

Lesson 4 - The Elijah Anointing - Young Adults and Upwards

Teacher's preparation:

Read: 1 Kings 17 and Malachi 4:5-6

The Story:

In this lesson we will be learning about a prophet named Elijah who was sent by God for a specific purpose.

The story of Elijah is recorded in 1 Kings 17 onwards and tells us how Elijah served the Lord. The Lord told him that He was not going to send rain to the earth because of the disobedience and the idol-worship of the people.

God told Elijah to take a message to the evil king Ahab that there will be no rain or dew over the next three years except when Elijah prayed for it.

King Ahab and Queen Jezebel did not believe the message that Elijah gave them. They were very angry with him. They did not want to listen to Elijah and did not take the warning seriously. They continued to worship other gods. He told them that God would take away the rain so that they would learn to worship the true God.

Now, after three years of no rain, the Lord decided it was time for Elijah to talk to the King again. He told Elijah to find King Ahab and once again take him a message. Even though he was warned that the King would try to kill him, Elijah knew that he must obey the Lord. God had taken care of him before. God would take care of him now!

Elijah met Ahab. Ahab was very angry with Elijah, "You are a trouble-maker Elijah. You caused the rain to go away. It is your fault that we have had a drought."

"No, King Ahab," said Elijah. "You caused the drought. It was because you stopped worshipping the Lord. The Lord knows that you and your wife Jezebel, worship false gods. You make idols and bow down before them.

Elijah told them that there is only One True God. **'He is the Lord God! He is the only real God'**. All of the others are just made up.

Elijah bravely asked the King to gather all of the people together at Mount Carmel for a contest to prove who the true God was.

King Ahab did as Elijah said. People from all over Israel came to watch the contest. It didn't really seem like a fair contest. Elijah was the only prophet of God there. There were 450 prophets of the false god, Baal, and also 400 prophets of the false god, Asherah.

Elijah spoke to all of the people, "Everyone needs to make a decision today. If Baal is real then you need to worship him. If the Lord God is real, then you need to worship Him!"

After Elijah told King Ahab what was going to happen, the Lord then instructed Elijah to leave that place and hide in a cave. God did this to protect Elijah from being killed.

The Lord took care of Elijah because of his obedience. God used a bird called a raven to bring Elijah bread and meat in the morning and in the evening.

What is a Raven?

A Raven is a type of bird which is a vulture that feeds on the flesh of dead animals and insects. Even though this is an unclean bird, God still used it to supply food to his servant Elijah. This shows us what a faithful God we serve.

When we as children of God are obedient to what God asks us to do, He will supply all our needs. God did not let Elijah go hungry.

Memory Verse: Philippians 4:19. "God Will Supply All Our Needs"

After this God told Elijah to go to the brook called Cherith.

God told Elijah that there would be no rain. That means there would be no water to drink or food to eat. This is called a drought.

After some time had passed, the brook dried up because there was no rain. God then instructed Elijah to go to a place called Zarephath where he met a widow who was picking up sticks.

Elijah first asked the widow for some water to drink. Thereafter he asked her for some bread.

She told him that she did not have bread but only a handful of flour and a little oil. He then told her to bake him a small cake and thereafter to make some for herself and her son.

When she obeyed him, he promised her that she would not be short of anything. Her oil would never run out.

While Elijah was living in the widow's home her son fell ill, and he passed away. In desperation the woman told Elijah that her son had died.

Elijah took this request before God. The Lord heard Elijah's prayer and the boy came back to life. The woman was very happy and she thanked Elijah. She told Elijah that she believed that the Lord was with him and whatever he said was true.

Over three years had gone by without a drop of water. Animals started to die because they had no water or food. The Lord spoke to Elijah and told him to go back to King Ahab and He will send rain. So Elijah listened to the Lord once again and went to find King Ahab.

Thereafter Elijah summoned the people and gathered the prophets on Mount Carmel. He asked the prophets of Baal to build an altar to their gods and Elijah would build a separate altar. Each could place an animal sacrifice on their altar and then pray to their God to light a fire for the sacrifice. The God who could send a fire for the sacrifice was the true God.

The prophets of Baal agreed to the contest. They made their altar and then they prayed and cried out to Baal. But nothing happened to the sacrifice on the altar. They cried even louder and harder but still there was no answer.

