

Week 13 Elijah the Prophet.

Wednesday Bible Study

Odds and Ends

Elijah's life looms large in the scriptures humanly speaking. In the NIV his name appears 76 times in the OT and 29 times in the New Testament. 27 of the occurrences in the NT are found in the 4 Gospels! Interestingly in the Jewish Passover Celebration there is a place setting for Elijah at the table and at one point—often a child is asked to go to a door and open it to see if Elijah has come! This is in reference to Malachi 4:6-7

"See, I will send the prophet Elijah to you before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes. ⁶ He will turn the hearts of the parents to their children, and the hearts of the children to their parents; or else I will come and strike the land with total destruction."

As we know, the Jewish nation for the most part missed their Messiah— and the one who would come in the Spirit of Elijah— John the Baptist. Luke 1:14-17; Matthew 17:9-13

1. Elijah and the Letter to the King of Judah. 2 Chronicles 21

This kind of a depressing story— but one that speaks to the faithfulness of God to his word. Oh my how people should obey the Lord! *Luke 13:34*

2. Elijah and the End of Jezebel. 1 Kings 21:20-24. 2 Kings 9:30-37

She lived for 10 years after Ahab died. Ruling with Ahaziah and Jehoram. Once again God is faithful to His word. Even when the prophet of God dies, nothing of God dies. He will accomplish all he has said. Jehu was God's instrument to carry out judgement upon apostate kings and a queen who had brought about so much wickedness and death. God's pronouncements don't die when the person who delivered them dies. *Psalms 37:7-11*

3. Elijah mentioned at Christ's Crucifixion. Mark 15:34-36

This may have been sarcastic, however many believed in Jesus day that one could call on Elijah to save them from personal troubles.

4. Elijah, one of the Two Witnesses for God? Revelation 11

Concerning these two witnesses. They may be individuals who are not yet known and have no historical significance at this point in time. Many believe they are Elijah and Moses because the description of them is similar to their earlier lives and the fact that they were at the transfiguration and they represent the law and the prophets that stand against and judge the ungodly. The argument against Moses is that he has already died. (Deut. 34).

One of the main arguments for Elijah and Moses together is their mention in Malachi 4 which is direct reference to Christ's 2nd coming. (This would agree with the near and far fulfillment of many prophecies in the Bible— John the Baptist and Jesus—400 years later and final fulfillment over 2000 years later).

The argument that instead of Moses the 2nd witness is Enoch is that unlike Moses, Enoch never died and He was a prophet, specifically concerning the return of Jesus. His disappearance was much more like a rapture than Elijah's. (Genesis 5:21-24; Heb. 11:5; Jude 14-18) These are interesting things to discuss. But in regard to Elijah in particular, we understand that his service to God did not end when he left Elisha— it continues on to this day— as will our service continue forever.