



Series Overview and Guides

2025 ANNUAL THEME | SERIES 7

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER

Objective

what we hope to see God accomplish in us through this study

We are ready for the advent of Jesus.

STATEMENTS OF THE OBJECTIVE

"God has not rejected His people whom He foreknew. Or don't you know what the Scripture says in the passage about Elijah—how he pleads with God against Israel? Lord, they have killed Your prophets and torn down Your altars. I am the only one left, and they are trying to take my life! [1 Kings 19:10-14] But what was God's reply to him? I have left 7,000 men for Myself who have not bowed down to Baal. [1 Kings 19:18] In the same way, then, there is also at the present time a remnant chosen by grace. Now if by grace, then it is not by works; otherwise grace ceases to be grace."

—Romans 11:2-6

Elijah was from Tishbeh about which we know very little, not even its exact location...It was in Gilead, which was in the northern Transjordan area – that is, on the east side of the Jordan River...Gilead was a place of solitude and outdoor life. It was never a place of polish, sophistication, and diplomacy. It was an austere land, and one senses that Elijah's appearance was in keeping with that. [Such] characters may not win many friends, but one thing is certain: They cannot be ignored."

—Charles Swindoll
Elijah

Premise

why we are studying this

Advent is the celebration of Jesus' coming, inclusive of both the Lord's first and second arrival. Sadly, modern evangelical Christians focus almost exclusively on the first advent, ignoring the import of His second coming. This deficiency can be rectified by examining Elijah, who moves in the spirit and power of the Lord as a forerunner of Jesus.

STATEMENTS OF THE PREMISE

"Then Elijah took the boy, brought him down from the upstairs room into the house, and gave him to his mother. Elijah said, 'Look, your son is alive.'"

—1 Kings 17:23

"One of the most helpful illustrations of biblical typology is that of casting a 'shadow.' In order for something biblical to be typological of something else, it must have a prior referent (the darkness that is the shadow). Conversely, the thing typified must also have something coming after (object casting the shadow). We need to identify when doing typology both the shadow, and the thing potentially casting the shadow."

—Jacob Toman
Elijah, Elisha, and Jesus

Theme

what the study is about

Elijah's ministry continues to the present day, both spiritually and physically. Physically, this prophet taken up to heaven will return to establish the final way for Jesus' return. Spiritually, his example and words draw families together under the mantle of the Lord.

STATEMENTS OF THE THEME

"Look, I am going to send you the prophet Elijah before the great and terrible day of the Lord comes. And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers."

—Malachi 4:5-6

"Elijah introduces the theme that in the midst of national apostasy and consequential judgment, God continues to provide for his own and to deliver them... Salvation and deliverance, even life itself, are available through true worship of God."

— J. Daniel Hays and J. Scott Duvall
The Baker Illustrated Bible Handbook



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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SERIES 7 | SESSION 1

GROUP DISCUSSION



ANNUAL THEME 2025

PAUSE

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Kings 15:1-17:5; 2 Chronicles 21:11-20

KEY IDEAS

SUMMARY

Bad and good kings reign over Judah and Israel. Civil war erupts within the northern kingdom while Judah faces constant conflict with pagan neighbors and Israel. In that environment, Elijah takes very important steps:

- Trusts the word of God.
- Obeys God's commands.
- Speaks truth, rejecting compromise or lies. (17:1; 2 Chr 21)
- Endures stillness, hardship, isolation.

OBJECTIVE

We obey God in all times.

KEY PRINCIPLES

God is still at work when the hearts of government authorities are not devoted to Him. He is also active beyond what citizens think of as great days, when government is actively positive. In each situation – positive, neutral, or negative – God is working His Messianic plan.

THE GOVERNOR OF NATIONS

"To say that God is Sovereign is to declare that He is 'The Governor among the nations' (Psa. 22:28), setting up kingdoms, overthrowing empires, and determining the course of dynasties as pleaseth Him best."

—A.W. Pink
The Sovereignty of God

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that we trust in God's divine plan.

Session 1: Elijah, the Times, and Time

1. Read 1 Kings 15:1-24.

- Was Asa's decision to make a covenant with a foreign king honoring to God? Why or why not?
- Contrast Asa's actions with the meekness of David when he was being pursued by Saul.

2. Read 1 Kings 15:25-16:19.

- What was a common theme regarding the way that God dealt with these kings and their descendants?
- Why do you think the Lord allowed Ahab to reign in Israel for more than twenty years?

3. Read 1 Kings 16:29-17:6.

- What did king Ahab do that made him more evil in God's sight than all of the northern kings before him?
- What did God tell Elijah to do in response?

