

# Destin Church of Christ

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## Chapter 15: God's Messengers

1 Kings 17 – 19; 2 Kings 2; 4; 6; Hosea 4 – 5; 8 – 9; 14; Amos 1; 3 – 5; 9

### Introduction:

Over and over God would send his messengers, the prophets, to the people. These men were faithful, passionate, and relentless. Sometimes the people listened, but often they ignored the prophets, and drove off a cliff.

As the prophets spoke, the cry of God's heart could be heard: "Please come home; turn from your sin; return to me; I still love you; it is not too late."

### Lesson Breakdown:

- The Fire of the Lord and the Wrath of a Queen (1 Kings 17-19)
- Fresh Fire (1 Kings 19)
- Chariots of Fire (2 Kings 2)
- God at Work through Elisha (2 Kings 4, 6)
- The Shepherd of Tekoa (Amos 1, 3-5, 9)
- Fire on Their Cities (Hosea 4-5, 8-9, 14)

### Plot Points:

- Under the leadership of Ahab and Jezebel, Israel is gripped by idolatry and greed.
- God sends prophets to call Israel to repent, but they are largely ignored.
- The power of God wins every time!

*As you watch the video for Session 15, notice some of the main points.*

- ✓ The secret of their success is their God.
- ✓ God raised up prophets or messengers.
- ✓ God asked Hosea to marry a prostitute.
- ✓ "Return, Israel, to the your God."
- ✓ Maybe he's calling just to say he loves you.

## UNDERSTAND THE STORY:

### ❖ 1 Kings 17:

Elijah told Ahab, "There will be no dew or rain in the next few years."  
(pg. 203) [1 Kings 17:1]

The LORD tells Elijah to go eastward and hide near the Brook Cherish. He could drink from the brook and the ravens would feed him bread. (pg. 203) [1 Kings 17:2-6]

Later, the brook dries up and the LORD tells Elijah to go to Zarephath where a widow would provide for him. There, the LORD, through Elijah, grants her an unlimited supply of food and raises her son from the dead. (NIB) [1 Kings 17:7-24]

❖ 1 Kings 18:

J. Vernon Magee calls this “*one of the most spectacular chapters of Scripture.*” “*The meeting between Elijah and Ahab is dramatic ... three times it is announced, ‘... Elijah is here’*”. (NIB ... would be pg. 203) [1 Kings 18:7, 11, 14]

Elijah challenges the 450 prophets of Baal. (pg. 204) [1 Kings 18:21-22]

“*One with God is a majority.*” ~~ John Knox

1. What was the challenge? (pg. 204) [1 Kings 18:23-24]

The prophets of Baal used every kind of spell to bring fire down upon the offering in the name of Baal, but nothing worked. (pg. 204) [1 Kings 18:26]

Elijah mocks them, using irony and sarcasm. The people yell louder and become more frantic, but to no avail. (pg. 204) [1 Kings 18:27-29]

Elijah calls the people to surround him. He repairs the altar, using twelve stones. Digs a trench around the altar and prepares the bull for sacrifice. He tells the people to pour four waterpots with water on the burnt sacrifice and on the wood. (pg. 205) [1 Kings 18:30-33]

2. How many times did they pour water on the burnt sacrifice and the wood? (pg. 205) [1 Kings 18:34-35]

Elijah then utters one of the great prayers of Scripture, brief but effective. (pg. 205) [1 Kings 18:34-35]

The LORD sends fire that consumed the burnt sacrifice, the wood, the stones, the dust, and it licked up the water that *was* in the trench. All the people saw it and fell on their faces crying out to the LORD. (pg. 205) [1 Kings 18:38-39]

The prophets of Baal are brought to Elijah, and he executes them. (pg. 205) [1 Kings 18:40]

After defeating the prophets of Baal, Elijah announces the approach of a rainstorm. The sky became black with clouds and wind, and there was a heavy rain. (pgs. 205-206) [1 Kings 18:41-46]

❖ 1 Kings 19:

After Ahab reports to Jezebel that Elijah had slain all her prophets of Baal, she vows to kill Elijah. (pg. 206) [1 Kings 19:1-2]

Elijah took his eyes off the Lord and ran from the woman, retreating to Beersheba. (pg. 206) [1 Kings 19:3]

He goes into the wilderness and crawls under a juniper tree where he requests that he might die. (pg. 206) [1 Kings 19:4]

Being physically and mentally depleted, God gave him nourishing food and plenty of sleep. (pgs. 206-207) [1 Kings 19:5-9a]

The LORD treated him to a specular display: (pg. 207) [1 Kings 19:11-12]

- There was strong wind, but God was not in the wind.
- There was an earthquake, but God was not in the earthquake.
- There was fire, but God was not in the fire.

