

***Promised Land 2 Study and Discussion Questions***  
*Lesson Eight: The Ministries of Elijah and Elisha - 1 Kings 17 – 2 Kings 13*

Read 1 Kings 17.

- 1) According to the information in Deuteronomy 18:17-22, 1 Samuel 3:19-20, and 2 Chronicles 24:19, how could you define a prophet?
  
- 2) Record:
  - a) information about the spiritual climate in Israel at the time when Elijah ministered (recall the previous lesson on Ahab), including the name of Israel's state religion (see 1 Kings 16:29-34, 18:3-4, and 21:25-26)
  
  - b) ways the Lord provided for Elijah
  
  - c) Elijah's circumstances (would you say that they were pleasant?)
  
- 3) Considering your answers, read Matthew 16:24-25, John 10:10b and John 16:33. What should the Christian expect his or her life to be like?

Read 1 Kings 18-19.

- 4) Find a verse or two that:
  - a) describes Jezebel's relationship to the prophets of the Lord and the prophets of Baal
  
  - b) identifies Elijah's purpose in setting up the confrontation with the priests of Baal
  
  - c) speaks of the Lord's purposes in both chapters
  
  - d) gives Jezebel's intentions concerning Elijah following the confrontation
  
  - e) speaks of Elijah's physical state

- f) speaks of Elijah's emotional state
  - g) gives Elijah's understanding about how many followers of the Lord remained
- 5) Compare God's use of fearsome elements to indicate His power and presence to the Israelites in Exodus 19:9, 16-19; 20:18-19 to the demonstration of His power and presence in 1 Kings 19:11-13. No explanation about why Elijah did not experience God in the power of the elements, but rather, in the gentle whisper is given. Can you suggest a possible reason?
- 6) 1 Kings 19:21 says Elisha became Elijah's attendant. Considering what you read in chapter 19, how was this part of God's answer to Elijah's depression?
- 7) Read James 5:17-18.
- a) What did you learn about Elijah in 1 Kings 19 that supports the idea that he was "just like us"?
  - b) What will you ask God to accomplish through you today, in spite of your own frailty and vulnerability?

Read 2 Kings 1:1-2:18 and 2 Chronicles 21:1-15.

- 8) According to the closing verses of 1 Kings and the passages above, with which kings, besides Ahab, did Elijah have influence?
- 9) What strikes you as most interesting about the events of Elijah's departure in 2 Kings 2:1-18?
- 10) Only Enoch (Genesis 5:24) and Elijah are recorded in the Bible as having gone to heaven without experiencing death.
- a) According to Matthew 17:1-8, when did Elijah reappear on earth?

- b) Read Jesus' words in Matthew 22:32 and Paul's words in 2 Corinthians 5:8 and Titus 1:2. Are you confident that believers who have died are alive today in heaven? Are you confident that *you* will one day be at home with the Lord? If so, which brother or sister in Christ do you need to love more deeply, knowing that you will live with one another throughout eternity (see 1 Peter 4:7-8)?

Read questions 11-15, then skim 2 Kings 2:19-8:15, 9:1-3, and 13:14-21. You may choose to cover this reading in two sittings, as reflected by the division after question 13.

**11)** Make a list of the kinds of people to whom the Lord used Elisha to minister.

**12)** Compare 2 Kings 5:1, 14-15 with Jesus' words in Luke 4:24-27. What point did Jesus make and what do you learn from these passages about God's interest in people living outside Israel?

**13)** Elisha's servant's eyes were opened and he saw that the invisible forces of God were far superior to the visible enemy that surrounded him. After reading the story in 2 Kings 6:8-23, who will you ask the Lord to give this same confidence (those who are for them are more than those who are against them)? If you need to ask this for yourself, will you share the threat you feel with your discussion group so they can also pray for you?

Continue skimming 2 Kings 2:19-8:15, 9:1-3, and 13:14-21, keeping the questions below in mind.

**14)** Record what you learn about Elisha's personal qualities in these chapters.

**15)** Reread 1 Kings 19:15-16.

- a) According to the passages listed above, which of Elijah's God-given assignments were passed on to Elisha?
- b) Who are you currently training to eventually take over the work the Lord has given you? Do you need to also begin training some other individuals?