

## CHAPTER TWENTY-ONE

### ELIJAH, ELISHA AND THE KINGSHIP LINE

Solomon's son, Rehoboam, became the next king. An appeal was immediately made to Rehoboam for easier taxes. Rehoboam refused to heed the appeal and Israel rebelled. When Adoram was sent to collect the taxes, he was killed and Rehoboam had to flee to Jerusalem. This caused the kingdom to become divided. Jeroboam I, the son of one of Solomon's officers, became the king of the ten Northern tribes which kept the name Israel. Rehoboam was king over Judah and a part of the tribe of Benjamin.

The year was 975 B. C. when the two ruler began their reigns. Over the next sixty years, several different kings reigned in Israel and Judah. Ahab became king of Israel in 918 B. C. Jehoshaphat became the ruler of Judah in 914 B. C.

It was while these rulers were in place that Elijah began his prophecies. He found the people to be away from God. Even so, God still loved the people. This is why God sent Elijah and other prophets to warn the people of their wicked ways and to instruct them as to how they can be restored to fellowship with Him. Elijah started by going straight to Ahab, the king of Israel. He confronted Ahab with a prophecy of drought.

#### I KING 17:1

**1 AND ELIJAH THE TISHBITE, WHO WAS OF THE INHABITANTS OF GILEAD, SAID UNTO AHAB, AS THE LORD GOD OF ISRAEL LIVETH, BEFORE WHOM I STAND, THERE SHALL NOT BE DEW NOR RAIN THESE YEARS, BUT ACCORDING TO MY WORD.**

The drought occurred. Elijah was fed by the ravens. He went to the widow for food. You know that story. Remember even the part where he raised her dead son.

It was in 907 B. C. that King Ahab and Obadiah, his godly steward went in search for food. Elijah met Obadiah and told him to warn Ahab that he was going to talk with him. Obadiah told Ahab that Elijah was going to talk with him. Elijah proved to Ahab in this conference that Jehovah is the true and Living God.

#### I KING 18:17-40

**17 AND IT CAME TO PASS, WHEN AHAB SAW ELIJAH, THAT AHAB SAID UNTO HIM, ART THOU HE THAT TROUBLETH ISRAEL?**

**18 AND HE ANSWERED, I HAVE NOT TROUBLED ISRAEL; BUT THOU, AND THY FATHER'S HOUSE, IN THAT YE HAVE FORSAKEN THE COMMANDMENTS OF THE LORD, AND THOU HAST FOLLOWED BAALIM.**

**19 NOW THEREFORE SEND, AND GATHER TO ME ALL ISRAEL UNTO MOUNT CARMEL, AND THE PROPHETS OF BAAL FOUR HUNDRED AND FIFTY, AND THE PROPHETS OF THE GROVES FOUR HUNDRED, WHICH EAT AT JEZEBEL'S TABLE.**

**20 SO AHAB SENT UNTO ALL THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL, AND GATHERED THE PROPHETS TOGETHER UNTO MOUNT CARMEL.**

**21 AND ELIJAH CAME UNTO ALL THE PEOPLE, AND SAID, HOW LONG HALT YE BETWEEN TWO OPINIONS? IF THE LORD BE GOD, FOLLOW HIM: BUT IF BAAL, THEN FOLLOW HIM. AND THE PEOPLE ANSWERED HIM NOT A WORD.**

**22 THEN SAID ELIJAH UNTO THE PEOPLE, I, EVEN I ONLY, REMAIN A PROPHET OF THE LORD; BUT BAAL'S PROPHETS ARE FOUR HUNDRED AND FIFTY MEN.**

**23 LET THEM THEREFORE GIVE US TWO BULLOCKS; AND LET THEM CHOOSE ONE BULLOCK FOR THEMSELVES, AND CUT IT IN PIECES, AND LAY IT ON WOOD, AND PUT NO FIRE UNDER: AND I WILL DRESS THE OTHER BULLOCK, AND LAY IT ON WOOD, AND PUT NO FIRE UNDER:**

**24 AND CALL YE ON THE NAME OF YOUR GODS, AND I WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD: AND THE GOD THAT ANSWERETH BY FIRE, LET HIM BE GOD. AND ALL THE PEOPLE ANSWERED AND SAID, IT IS WELL SPOKEN.**

**25 AND ELIJAH SAID UNTO THE PROPHETS OF BAAL, CHOOSE YOU ONE BULLOCK FOR YOURSELVES, AND DRESS IT FIRST; FOR YE ARE MANY; AND CALL ON THE NAME OF YOUR GODS, BUT PUT NO FIRE UNDER.**