Elijah was sure that Baal would never cause fire to come down because Baal was not real. Baal was just a god that someone made up.

Then Elijah prepared his altar. He built an altar to God. He used twelve stones to make it and then he placed the sacrifice on the altar. Then, Elijah did something very unusual! He made a trench around the altar and asked for four large jars of water and had them poured over the altar.

Then he did it again, and then again. There was so much water that it soaked the sacrifice and all of the wood on the altar. How would something soaked in water ever burn? This seemed impossible!

Then he prayed to God and said: "I pray to you Lord, because you are the only God. Please show all of these people here today that you are real. Please send down fire and burn this sacrifice.

Then an amazing thing happened. Fire came down out of the sky and burned the sacrifice. But the amazing things did not stop there. The fire was so powerful that it burned the wood on the altar, the stones, the dirt, and even dried up all of the water in the ditch around the altar. There was nothing left. Now everyone knew that the Lord was the only God. They bowed down and kept saying:

"The Lord – He is God! The Lord – He is God!"

After this miracle rain also came and ended the drought. Then the prophets of Baal were killed at Elijah's command. Queen Jezebel was very upset about this and she threatened that she would take revenge on Elijah and wanted to kill him.

Elijah was forced to flee to the desert and after travelling forty days and forty nights; he eventually arrived at Mount Horeb which was the mountain where Moses received the Ten Commandments.

Here God gave Elijah more instructions to follow. One was to anoint Elisha as the prophet who would take his place. God chose Elisha to follow Elijah and they became good friends. Elisha served Elijah faithfully.

But one day, Elijah told Elisha that God was sending him away and that Elisha had to remain, but Elisha refused to leave his friend. Elijah asked Elisha what he could do for him before he left and Elisha said he wanted a double portion of Elijah's spirit.

Elijah did not die. A chariot of fire swept down from heaven and took Elijah away in a whirlwind. Elisha was the only one who witnessed this event and he took up Elijah's mantle which fell from him as he ascended. This mantle was the anointing that Elisha received from Elijah.

Elisha's request was granted, and like his friend, Elisha became a powerful prophet as well.

When Elisha asked for twice as much of Elijah's power, he was asking to be the one who would carry on doing Elijah's work as a leader of prophets. Elisha did not want to be better than Elijah for any selfish reasons. All he wanted was to do great things for God. God granted Elisha's request. During his lifetime, Elisha did twice as many miracles as Elijah.

When we ask God for success, fame, power, or ability, we should look closely at our reasons for asking. As long as we are asking to glorify and serve God, we will be surprised as He often answers in ways we might not understand.

In order for Elisha to receive this anointing he had to leave, follow and serve Elijah. Elisha had to leave his father and mother and all his belongings and disconnect himself from his past to move forward.

This shows us that Elisha wanted to serve Elijah as a true servant. You can only serve this anointing through prayer, giving, sacrifice and obedience. Thereafter Elijah repaired the altar that was broken down and rebuilt it using 12 stones.

PART 1

Question 1: Who is a prophet? What are the functions of a Prophet?

A prophet is someone who is a messenger of God. God tells the prophet what to say and the prophet tells others what God said. God can't talk to people unless they are listening, and sometimes it is easier to hear a message through another person. God may ask you to tell someone something. This is called having the gift of the prophet.

Elijah was sent by God as a prophet. Prophets boldly deliver the message from God to His people.

Question 2: What is the great day?

The Great Day is the first coming of the Lord Jesus Christ which has already occurred as recorded in the Bible.

Question 3: What is the dreadful day?

The dreadful day is the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ which is still going to happen and could happen at any time.

Question 4: What is the main function of the Elijah anointing as it appears in our story?

Firstly, what do we understand by the term 'Anointing'?

The anointing is God's ability to enable you to do something with ease, without it being a struggle. For example when we look at a car's engine, it eventually won't run very well without motor oil; trying to live life without the anointing will be very difficult. God gave Elijah a special gift called the 'anointing' to be able to do what God wanted him to do.

The main function of this anointing is to bring the fathers and children together. In this way we will have a relationship with our Pastor who is the Head of the church. This means that we can have direct access to our Pastor. We do not have to wait for a special appointment to speak to him as he makes himself available if we have a need to speak to him.

