

statement, but it is in fact most profound. How many really believe in a God Who is alive and performs miracles?! Everything around us leads us to believe just the opposite. God help us!

- b. Elijah believed in the faithful God. This is suggested by the name which is given in this verse. The name "Jehovah" speaks of the covenant keeping God. He is faithful to His Word. Oh, how we need this emphasis today. This is a note not sounded frequently. God has given promises and they are sure and steadfast, but who really thinks God will live up to His Word? His faithfulness reaches unto the clouds (Psa. 36:5).
- c. Elijah believed in an immanent God. The thought here is that Elijah actually stood in His presence. God was not, to him, someone who was way off somewhere, but near at hand. Furthermore, there Elijah was before the Lord. He waited, was ready, and at His disposal. Elijah lived in the very presence of the Almighty. How many are there today! It's not the mouth that verbalizes, but the life that gives the evidence.
- d. Elijah believed in a powerful God. The comparative phrase "As...my word" is tremendous. It was not Elijah, but God. That's what Israel needed in the days of Isaiah and the prophet reminded them of this (40:28-31). It is not our power, but God's ever and ever. Have we made God to come down to our size or have we moved up to where He is!

Conclusion. Elijah was a man marked by separation from evil and he acknowledged no part with the sinfulness of his people. The question for him was not identification, but separation. God gave him a miraculous ministry. We need men like him. Doesn't your heart pant to be a man of God like him? Amen.

BIOGRAPHICAL STUDIES ON ELIJAH

"Elijah, Man of God"

1 Kings 17:1; James 5:17, 18

Introduction.

1. Here's a man who has been characterized as "a Mt. Sinai with a heart like a thunderstorm." He is indeed a Colossus among ordinary men like you and me. He dwarfs us all.
2. Modern Judism takes note of this respectable prophet of God. A prayer for the Morning Service of the holy Sabbath includes this phrase: "Gladden us, O Lord our God, with Elijah the prophet, Thy servant.. .." On Pesach a special recognition of Elijah is made at Seder. He died 3000 years ago, but still lives!
3. No child of God can glide over the truths relating to this man's life. Here is a pattern of experience which merits our thoughtful attention. Take these examples of help from his life:-

1. HIS LIFE SITUATION. James 5:17.

Elijah stands out among the prophets. This is clear to even the modest reader of the Bible. But there is something important about this man and that is his humanness. Prophets are, after all, just men. True, particular type of men, but in fact men! The word "man" in this verse is the generic term and does signify his identification with us as people and not angels.

He is characterized in the verse as having a similar nature. The word "like passions" is only found here and Acts 14:15 in the N.T. It is a compound adjective meaning to "suffer the like with another." The idea is that he had a like nature or constitution with us! "Passions" is a poor rendering for today since it provides a wrong view of things.

2. HIS HOME SITUATION. 1 Kings 17:1.

- a. Parentally. Nothing is recorded in the Bible relative to Elijah's home and parents. He just suddenly comes on the scene. Obviously he had

a long period of preparation for the life to be lived for God. Waiting time is not wasted time for anyone. God always has a purpose for the experiences of life.

- b. Spiritually. While nothing is recorded about Elijah's parents, there is an oblique reference to the kind of people they were. This comes about by the name which they gave him. Elijah is variously translated as meaning "My God is Jehovah" or "God is my Strength." The former is more accurate and issues in the meaning of the latter. The parents of this lad wanted to give a witness, in the midst of the apostasy of the day, that they trusted in HIM. It is a blessed thought when parents take note of such situations and give a witness.
- c. Geographically. "Tishbite" speaks of a town in the mountainous rugged hill country east of Jordan. Indeed, the meaning of Gilead is rough, hard, rugged.

3. HIS ENVIRONMENT SITUATION.

- a. Royally. One cannot read a more distressing page in history as that found here. All the kings of Elijah's day were corrupt and sinful. The immediate predecessors of Ahab (who reigned during Elijah's time) were six evil kings. Jeroboam I, Nadab, and Baasha were all bad and engaged Israel in war. Then followed Elah who was a drunkard, Zimri who was a murderer, and Omri who outstripped the wickedness of his predecessors (1 Kings 16:30). All of these men likewise got Israel into war. These men represented at least 62 years and 7 days of fearful administration. Then Ahab came and for 22 years he ruled Israel in terrible wickedness so that his name has stood out in Israel history as notorious with his wife, Jezebel, being a synonym for evil. This is the sort of political scene into which Elijah came.

- b. Religiously. Who does not think of Baal when he thinks of Elijah? Of course, he is the one who withstood that false god. Baal was a sun-god, exhibiting different aspects of the solar energy whose center of worship was Phoenicia. Everywhere the worship of Baal held sway and God had to remind Elijah that there was a remnant even in the face of this situation (1 Kings 19:18).

NOTE. Those who feel their environment hinders spiritual growth ought to take a long look at Elijah's. He had everything against him, but God moved and worked through him. The day was dark, bleak, and uninviting, but GOD! This prophet stood out as a refreshing change from the apostasy and unbelief which enveloped the nation.

4. HIS CALL SITUATION.

Prophets are not expected to rest under some shade tree away from the action. People and problems are their daily diet. These twin items are the challenge of every true servant of God. Out of the home in Gilead, Elijah came as a man of God. He was full of faith, courage, and spiritual stamina. The need then is the same kind of need the children of God have today--men of this calibre. To bow to visionless Boards or the whims of carnal congregations is a confession of defeat. To stand up and be counted with those having spiritual goals and accent the faithfulness of God Who is eternal--this is the need of the hour! Among other charges, Elijah had these:

- a. To announce a draught. 1 Kings 17:1.
- b. To challenge Ahab. 1 Kings 18:1-41.
- c. To declare judgment. 1 Kings 21:1-29.

5. HIS FAITH SITUATION. 1 Kings 17:1.

- a. Elijah believed in the living God. There was no thought in this man's mind that God was dead. This may be received as a simple