijah was perhaps the greatest prophet (he represented the prophets).
 4. And yet, the Father said, "While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, 'This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!'" 5
- E. **(Slide #14) Why Would Elijah Be Translated Into Heaven?**
1. He was a GREAT prophet of God.
 2. He performed MANY miracles.
 3. He was fiercely courageous!
 4. He was faithful and obedient to God!
- F. **Our Challenge: We Will Not Be Translated Into Heaven Directly From Our Present Life; However, May We Seek To Live Such A Godly Life That We Eagerly Look Forward To Our Death, The Lord's Second Coming, And An Eternal Home With The Godhead And The Redeemed Forever!**