3. How did the Lord make his appearance to Elijah in the wilderness? (pg. 207) [1 Kings 19:12]

The LORD spoke to Elijah, telling him to go to the Wilderness of Damascus. While there, he is to anoint Hazael *as* king over Syria, Jehu the son of Nimshi *as* king over Israel, and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel Meholah, *as* prophet. (pgs. 207) [1 Kings 19:15-18]

Elijah returns to Israel and puts his cloak on Elisha. He accepts Elisha as his apprentice. (pgs. 207-208) [1 Kings 19:19-21]

❖ 2 Kings 2:

Elisha followed Elijah from Gilgal to Bethel to Jericho to the Jordan River. (pg. 208) [2 Kings 2:1-2, 4]

When they got to the Jordan river, fifty men stood facing them. Elijah took his cloak and splits the Jordan river. He and Elisha crossed over on dry land. (pg. 208) [2 Kings 2:7-8]

Elijah promises Elisha a double portion of his spirit if he witnesses his departure. (pgs. 208-209) [2 Kings 2:9]

4. How did Elijah die? (pg. 209) [2 Kings 2:11-12]

Elisha took Elijah's cloak and divided the waters of the Jordan, as Elijah had earlier, and crossed back over. (pg. 209) [2 Kings 2:12-14]

He purifies the waters of Jericho and makes it sweet. (pg. 209) [2 Kings 2:20-22]

5. Some youths in Bethel mocked him and said what to him? (NIB) [2 Kings 2:23]

6. What happened to the youths? (NIB) [2 Kings 2:24]

#### ❖ 2 Kings 4:

This chapter contains five miracles performed by Elisha. While there is a similarity between the miracles of Elisha and Elijah, the miracles performed by Elisha were more extensive and greater to a degree.

- a. A widow of one of the prophets is in dire circumstances—her two sons are about to be sold into slavery. Elisha multiplies the pot of oil. (209) [2 Kings 4:1-7]
- b. A “great woman” of Shunem entertains Elisha. Elisha promises she would have a son. (pgs. 209-210) [2 Kings 4:8-17]
- c. When the son was grown to manhood, he died, and Elisha restores him to life using the same method Elijah had in 1 Kings 17:17-24. (pg. 209) [2 Kings 4:18-37]

7. What did the child do right before he opened his eyes? (pg. 211) [2 Kings 4:35]

- d. Sons of the prophets are eating a soup in which there was poison, and Elisha makes it harmless. (NIB) [2 Kings 4:38-41]
- e. Elisha feeds 100 men with food for one man. (NIB) [2 Kings 4:42-44]

#### ❖ 2 Kings 5:

In 2 Kings 5 (pg. 211) is where one of the most famous deeds of Elisha is found:

1. Naaman, captain of the army of Syria and a great man, was a leper. [v. 1]
2. He comes to Elisha for healing at the suggestion of his wife’s maid (a Hebrew girl). [vv. 5-4]
3. Elisha refuses to see him but sends a messenger to tell him to go wash in the Jordan seven times. [v. 10]
4. Naaman, because of pride, refuses to go at first. [vv. 11-12]
5. When he was persuaded to swallow his pride and obey the prophet, he was healed. [v. 14]

6. Gehazi, servant of Elisha, extracts a reward from Naaman without Elisha's permission. Elisha pronounces judgment upon him, and he becomes a leper. [v. 27]

❖ 2 Kings 6:

In 2 Kings 6:1-7 (NIB), an axe head floats on top of the water of the Jordan river.

