

Elijah's Miracles

Teacher Preparation

1. Study lesson.
■ Scripture I Kings 11:9 16:30–34 17:1–24
2. Visuals • Key Verse 1 Matt. 6:34
• Map 1.1 Divided Kingdom
• Map 1.2 Elijah/Mt. Carmel
3. Objectives: To learn about—
 - Israel's kings/divided kingdom.
 - Jeroboam king, northern Israel.
 - Elijah tells King Ahab—No rain.
 - At brook, ravens feed Elijah.
 - Widow prepares his food.
 - Her son dies/Elijah raises him.

Lesson 1

Background

Around 2,000 B.C., God called **Abram** to leave Ur of the Chaldees. He obeyed and went by **faith** to Canaan, the land God promised to him, to his son Isaac, and grandson Jacob.

During their sojourn in Canaan, Jacob's son, **Joseph**, was sold as a slave to Egypt, but later, was promoted second to Pharaoh in all Egypt. Then his brothers and their families came to Egypt to live. After **Joseph's** death, all their descendants became Egyptian **slaves**. And God used **Moses** to miraculously bring Israel out of Egypt. At Sinai, God gave His law. And Moses led them through the wilderness.

After Moses died, **Joshua** led Israel in conquering Canaan. Later, they began worshipping idols, and God allowed their enemies to conquer them.

God then raised up **Judges**, such as Gideon, Barak, Samson, etc. to **deliver** them. Eventually, “every man did that which was right in his own eyes” Judges 21:25. The people then became so **corrupt**, they **refused** God's rule and asked for a **king** to rule over them.

Their first 3 kings—**Saul**, **David**, and **Solomon** each reigned **40 yrs.**

King Solomon

During Solomon's reign, Israel controlled more territory, gained more riches, and had more peace than at any time in Israel. Solomon also built the magnificent **Temple**. But later, his love for many wives and concubines brought God's **judgment**.

★Teacher reads, as class follows.

I Kings 11:9 *And the LORD was **angry** with Solomon, because his heart was **turned** from the LORD God of Israel, which had appeared unto him twice.*

God then stirred up adversaries against Solomon. A man named **Jeroboam**, was told by a prophet of God that he would **rule** over **10** of Israel's **12 tribes**. Solomon then sought to **kill** Jeroboam, but Jeroboam fled to Egypt until after Solomon's death.

After Solomon **died**, his son **Rehoboam** reigned as King over Israel.

Jeroboam

When Jeroboam returned from Egypt, the **10** northern **tribes** followed him.

But Judah and Benjamin, the **2** southern **tribes**, stayed with King Rehoboam. Jeroboam was very evil (Ch. 13), and God warned him, but he did not turn from his evil way.

Kingdom divided

Thus, the nation Israel was divided. Jeroboam was king over the **10 northern** tribes, which were called **Israel**. And Rehoboam reigned over the **2 southern** tribes called **Judah**.

Often, there **was** war between the two—the **10** northern tribes (Israel) and the **2** southern tribes (Judah). And they each had to war against other nations.

Divided Kingdom Map 1.1



Ahab/Jezebel

Israel had more **wicked** kings reigning over them than Judah did. To rebuke the **wicked kings**, God used His **prophets**. Later, a king named **Ahab** began ruling over **Israel's 10** tribes.

★Teacher reads, as class follows.

I Kings 16:30 *And Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the LORD above all that were before him.*

³¹ *And it came to pass, as if it had been a light thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he took to wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Zidonians, and went and served Baal, and worshipped him.*

³² *And he reared up an altar for Baal in the house of Baal, which he had built in Samaria.* ³³ *And Ahab made a grove; and Ahab did more to provoke the LORD God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel that were before him.*

Ahab was more wicked than all the kings that ruled before him. He had married **Jezebel**, the **wicked** daughter of the king of **Sidon**. Ahab then erected an altar to an idol called **Baal**.

Prophecy fulfilled

In Ahab's days, the following occurred—

★Teacher reads, as class follows.

Vs. 34 *In his days did Hiel the Bethelite build Jericho: he laid the foundation thereof in Abiram his firstborn, and set up the gates thereof in his youngest son Segub, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake by Joshua the son of Nun.*

This verse relates to a **prophecy** God made—after **Joshua** conquered **Jericho** Josh. 6:26. It **prophesied**—whoever rebuilt Jericho would have **2 sons die** in the process. This happened years later, at this time. The man's oldest son **died** when Jericho's **foundation** was laid, and his youngest son **died** when the **city gates** were set up. God's prophecies **always** come to pass!