We will develop a close bond with him as though he is our father and we are his children. He will teach us what is right, and when we obey we will be protected from many unnecessary problems. In this way we will be successful in our purpose on the earth as he will direct us in the correct way without wasting too much time on other things that does not please God.

Question 5: What did Jesus mean when He said: 'he is Elijah who is to come'?

Jesus meant that the ANOINTING of Elijah would come back to the earth, not the person himself, but the ANOINTING that he carried.

This anointing is the ability to teach the younger generation, like Elijah taught Elisha. This is to ensure continuity so that this will be passed on from generation to generation.

This would be upon God's 'sent ones' who are the apostles and prophets of today. They will impart to their spiritual sons and this anointing would continue in their sons for generations to come.

What does reincarnation mean?

Reincarnation means that when we die, we will come back to the earth again.

Is Jesus teaching reincarnation?

No, Jesus does not teach reincarnation.

Question 6: On whom do we see the Elijah anointing present and how were they attacked?

The first time - this anointing was seen in Elijah who was attacked by Jezebel. When Elijah killed all the prophets of Baal, Jezebel wanted to kill him.

The second time - this was in John the Baptist who was attacked by a spirit of Jezebel in Herodias' daughter. In this story Herod the King asked his daughter to dance for his guests. The king was very pleased with her and he foolishly promised to give her anything that she wanted. She asked for John the Baptist to be killed. This was the spirit of Jezebel.

The third time - this refers to the present day Apostolic Leaders and Pastors of local churches who will be attacked by the spirit of Jezebel which is a controlling spirit.

A Jezebel spirit comes to cut off the voice of God, so that the people will not be able to hear what God is saying. It is a deceitful spirit.

PART 2

Question 1: What are the characteristics of the Apostolic Prophetic Anointing?

The characteristics are that anyone connected with this anointing is a true witness of the Lord Jesus Christ. This means you believe so much in the Lord that you don't mind looking like a fool to your friends, if you need to tell them about the Lord, you would without worrying about what they would say. It would be evident to all that a certain boldness will be upon you to declare the truth at any cost.

Question 2: What do we understand by 'The Dual Presence?'

This means that although we live on the earth, we can function from heaven and thereby exist in two places at the same time. How is this possible?

This is done by having the mind of Christ.

Phil 2:5 says 'Let this mind be in you as was in Christ Jesus'.

The bible tells us that once we have accepted Jesus into our hearts, we become one with Him.

Acts 17:28 says 'In Him we live and move and have our being'.

When we say we are 'In Him' it means that if Christ is seated at the right hand of the Heavenly Father, and we are 'In Him' then we too are seated at the right hand of the Father.

Remember in our story Elijah was standing before Ahab, yet he declared that he was standing before God. This means that he was declaring what God was telling him to say although he was on the earth.

Question 3: What do we understand by 'proclamation prayers'?

Proclamation prayers are when a spoken word is declared and it comes to pass. For example in Genesis 1 when God spoke, it came to pass and the earth was formed.

In our story the people thought that Baal, who was the false God, could bring the rain.

Elijah declared that there would be no rain or dew over the next 3 years. This came to pass and confirmed that his words were more powerful than Baal.

This shows us that the words that are spoken by people that carry this anointing can have a positive or negative effect.

The bible says in: **Prov 18:21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue.**

Question 4: Explain the similarity between John the Baptist and Elijah.

Both have the Word of the Lord which is known as the proceeding word. This is the 'now' word which means what God is saying **NOW**.

The people that have this Apostolic-Prophetic Anointing have the relevant Word of the Lord for this season. This anointing enables us to speak what is current and not outdated.

Question 5: What is the importance of Cherith and Zarephath in terms of the Elijah anointing?

Cherith means separation.

God asked Elijah to go to Cherith. This means he had to separate himself from everyone else and obey God's instruction. Because of his obedience, God took care of him. He sent a raven to feed him every morning and evening.

Zarephath means refining.

God sent Elijah to the widow of Zarephath. Elijah obeyed the instruction once again and God supernaturally provided for him. The widow used her last bit of flour and oil to make bread for him.

Both these places were places of supernatural provisions. The bible says that God is Jehovah-Jireh. He is Our God who provides.