**26 AND THEY TOOK THE BULLOCK WHICH WAS GIVEN THEM, AND THEY DRESSED IT, AND CALLED ON THE NAME OF BAAL FROM MORNING EVEN UNTIL NOON, SAYING, O BAAL, HEAR US. BUT THERE WAS NO VOICE, NOR ANY THAT ANSWERED. AND THEY LEAPED UPON THE ALTAR WHICH WAS MADE.**

**27 AND IT CAME TO PASS AT NOON, THAT ELIJAH MOCKED THEM, AND SAID, CRY ALOUD: FOR HE IS A GOD; EITHER HE IS TALKING, OR HE IS PURSUING, OR HE IS IN A JOURNEY, OR PERADVENTURE HE SLEEPETH, AND MUST BE AWAKED.**

**28 AND THEY CRIED ALOUD, AND CUT THEMSELVES AFTER THEIR MANNER WITH KNIVES AND LANCETS, TILL THE BLOOD GUSHED OUT UPON THEM.**

**29 AND IT CAME TO PASS, WHEN MIDDAY WAS PAST, AND THEY PROPHESED UNTIL THE TIME OF THE OFFERING OF THE EVENING SACRIFICE, THAT THERE WAS NEITHER VOICE, NOR ANY TO ANSWER, NOR ANY THAT REGARDED.**

**30 AND ELIJAH SAID UNTO ALL THE PEOPLE, COME NEAR UNTO ME. AND ALL THE PEOPLE CAME NEAR UNTO HIM. AND HE REPAIRED THE ALTAR OF THE LORD THAT WAS BROKEN DOWN.**

**31 AND ELIJAH TOOK TWELVE STONES, ACCORDING TO THE NUMBER OF THE TRIBES OF THE SONS OF JACOB, UNTO WHOM THE WORD OF THE LORD CAME, SAYING, ISRAEL SHALL BE THY NAME:**

**32 AND WITH THE STONES HE BUILT AN ALTAR IN THE NAME OF THE LORD: AND HE MADE A TRENCH ABOUT THE ALTAR, AS GREAT AS WOULD CONTAIN TWO MEASURES OF SEED.**

**33 AND HE PUT THE WOOD IN ORDER, AND CUT THE BULLOCK IN PIECES, AND LAID HIM ON THE WOOD, AND SAID, FILL FOUR BARRELS WITH WATER, AND POUR IT ON THE BURNT SACRIFICE, AND ON THE WOOD.**

**34 AND HE SAID, DO IT THE SECOND TIME. AND THEY DID IT THE SECOND TIME. AND HE SAID, DO IT THE THIRD TIME. AND THEY DID IT THE THIRD TIME.**

**35 AND THE WATER RAN ROUND ABOUT THE ALTAR; AND HE FILLED THE TRENCH ALSO WITH WATER.**

**36 AND IT CAME TO PASS AT THE TIME OF THE OFFERING OF THE EVENING SACRIFICE, THAT ELIJAH THE PROPHET CAME NEAR, AND SAID, LORD GOD OF ABRAHAM, ISAAC, AND OF ISRAEL, LET IT BE KNOWN THIS DAY THAT THOU ART GOD IN ISRAEL, AND THAT I AM THY SERVANT, AND THAT I HAVE DONE ALL THESE THINGS AT THY WORD.**

**37 HEAR ME, O LORD, HEAR ME, THAT THIS PEOPLE MAY KNOW THAT THOU ART THE LORD GOD, AND THAT THOU HAST TURNED THEIR HEART BACK AGAIN.**

**38 THEN THE FIRE OF THE LORD FELL, AND CONSUMED THE BURNT SACRIFICE, AND THE WOOD, AND THE STONES, AND THE DUST, AND LICKED UP THE WATER THAT WAS IN THE TRENCH.**

**39 AND WHEN ALL THE PEOPLE SAW IT, THEY FELL ON THEIR FACES: AND THEY SAID, THE LORD, HE IS THE GOD; THE LORD, HE IS THE GOD.**

**40 AND ELIJAH SAID UNTO THEM, TAKE THE PROPHETS OF BAAL; LET NOT ONE OF THEM ESCAPE. AND THEY TOOK THEM: AND ELIJAH BROUGHT THEM DOWN TO THE BROOK KISHON, AND SLEW THEM THERE.**

On the orders of Elijah, the prophets of Baal are slain. Ahab does as Elijah commanded for now Elijah stated that rain was on the way. Elijah sent Ahab on his way, then he went up into the mountain for a while. He then outran Ahab's chariot. Ahab told Jezebel, his wife, all that Elijah had done. Jezebel vowed vengeance on Elijah. He fled for his life. He was very despondent. He sat under a juniper tree and an angel fed him. He then went to the mountain where Moses had received the law. There, after a mighty wind, an earthquake, and fire, Elijah heard the small still voice of the Lord. He received a commission to anoint Hazael king over Syria and Jehu to be a future king over Israel. He also learned that Elisha was to be his own successor as a prophet.