Because of Elisha, Israel even won battles without a fight. (pgs. 211-212) [2 Kings 6:8-23]

Ben-hadad lays siege to Samaria. The inhabitants of the city are starving. It was so bad that the women were killing and eating their own children. (NIB) [2 Kings 6:26-29]

Many kings came and went in Israel and Judah. Some achieved godly reforms; others made a mess of what they inherited. During this period, a prophet arose with a stirring message of justice and judgment. (pg. 213)

❖ Amos, a herdsman, had a vision of God roaring like a lion from Mount Zion in His Temple, saying that He would test the Hebrews and scatter Israel across the world. Amos did see that Israel and the Hebrews would eventually have their fortunes restored.

- Amos 1: (pg. 213) [vv. 1-2a]
- Amos 3: (pgs. 213-214) [vv. 1-2, 9-11]
- Amos 4: (pg. 214) [vv. 2-3, 6, 10, 12]
- Amos 5: (pg. 215) [vv. 6, 14-15]
- Amos 9: (pg. 215) [v. 8]

❖ Hosea followed as a prophet in Israel. He poured out his heart, pleading with a nation that refused to love a faithful God. He warned the northern kingdom that if they did not repent and turn back to God, they would face serious consequences. (pg. 215)

Hosea tells about his wife Gomer, who was a prostitute. Hosea sees that Israel has also acted like a prostitute, serving their "gods," yet God still loves the Jews, who will return to the Lord in the "last days" (Hosea 3:5).

- Hosea 4: (pgs. 215-216) [vv. 1-2]
- Hosea 5: (pg. 216) [vv. 1, 7, 14-15]
- Hosea 8: (pg. 216) [vv. 13b-14]
- Hosea 9: (pgs. 216-217) [v. 7]
- Hosea 14: (pg. 217) [vv. 1-2]

Though the prophets warned the people, the northern kingdom of Israel didn't listen. They hardened their hearts and continued to ignore God's pleas to return to his ways.

The kings of Israel led the people into spiritual and social chaos. Between Jeroboam II and Hoshea came a series of five other kings (Zachariah, Shallum, Menahem, Pekahiah, Pekah), noted for doing "evil in the eyes of the LORD." All of them came into power and/or had their reigns ended through assassination. (pg. 217)

IN 2 WEEKS ... We'll look at the story of the downfall of Israel and what happens as they are sent off to exile. Read "The Beginning of the End", chapter 16 of *The Story* before our next session. 2 Kings 17 – 19; Isaiah 3; 6; 13 – 14; 49; 53

Kings of Israel and Judah	
Israel	Judah
1 – Jeroboam I (22 years) Bad	1 – Rehoboam (17 years) Bad
2 – Nadab (2 years) Bad	2 – Abijah (3 years) Bad
3 – Baasha (24 years) Bad	3 – Asa (41 years) Good
4 – Elah (2 years) Bad	4 – Jehoshaphat (25 years) Good
5 – Zimri (7 days) Bad	5 – Jehoram (8 years) Bad
6 – Omri (12 years) Bad	6 – Ahaziah (1 year) Bad
7 – Ahab (22 years) Bad	7 – Athaliah (6 years) Bad
8 – Ahaziah (2 years) Bad	8 – Joash (40 years) Good
9 – Joram (12 years) Bad	9 – Amaziah (29 years) Good
10 – Jehu (28 years) Bad	10 – Azariah (or Uzziah) (52 years) Good
11 – Jehoahaz (17 years) Bad	11 – Jotham (16 years) Good
12 – Jehoash (16 years) Bad	12 – Ahaz (16 years) Bad
13 – Jeroboam II (41 years) Bad	13 – Hezekiah (29 years) Good
14 – Zechariah (6 months) Bad	14 – Manasseh (55 years) Bad
15 – Shallum (1 month) Bad	15 – Amon (2 years) Bad
16 – Menahem (10 years) Bad	16 – Josiah (31 years) Good
17 – Pekahiah (2 years) Bad	17 – Jehoahaz (3 months) Bad
18 – Pekah (20 years) Bad	18 – Jehoiakim (11 years) Bad
19 – Hoshea (9 years) Bad	19 – Jehoiachin (3 months) Bad
	20 – Zedekiah (11 years) Bad