Question 6: How does one recognize true Apostolic Prophetic ministry?

6.1 The Child dies and the Son lives.

This means that believers must move from childhood to maturity. Childhood means when one is ignorant and gullible; they love amusement, and do not understand the goals and vision of the house. Mature believers do not have these problems and are called sons.

Mature believers grow from immaturity to maturity. This means they change in their speaking, understanding and thinking.

6.2 Changes in Lifestyle.

This is seen when change takes place in the believer's life according to the will of God. Believers will not just come to church for entertainment but when the Word is being preached and taught, there will be a change in their lifestyles.

The believer now recognizes that personal responsibility is required for lifestyle change and this is how they become a true witness. They now become functional in the Body of Christ.

Question 7: What is the meaning of AHAB?

Ahab means uncle.

Question 8: What is the conflict between Elijah and Ahab?

The ministry of Elijah and Ahab are different and opposite to each other.

The Elijah anointing destroys the division between the head of the church and the congregation - it turns the heart of the fathers to the children and the hearts of the children to the fathers. The main focus of this ministry is that there is closeness between leadership and congregation. This is how the congregation will grow and become mature.

Ahab on the other hand represents an 'uncle spirit' that has come into the church. Uncles are unable to be close to anyone. Uncles wait for sons to leave home. Uncles cannot produce sons - only fathers can produce sons.

Question 9: How would you recognize an Ahab (Inaccurate) House?

- a. It has an 'uncle' spirit, not a 'father' spirit.
 - b. There is no closeness between leadership and the congregation.
 - c. The Holy Spirit is not present.
 - d. There is no word to nourish God's people.
 - e. The House of Ahab believes that Elijah is a troublemaker. They do not like people that carry this anointing. They believe that they bring trouble to the church - this is the truth - because this anointing troubles religious and ungodly positions.
-

Question 10: Explain Obadiah's delusion and illegitimate position. Why would we say that Obadiah was incorrect in his actions?

Obadiah is a set man in Ahab's house. In vs. 3 we read that he is in charge of Ahab's house. This is a serious delusion for any minister whose church is under outside control (i.e. not self-governing). He is unable to implement any instruction from God without the approval of headquarters. He has the position but not the power because Jezebel controls the vision of the house. He is merely Jezebel's eunuch.

Obadiah felt that he had an inside ministry as he had saved 100 prophets. He hid the prophets in caves. Actually he was hiding prophetic ministry. The prophetic ministry does not require protection. It was never meant to be hidden in a cave. Prophets understand that the death sentence is attached to their messages.

Obadiah thought he was doing a good thing. Sadly his good deed cut off the prophetic voice in Ahab's house.

If Obadiah wanted to do a good thing, he should have resigned and asked Ahab to take charge of his own house.

Question 11: What do you understand about the anointing of Elijah?

In our story we see Elijah gives the people a choice between their god and the true God. A person who carries this anointing will not put up with anyone that is unsure of what he/she stands for or always changing their minds about their beliefs. There is no in-between position in commitment and service to Jesus Christ. It is impossible for such people to live double lives.

**Question 12: The prophets of Baal applied the blood to no avail (of no use).
In the Charismatic season, blood was applied. How is this different today?**

In our story we see that the prophets of Baal applied the blood but it was of no use. In the Charismatic season, people applied the blood on the house, car, business etc. Even though they did this, there were still many problems as houses were broken into, cars were stolen and businesses closed. This proves that this is a false and superstitious practice and cannot protect you from anything.

The Truth:

Our only protection is to live according to the Word of God. This requires us to live a clean life, a life free of sin, obeying all God's commandments. In this way we will not leave any doors open for the devil to enter our lives. The bible says: 'he who keeps himself, Satan cannot touch'.

In the Old Testament the life of the flesh was in the blood. We learn in the New Testament that the life of the blood is in the water i.e. in the Word of God.

Question 13: In our story we see that Elijah rebuilt the altar with a trench around it that was filled with water using 12 stones. What is the importance of the number 12?

12 is the number of government. The Elijah anointing brings accurate governmental order within a local church. The altar held the water which points to the Word of God.

This shows us that this altar is accurate and is governed by the Word. Here everything that is not genuine will be exposed, like the prophets of Baal.