Elijah rebukes Ahab

★Teacher reads, as class follows.

17:1 *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.*

It was perhaps a palace joke. **Elijah** knew God withholds rain when nations continue in sin (Deu. 11:17 and I Kings 8:35). James 5:17 says—
“Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he **prayed** earnestly that it might **not rain**: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months.”

I John 5:15 says—“And if we **know** that he **hear** us, whatsoever we **ask**, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.”

God told Elijah—

★Teacher reads, as class follows.

Vs. 3 *Get thee hence, and turn thee eastward, and hide thyself by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan.*

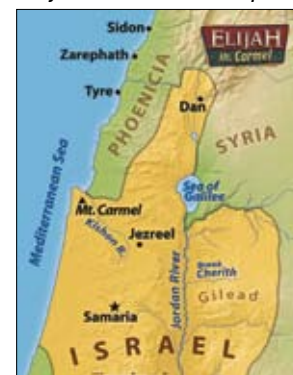
⁴ *And it shall be, that thou shalt drink of the brook; and I have commanded the ravens to feed thee there.*

⁵ *So he went and did according unto the word of the LORD: for he went and dwelt by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan.*

⁶ *And the ravens brought him bread and flesh in the morning, and bread and flesh in the evening; and he drank of the brook.*

Locate Cherith and Jordan river

Elijah/Mt. Carmel Map 1.2



Elijah's home was Gilead (see map). **Cherith** means “cut off, separate.”

There, God **protected** **Elijah** by “cutting him off” from others. He had water from the brook Cherith, and **ravens** brought him bread and fish mornings and evenings.

Widow to feed Elijah

★Teacher reads, as class follows.

17:7 *And it came to pass after a while, that the brook dried up, because there had been **no rain** in the land.*

8 And the word of the LORD came unto him, saying,
 9 Arise, get thee to Zarephath, which belongeth to Zidon, and dwell there: behold, I have **commanded** a widow woman there to sustain thee.

Locate
Zarephath →

Elijah/Mt. Carmel Map 1.2



It is interesting that Zarephath was **Jezebel's home**

town—the least likely place to look for Elijah.

Thus, God's command guaranteed Elijah's

safety. The safest place to be is in the will of God, and the most

dangerous place is out of God's will.

★Teacher reads, as class follows.

Vs. 10 So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, the widow woman was there gathering of sticks: and he called to her, and said, Fetch me, I pray thee, a little water in a vessel, that I may drink.

11 And as she was going to fetch it, he called to her, and said, Bring me, I pray thee, a morsel of bread in thine hand.

This was the widow who would feed Elijah. Widows were usually **poor**, but if God commanded **ravens** to bring Elijah food, He could **command** a poor widow to give him food.

God arranged the timing of Elijah's arrival. As Elijah entered the city gate, the **widow** and her son were there searching for sticks of wood. Elijah called her—to bring him a little water in a vessel. As she went to get water, he said, "Bring me a morsel of **bread** in your hand."

Little meal and oil

★Teacher reads, as class follows.

17:12 And she said, As the LORD thy God liveth, I have not a cake, but an handful of meal in a barrel, and a little oil in a cruse: and, behold, I am gathering two sticks, that I may go in and dress it for me and my son, that we may eat it, and die.

She said, "As the LORD thy God **liveth**." She, no doubt, believed in

Jehovah, for she recognized—Elijah's **God was living**. She admitted her poverty and said—"I only have a **handful** of **meal** and a **little oil**. I was getting sticks to make a fire and **prepare** for me and my son to eat; then we will **die**."

"Make me cake first"

★Teacher reads, as class follows.

Vs. 13 And Elijah said unto her, **Fear not**; go and do as thou hast said: but make me thereof a little cake **first**, and **bring** it unto **me**, and **after** make for **thee** and for thy **son**.

Elijah said—make **my** cake (bread) **first**. He then tells her why—

★Teacher reads, as class follows.

Vs. 14 For thus saith the LORD God of Israel, The barrel of **meal** shall **not waste**, neither shall the cruse of **oil** **fail**, until the day that the LORD sendeth **rain** upon the **earth**.

