



Interesting Men in the Bible: Elijah

1 Kings 18:17-18 *“When he saw Elijah, he said to him, “Is that you, you troubler of Israel?” 18 “I have not made trouble for Israel,” Elijah replied. “But you and your father’s family have. You have abandoned the Lord’s commands and have followed the Baals.”*

We all know movies that have a cut scene. The action and dialogue come fast and furious and then the director cuts to a different scene and tempo. Is it meant to give you a rest from the action? Possibly it’s to let you think for a minute. The writer of 1st and 2nd Samuel has been chronicling the path of David. It’s also the beginning of the kings of Israel. Then we have 1 and 2 Kings continuing the story beyond the first two kings. Things get real messy right after the death of the third King Solomon. We can get so caught up in who is leading and the national split into Israel and Judah. Then a prophet enters the story. It’s a cut scene beginning in 1 Kings 17.

Our introduction to this great prophet is all about listening to God. He tells King Ahab there will be a drought. God then instructs him to go to a widow. His instructions to her are decisive. This prophet is not a drone. He could be described as having great faith as he listens to God; yet, Elijah is bold enough to question God. He has passion to talk honestly with God. I suppose God could have dismissed this prophet because he questioned him. Instead God uses this man to heal the son of the widow. Later on, Elijah confronted Ahab again in a negative way.

The king could have had him killed. It appears that even in this dialogue the King respected this man of God.

Elijah is an aggressive. He immediately jumped on the widow's son while crying out to the Lord for help. The prophet had no problem giving a bad report to Ahab on what God said to him. This guy is real. He confronts 450 priests of Baal. What astounds me is that these priests were Jezebels, Ahab's evil queen. She was choked after the prophet had them all killed. Jezebel told him in no uncertain terms that he would be dead by the next day. In chapter 19 Elijah fled to a cave to avoid death, but God confronts the prophet. It's interesting that God pushes back on Elijah. Pushes him to be bold and faithful. Elijah is probably the most famous prophet, yet he only has five chapters. It is interesting that in chapter 20 of 1 kings Ahab is in conversation with an unknown prophet or man of God. Is it Elijah?

Elijah returns in chapter 21 as we see Ahab and Jezebel kill off a land owner named Nabob. Elijah boldly comes to the King and predicts his demise. Then the prophet Micaiah enters the scene. The story of Elijah then skips to 2 kings 1. It's an epic finish. A new king Ahaziah wants a favorable prophesy about going to war. Ahaziah does not want the advice of Elijah because it's not good news. This prophet is bold, honest, and to the point. The King sends men to gather the prophet but God smolts them with fire several times. Finally, He goes to the King and the prophesy comes true and the king dies. Elijah is powerful because He believes in God.

Finally, in 2 Kings 2 Elijah is taken up in to the sky. It's interesting that his understudy Elisha knows this is going to happen. Elijah enters the Bible out of nowhere. He equally leaves out of nowhere too. Elisha the understudy is bold too. He refuses to leave his master. Then he boldly asks for a double portion of Gods power. Amazingly, God gives it to him. Then in a

whirlwind, a chariot of fire descends from the sky and takes up Elijah. There has always been a mystery about if Elijah died. The gospels mention the disciples seeing Elijah with Moses in the transfiguration moment. How did they know who it was? There seems to be power with Elijah. As Elijah leaves in the chariot, he dropped his cloak and Elisha realizes it still had Gods power upon it. Although Elijah is with the Bible just a short time, you can see that there was something special about him.

Elijah has few words and stories but they are powerful. His ability of listen to God and do what is asked without question is faith at its best. Yet, Elijah was human and he had doubt in the cave. Rulers on the earth respected him and despised him all at the same time. The Jewish community hold this prophet in high esteem. They hold dear to the coming of Elijah to reign in Gods kingdom on earth. They asked John the Baptist if he was Elijah. He is an interesting man in the Bible.

Malachi 4:5 *“Behold, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the Lord.”*