Question 14: Why did Elijah apply water before calling for the fire of God?

This is because the fire of God will only fall after the word has been applied. The Elijah company knows how to say 'it is written'. This means that our total dependence is on the Word of God. When we apply the Word to any situation, we can be sure that God will answer.

Question 15: What are prophetic prayers?

Although Elijah knew what God had promised to do on Mount Carmel, he still had to pray about it. God knows all things but He requires us as His children to seek His face, to pray and ask Him whatever we need.

In our story we see that God had already revealed to Elijah His will regarding the duel on Mount Carmel. Nevertheless Elijah had to pray it through.

Although the will and plan of God is known, human prayer is required to bring it to pass, because God loves our participation as we are His family.

Question 16: What are nuisance prayers?

This is repeating the same prayer until your prayer is answered.

Question 17: Explain the man's hand.

The man's hand is a picture of the five-fold ministry which is: apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor and teacher. The Elijah Anointing which is the apostolic prophetic anointing will cause the five-fold ministry to function effectively in a local church.

Question 18: Elijah overtook Ahab - what does this mean?

Elijah represents the father and Ahab represents the uncle. This means that the fathers will overtake the uncles in every area of ministry.

Question 19: What does it mean when we say that there has to be a movement from signs and wonders to the voice of God?

The Elijah company recognizes that they have come to a place where they listen to the voice of God and not wait for signs and wonders to take place in the church. We hear the voice of God for ourselves as well as through our Pastor so that we can act quickly doing what God wants us to do.

Question 20: What does it mean when it says that 'Elijah wrapped his face?'

This means Elijah didn't want anyone to see his face. Similarly, we do not want to become popular for what we have done, or to draw attention to ourselves. Instead we want to point people to Jesus.

All Glory for whatever we do **MUST** go to **HIM**. **John 3:30 'He must increase, but I must decrease'**.

Question 21: What are the 3 ways that we can obtain this anointing?

We have to leave, follow and serve. How do we do this?

21.1 Leave

Very often we will have to leave family and friends who are not pursuing in the same direction as us in serving the Lord. It doesn't mean we will live somewhere else, but that we will spend less time with them, to do the things God wants us to do.

21.2 Follow

Elisha ran after Elijah - this showed that the anointing was very important to him and he refused to leave him because he wanted it.

21.3 Serve

Elisha served Elijah. If we want this anointing we too must serve people that carry this anointing through our prayer, giving, sacrifice, obedience and honesty.

PART 3: PURSING THE ELIJAH ANOINTING

Question 1: When we want to pursue The Elijah Anointing, how do we know who to follow?

When you have recognized this anointing upon an individual and desire to follow such a person, make sure that they are a man or woman that is appointed by God. This must be someone who is pursuing Christ for themselves and always pointing you to Christ.

Examples of why we would follow another man:

When Elisha followed Elijah, he received a double portion of the anointing, so he was better than Elijah.

The disciples followed Jesus: Peter said: 'where else can we go for You have the words of life'.

Timothy followed Paul.

1.1 Follow Leaders who love Jesus: Leaders who pray and read the Bible consistently, they talk to other people in a good manner and they partake of the Holy Communion for eg. like Mum, Dad, Pastor, our Sunday School Teachers. We must copy what they are doing. Speak good words like them. Do not follow bad leaders in their ways, their speech and lifestyle.

1.2. Listen to our Leaders: Pay attention to them when they are speaking, listen carefully to all they are saying so we can follow them and be blessed like them. If someone is disturbing the class, you must remain focused. If someone is disturbing other people, tell the teacher after the lesson in private.

1.3. Do the same thing they do: Dwell in Acts 2:42 which is Kingdom Culture. Read and study the Word, talk to one another, pray and take communion before eating.

1.4. Attend all Services: Be ready early. Make sure you have completed your homework early. Be eager to go to church because you love GOD and you want to listen to what GOD is saying to you through the Leader/Pastor. Don't make excuses not to attend church meetings.

When we follow and obey the Leader or our Pastor we are saying to JESUS we love him.

Question 2: In Malachi God said that He would send Elijah before the great and dreadful day of the Lord. Why did God not send Elisha, after all, Elisha had a greater anointing than Elijah?