4. Read 2 Chronicles 21:1-17. King Jehoshaphat's heir, Jehoram, took Ahab's daughter as his wife and led the Southern Kingdom of Judah into idolatry.

- Why do you think God had Elijah write a letter to King Jehoram expressing His displeasure with the king?
- What did Elijah reveal would happen next?

5. Elijah trusted the Word of God and obeyed God's commands. How does his life and ministry compare with that of Jesus?



SERIES 7 | SESSION 2

GROUP DISCUSSION



ANNUAL THEME 2025

PAUSE

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Kings 17:8-24; 2 Peter 1:3

KEY IDEAS

SUMMARY

Elijah travels to the Phoenician coast, probably with little or no water. There, he is given a cup of water and a loaf of bread made by a widow on the very brink of starvation. By God's decree, the widow's small amount of flour & oil never dissipates, saving their lives. At Elijah's request, the Lord resurrects the son, who dies of illness likely brought on by long-term undernourishment. In response, the woman trusts God's Word.

OBJECTIVE

We trust God's provision.

KEY PRINCIPLES

God can be trusted to provide. He is able to make flour and oil last. He is able to provide water when drought is long. He is able to raise the dead to new life.

YHWH PROVIDES

"The fact that Elijah had to sustain the widow and boy points not only to YHWH as provider for the needy but also as one who 'trained' his prophet, as it were, to be obedient to him."

—James R. Battenfield

YHWH's Refutation of the Baal Myth through the Actions of Elijah and Elisha

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that we trust in God alone for our daily needs.

Session 2: Elijah and Provision

1. Read 1 Kings 17:8-12 and Luke 4:24-26.

- Discuss why God sent Elijah to a land where Baal was heavily worshipped.
- How would you describe the widow's situation when Elijah arrives? In what ways does her situation parallel the spiritual condition of the people Jesus is addressing?
- How can we apply this to our lives as Christians in today's culture?

2. Read 1 Kings 17:13-16 and 2 Peter 1:3.

- Why did Elijah tell the widow to prepare food for him before she prepared food for herself?
- What does this simple act of faith teach us about trusting God with limited resources?
- Share with one another examples from your life, or the lives of people you know, when God's provision seemed miraculous. This could be physical, spiritual, or emotional.

3. Read 1 Kings 17:17-24.

- Compare the widow's assumption concerning the death of her son with a mindset rooted in guilt and shame.
- How should this story inform our understanding of God's grace as delivered through the death and resurrection of Jesus?



SERIES 7 | SESSION 3

GROUP DISCUSSION



ANNUAL THEME 2025

PAUSE

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Kings 18:1-46; Mark 4:35-41

KEY IDEAS

SUMMARY

In one of the most dramatic chapters ever written, the Bible records Elijah's climactic confrontation with the priests of Baal and Asherah. Jesus later shows that this story was an illustration of Him. For example:

- Obadiah was faithful while under a horrible regime; Jesus empowers His followers to be faithful in horrible circumstances.
- Elijah dematerialized and moved with supernatural speed; Jesus can dematerialize and move with supernatural speed.
- Paganism lacks a direct connection to deity; Jesus teaches believers to pray 'Our Father.'
- YHWH performed monumental miracles using wind, water, earth, and fire; Jesus displayed His power over everything including wind, water, earth, fire, and even death.

OBJECTIVE

We trust Jesus.

KEY PRINCIPLES

YHWH alone is worthy of complete loyalty. Baal is powerless over nature while the Lord is all-powerful over everything.

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that we are fully engaged with Jesus.

Session 3: Elijah and God's Power

1. Read 1 Kings 18:1-6 and Mark 4:35-41.
 - Compare Obadiah's faithfulness under a horrible regime with the way that Jesus' disciples responded during the storm.
 - Share any testimonies that you may have of Jesus empowering His followers to stand up faithfully in dire circumstances.
2. Read 1 Kings 18:7-16, 46 and John 6:16-21, 24-25.
 - How does Elijah's ability to move with supernatural speed compare with Jesus' power demonstrated on the lake near Capernaum?
3. Read 1 Kings 18:17-39.
 - Why was Elijah so bold even as he was opposed by 850 false prophets?
 - Compare Elijah's bravery with Jesus' disposition when He was opposed by the entire Sanhedrin and priestly caste.
 - Contrast the way that Baal's priests attempted to connect with their god and the way that Jesus taught believers to pray to their Heavenly Father.
4. Read 1 Kings 18:28-29, John 15:12-14, and John 11:25.
 - The pagans shed their own blood in a desperate attempt to get their god's attention. How does this contrast this with Jesus' atonement to secure redemption for believers and His offer of eternal life?
5. Read 1 Kings 18:36-46, Mark 4:35-41, and Mark 5:39-42.
 - YHWH demonstrates His power over wind, water, earth, and fire. How does Jesus display the same miraculous power over the natural elements, and even death?