Elijah's next appearance was to rebuke Ahab for Naboth's murder. Ahab repented and Elijah prophesied that ruin would not come to the kingdom in Ahab's day, but during the reign of his son. 897 B. C--Ahaziah, Ahab's son, became king of Israel. Elijah soon sent a message to Ahaziah regarding his death. Ahaziah wanted Elijah slain, but Elijah called down fire from heaven and destroyed the men sent by Ahaziah. Ahaziah sent more men. The same thing happened again. After the third time of this happening, Ahaziah received the message. He soon died.

In 896 B. C--Jehoram, Ahaziah's son became king of Israel. It was during his reign that Elijah was caught up in a whirlwind.

## **II KINGS 2:1-4**

**1 AND IT CAME TO PASS, WHEN THE LORD WOULD TAKE UP ELIJAH INTO HEAVEN BY A WHIRLWIND, THAT ELIJAH WENT WITH ELISHA FROM GILGAL.**

**2 AND ELIJAH SAID UNTO ELISHA, TARRY HERE, I PRAY THEE; FOR THE LORD HATH SENT ME TO BETHEL. AND ELISHA SAID UNTO HIM, AS THE LORD LIVETH, AND AS THY SOUL LIVETH, I WILL NOT LEAVE THEE. SO THEY WENT DOWN TO BETHEL.**

**3 AND THE SONS OF THE PROPHETS THAT WERE AT BETHEL CAME FORTH TO ELISHA, AND SAID UNTO HIM, KNOWEST THOU THAT THE LORD WILL TAKE AWAY THY MASTER FROM THY HEAD TO DAY? AND HE SAID, YEA, I KNOW IT; HOLD YE YOUR PEACE.**

**4 AND ELIJAH SAID UNTO HIM, ELISHA, TARRY HERE, I PRAY THEE; FOR THE LORD HATH SENT ME TO JERICHO. AND HE SAID, AS THE LORD LIVETH, AND AS THY SOUL LIVETH, I WILL NOT LEAVE THEE. SO THEY CAME TO JERICHO.**

**Note: Elijah knew the exact day that he was going to be raptured.**

## **II KINGS 2:11-13**

**11 AND IT CAME TO PASS, AS THEY STILL WENT ON, AND TALKED, THAT, BEHOLD, THERE APPEARED A CHARIOT OF FIRE, AND HORSES OF FIRE, AND PARTED THEM BOTH ASUNDER; AND ELIJAH WENT UP BY A WHIRLWIND INTO HEAVEN.**

**12 AND ELISHA SAW IT, AND HE CRIED, MY FATHER, MY FATHER, THE CHARIOT OF ISRAEL, AND THE HORSEMEN THEREOF. AND HE SAW HIM NO MORE: AND HE TOOK HOLD OF HIS OWN CLOTHES, AND RENT THEM IN TWO PIECES.**

**13 HE TOOK UP ALSO THE MANTLE OF ELIJAH THAT FELL FROM HIM, AND WENT BACK, AND STOOD BY THE BANK OF JORDAN;**

**Elisha saw the driver of the chariot that swept Elijah away. The word whirlwind signifies a cloud, actually a storm cloud. He was probably caught up in a tornado. Elijah was a type of the living saints who are still alive when the rapture occurs. Remember, Moses was a type of the saints who died before the rapture occurs. Since the righteous dead and the raptured church go up at the same time, Moses and Elijah apparently ascended into heaven at the same time.**

**Elisha became the leading prophet. Having seen Elijah being caught up, Elisha received a double portion of Elijah's spirit. Elisha's life was much like that of Elijah's. Elisha smote the waters of the River Jordan passed over on dry ground. He brought waters of refreshment in times of drought. He increased a widow's store of food and raised only sons to life. Elisha performed miracles for people outside the boundaries of Israel. He pronounced sentences upon kings, down vengeance upon unbelievers.**

**Unlike Elijah, Elisha lead a triumphant life as he mingled with his fellowmen. We have no record that he ever complained of his lot in life, fled from his enemies, or lost his**

**courage. Even on his death bed, he seemed to be full of power and gave commands to a king.**

**The following is a list of all the kings and prophets of Israel. The dates are approximate. This list is placed here to help in understanding who was the King of Israel and King of Judah as the different prophets delivered the message that they had received under the inspiration of God. Knowing this relationship between ruler and prophet may shed light on the historical events and why the content of the message given by God, when it was delivered by the particular prophet and the specific manner in which it was delivered.**