Elijah was able to transfer a double portion of the anointing onto Elisha.

Elisha became better than Elijah. He did twice as many miracles as Elijah. This means that spiritual sons will be more successful than their leaders/pastors. This means that believers will become stronger and stronger as time goes on.

Question 3: In our story we learn that Elisha moved from Abel Meholah to 4 locations. What do we learn from being in these locations for our lives today?

ABEL MEHOLAH	: mourning of dancing
GILGAL	: rolling - a wheel
JERICHO	: place of fragrance
JORDAN	: descending

3.1 Abel Meholah:

This is a place of mourning where sentimental attachments have to be broken.

The moment you have been touched by the mantle of Elijah, this location with its stable career, sustenance, family attachments and kisses becomes a place of mourning and frustration. It is here that sentimentalism must be killed - the oxen killed and the implements burned, otherwise you will not migrate into the higher purposes of God.

3.2 Gilgal:

3.2.1 This is a place of circumcision.

Spiritually, this represents a growth phase in your pursuit, where every carnal reason for following is excised and rolled away. You are following because of the purposes of God.

3.2.2 It was the place where manifestations ceased (the manna, cloud and fire stopped). You are not following because of manifestation, but because of the purposes of God.

3.2.3 It was the place of eating unleavened bread. Feed on the set man's revelation - the Word of God.

3.2.4 It was the place where Agag was slain (1Sam. 15:33). Saul failed to obey clear instructions from the man of God. Samuel demonstrated complete obedience by executing Agag. This is a spiritual location where you obey the set man in the will of God.

3.2.5 It was a place of celebration of the Passover. It is the beginning of a new season as you follow now for the purposes God.

Josh 5:9

Then the LORD said to Joshua, "This day I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you." Therefore the name of the place is called Gilgal to this day.

3.3 Bethel: means House of God.

The house of God for you that are following is the set-man's house. The disciples that followed Jesus wanted to know where He was staying.

John 1:38 'Then Jesus turned, and seeing them following, said to them, "What do you seek?" They said to Him, "Rabbi" (which means teacher), "where are You staying?"

Don't follow someone who has no home - no local church. If you follow a vagabond all you will get is garbage. The set man's anointing will be seen in the house he is building. The Queen of Sheba was overwhelmed by the anointing manifested in Solomon's house.

Is it a house where angels are ascending and descending (Gen.28) or is it a house of calf worship (see Jeroboam).

Is his house (local church) the gateway to heaven? Is it bringing heaven to earth or is it a place of idolatry? You have time to flee.

3.4 Jericho: means fragrance and passion. This is a place of fragrance and passion.

It takes passion to shout before the walls come down. It takes passion to walk 13 times around the wall of Jericho. It takes passion to do the same thing for 7 days. It takes passion to go against an enemy with a foolish strategy.

At Jericho you must internalize the set man's passion to do the will of God.

3.5 Jordan: means descending and humility.

This is a place of descending - a place of humility. Humble yourself as you follow.

Jordan is a picture of the word of God. Follow the leader as he rightly divides the word of God.

Question 4: What can we learn from the defects of the prophets of Elijah?

4.1. They went up to Jericho but could not go all the way to Jordan. These people are in the right house and have passion, but do not go all the way. They cannot descend into Jordan meaning that they are not humble.

4.2. They were accurate in knowing what God was going to do, but were not accurate in following. These people know what the leader is saying is true but they don't want to do it; they want to be a spectator and watch others but don't want to obey for their own lives.

4.3. They were looking for the body of Elijah which represented the past move. They missed the mantle. These people look at their past and do not act quickly when the leader speaks to make changes in their lives. We must not be slow in obeying what the leader is saying.

Question 5: What are the 2 signs of an emerging Elisha anointing?

5.1 Elisha knew of the many counterfeits. He wanted to make sure that he had the right God (2 Kings 2:14). This demonstrates that he was following Elijah because of Elijah's God. He loved the God of Elijah.

5.2 He split Jordan in two – he had the anointing to rightly divide the Word of God.

Question 6: What do we learn from Elisha tearing his own mantle?

Too many leaders want to wear the new mantle on the old. They want a mixture. The only appropriate response is to destroy the old and wear the new. New wine needs new wineskin.