15 And she went and **did** according to the saying of Elijah: and she, and he, and her house, **did eat** many days.

16 And the barrel of **meal** wasted not, neither did the cruse of **oil** **fail**, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake by Elijah.

Because she **made Elijah's** food **first**, she and her son always had **food**.

Their dependence was on God, which is God's will for all His children.

Elijah told her God's promise—the **meal** would always be there, and

the **oil** would not stop, 'til **God** sent **rain**. Therefore, Elijah and the

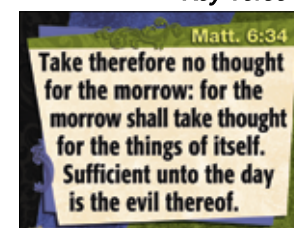
widow practiced what Jesus said in—

A Key Verse

Matt. 6:34 Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

(repeat verse)

Key Verse 1



Tragedy/son dies

★Teacher reads, as class follows.

Vs. 17 And it came to pass after these things, that the **son** of the woman, the mistress of the house, fell **sick**; and his sickness was so sore, that there was **no breath** left in him.

18 *And she said unto Elijah, What have I to do with thee, O thou man of God? art thou come unto me to call **my sin to remembrance**, and to **slay my son**?*

When her son became sick and stopped breathing, she called Elijah and said, Are you come—to “call **my sin to remembrance**, and to **slay my son**?” She immediately thought—it’s my **sin**, and God is **judging** me. Her conscience was very sensitive to personal **guilt**.

When tragedy comes, people often think—God is judging them for some **wrong** they did in the past. This simply verifies—that God has put in man’s **conscience**—a sense of **right and wrong**.

Son raised to life

★Teacher reads, as class follows.

17:19 *And he said unto her, Give me thy son. And he took him out of her bosom, and carried him up into a **loft**, where **he abode**, and **laid him upon his own bed**.*

20 *And he cried unto the LORD, and said, O LORD my God, hast thou also brought **evil** upon the **widow** with whom I sojourn, by **slaying her son**?*

21 *And he **stretched himself upon the child three times**, and **cried** unto the LORD, and said, O LORD my God, I pray thee, let this **child’s soul come into him again**.*

Elijah picked up her son, **carried** him to **his loft** and **laid** him on **his** bed.

He prayed **3 times** to **God**, and stretched himself over the young boy, and **cried**, “*Let this child’s **soul come into him again**.*”

★Teacher reads, as class follows.

Vs. 22 *And the LORD **heard** the **voice** of Elijah; and the **soul** of the child **came into him again**, and he **revived**.*

23 *And Elijah took the child, and **brought him down out of the chamber into the house**, and delivered him unto his mother: and Elijah said, **See, thy son liveth**.*

24 *And the woman said to Elijah, Now by this I **know** that thou **art** a **man of God**, and that the **word** of the LORD **in thy mouth is truth**.*

If the widow had any **doubt**, this **convinced** her that Elijah served the **God**

of **truth** and was a man of **great faith**. Because of that, God used him to do great miracles.

In our next study, Ahab will search diligently for Elijah. Later, they meet and each goes to Mt. Carmel. There, Elijah will have a **miraculous** display of **God’s power**. Ahab and all the **evil prophets** of the **idol Baal** will see the power of **Israel’s God**. Because of this, **many** in Israel will **turn** to the true **God**. And many living in heathen areas will also hear about the **great power** of Israel’s God.

Why does God do such **miraculous** things? So people of all nations and all generations can know about His **great power** and **believe** on the **true** and **living God**.

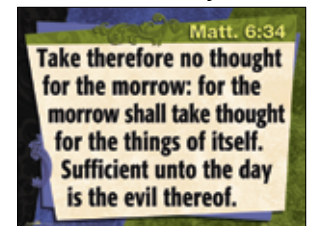
Let’s review—

Key Verse

Matt. 6:34 →

Let’s say it together.

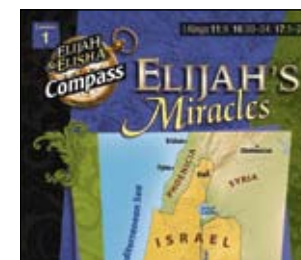
Key Verse 1



Prayer

Announce—Scripture for the next lesson is always on **back** of the **Compass** (at the bottom).

As class exits,
Asst. gives out
Compass #1.



Scripture to read before next study

I Kings 18:1–40