SERIES 7 | SESSION 4

GROUP DISCUSSION



ANNUAL THEME 2025

PAUSE

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Kings 19:1-18; Matthew 26:36-46

KEY IDEAS

SUMMARY

Elijah flees in brokenness. He despairs of revival occurring in Israel even after the miracles on Carmel. The forces of evil are too embedded, widespread, and strong. Yet God meets Elijah in that place of brokenness granting Him physical rest and sustenance; divine presence and mission; social perspective and companionship.

OBJECTIVE

We meet God in the stillness.

KEY PRINCIPLES

Elijah believes his mission has been a failure and asks the Lord to end his suffering via death. God tells and shows Elijah that he is not alone. 7000 have not forsaken YHWH, and in stillness Elijah learns that the Lord Himself is present and working.

TIME FOR REST

"There is an old Greek saying: 'You will break the bow if you keep it always bent.' In other words, if you're living under constant, relentless stress, you'll finally break under the pressure. You have to give yourself some time for rest and refreshment.

—Charles R. Swindoll

Elijah: A Man of Heroism and Humility

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that we take time to rest.

Session 4: Elijah and Stillness

1. Read 1 Kings 19:1-8. After the intense confrontation on Mt. Carmel with the priests of Baal and Asherah, Elijah was physically and emotionally exhausted.
 - What did Elijah request (v 4)? How did God minister to Elijah through the angel (vv. 5-8)?
 - Can you relate to the loneliness that he felt after such a great feat? Share about a time when the Lord comforted you and gave you the strength to press on.
2. Read 1 Kings 19:9-14 and Zechariah 4:1-6. Yahweh spoke to Elijah through the wind, the earthquake, the fire, and the still small voice.
 - What was Zechariah's vision (vv. 2-3)? When he asks the Lord about the olive trees and the oil lamp, how does the Lord respond (v. 6)?
 - How does the Holy Spirit minister to us in times of trouble?
3. Read 1 Kings 19:8 and Matthew 4:1-4.
 - Compare the 40-day fasts of Elijah and Jesus.
 - What was God's purpose for each man's fast?
 - Would they see revival in Israel and a turning toward God as a result?
4. Read 1 Kings 19:12-17 and Matthew 26:36-46.
 - How did God prepare Elijah and Jesus as their ministries came to an end?
5. Read 1 Kings 19:18, Matthew 26:29, 62-64 and 28:18-20.
 - What did God reveal to Elijah about his legacy?
 - What does Jesus empower His followers to do?



SERIES 7 | SESSION 5

GROUP DISCUSSION



ANNUAL THEME 2025

PAUSE

SCRIPTURE READING

2 Kings 2:1-15; John 20:21-22

KEY IDEAS

THEME

With his successor Elisha in tow, Elijah departs the land following the exact reverse path taken in Joshua's conquest. He parts the Jordan like Moses and is taken up to heaven. Elisha receives the mantle, parts the Jordan, and heads back to Jericho to continue the good work.

OBJECTIVE

We carry on the gospel work in every season.

KEY PRINCIPLES

The passage of leadership doesn't derail God's plan to build a holy people whom He treasures. God empowers Elisha to carry on the work of ascended Elijah.

SUCCESSION

"Had Elijah still been alive on the earth Elisha could not have exercised authority as his successor. In this chapter there are parallels between the succession of the prophets and the succession of the kings that the writer recorded elsewhere in Kings. Elisha gave the skeptics opportunity to verify Elijah's departure. The same Spirit that had empowered Elijah now rested on Elisha."

—Thomas L. Constable
Notes on 2 Kings

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that we continue the work that you call us to.

Session 5: Elijah and Change

1. Read 2 Kings 2:1-15, which marks the change in leadership from Elijah to Elisha.
 - What are the place names mentioned in this passage (verses 1-7)
 - What is significant about these place names and the order of their listing?
 - How do these events demonstrate God's plan for continuity across leadership changes?
2. Read John 20:21-22 and compare with 2 Kings 1:15.
 - How did God mark the "passing of the mantle" from Elijah to Elisha? And from Jesus to the disciples?
 - What does this demonstrate about God's empowerment and intentionality during times of change?
3. Reflect on seasons of change that you have experienced in the church or your personal lives.
 - How have you seen God's provision and continuity during leadership changes?
 - How can we better recognize and affirm the ways God is raising up and preparing new leaders in our community?
 - What changes, if any, are you currently experiencing? How does this passage help you during the transition?

