

Timeless lives from the God-Story
ELIJAH & ELISHA: PURE HEART IN THE WILDERNESS

1 Kings 17-19; 2 Kings 1-7

Do you ever feel like your life is just a speck in the ocean - a drop in a bucket - a wrinkle in time...well, you get the idea. When humans look for meaning it can seem futile because of circumstance, our obscurity, and the incredible limitations of being human. The lives of Elijah and Elisha are cool on two levels. God used them to speak in some pretty powerful ways, and the supernatural works that they did gave a clear picture of the Miracle Worker who was to come!



1 Kings 17-19

Why did God appoint prophets to speak to His people? (note: if these prophets were not accurate, they were stoned!) What kinds of pressures did drought place upon a nation? Why was raising the widow's son from the dead so significant? Why was Obadiah the prophet so freaked out by his encounter with Elijah the prophet? What happens on Mount Carmel is intense! What was God trying to show the people? Why was a showdown necessary?

Why would somebody who wielded such power be afraid of a mere human like Jezebel? Why was Elijah so weary? What do we learn about God from how He spoke to Elijah on Mount Horeb?

2 Kings 1-3

What kind of relationship did Elijah have with the kings of Israel? Why do you think God gave Elijah this kind of authority and power? Why do you think he was "taken up" into heaven the way he was? Why did Elisha have to be with Elijah when God took him from the earth? What did Elisha request? What is the deal with the bear story? What does it teach about Israel? About Elisha? About God?

2 Kings 4

These next recorded miracles should have given the Jewish nation a very clear picture about Jesus. If John the Baptist was the Elijah that was to come (Malachi 4) then Jesus Christ certainly came in the power and presence of Elisha! What does the Widow's Oil teach us about God's providence in difficult times? Why did God hide the Shunnamite woman's pain from Elisha? What are the emotions that are being expressed in this story? Why was the poisonous stew event recorded and what spiritual significance does it have?

2 King 5-7

Why was Naaman so angry? How did God show him grace through the words of those closest to him? Naaman was a non-Jew. Why does this make this story so much more incredible? Did Jesus ever refer to this situation in His teachings? Why was Gehazi dealt with so severely? Why did it matter? What is the spiritual significance of the axe head story related to the spiritual condition of Israel?

There is absolutely no way that the Jews watching Jesus should not have looked at the works He was performing and not know they were in the presence of God's Son. And yet how different are we - the Word has lived among us and we still do not believe!

My conclusions from this study...
