

Elijah 5 – Ahaziah

These are the leaders notes from the Kielder Bible Study Group for the meeting that was held on 12th June 2012

We continue our Studies – on the life and times of Elijah – A Man of faith, fire and power, loosely following the relevant chapters in 1 and 2 Kings

Recap as to where we are at with Elijah -

- Proclaimed a three year drought
- Fed in the desert by God
- Fed by the widow with food that did not run out
- Brought back to life the widows son
- Sacrificed an offering on top of mount Carmel with God providing the fire
- Became very depressed
- God revealed himself as the the “gentle whisper “
- Calls Elisha as his assistant
- Confronts King Ahab over his palace expansion plans over Naboths vineyard

We now move to the next part of our story. If we recall Kings is a history of the Kings of Israel and not a history of Elijah The next section concerns prophecy and prophets and I thought it would be good to spend a few minutes looking at what the bible says about the gift of prophecy and the office of a prophet.

Firstly considering the gift of prophecy - I Corinthians 12 v10 but read 1-11

We can define the gift of prophecy as – telling something unknown eg Elijah informing the people about the drought which we read about in 1 Kings.

The office of the prophet is not quite the same - Ephesians 4:11-13 talks about it.

It could be compared to a supporter wearing their teams colours but that does not mean that they can play for the team.

The role of a prophet has a bit more to it than just being able to give a prophecy. It is suggested that it includes some extra gifts

- word of wisdom - Seeing life from God's perspective. Eg Jesus' answer to the question regarding taxes Matthew 22:15-22
- Word of Knowledge The supernatural comprehension of God. Eg Joshua knowing about Achan's sin. Joshua 7:1; 10-11; 16-26
- Discerning Spirit -Recognizing what is of God v that of the world, the flesh, and the devil. Eg determine whether it is of God Acts 10:24-38, and Acts 8:18-23 where it is

not of God.

Q Has anyone met had dealings with a prophet?

I hope this is helpful in understanding our passages in Kings. As far as Elijah goes it only recalls where Elijah interacts with the kings. To get to our next point where he is mentioned the king has changed it would be good to read some of how this has happened and put it all in context.

So if we start at 1 Kings 22 1-7

These 400 prophets were tame prophets who gave the king the answer he wanted. - Current day "yes men"

Ezekiel 13 1-7 False prophets condemned

1 Kings 22 8-14 – Zedekiah v11 the spokesperson for the 400 prophets

1 Kings 22 15-20 – Micaiah sarcastically asks do you want me to say what you want to here or what God is telling me to say.

1 Kings 22 21-25 – Q So what do we think about this? God knows the kings real self and this is the result. It is suggested that the lying spirit is from Satan.

If we go back to the new testament for a bit just to say what it says about False Prophets

2 Peter 2 1-3 False prophets

1 Thessalonians 5 19-22 Test prophecies – reject every kind of evil

Q How might we test a prophecy?

So going back to Kings

1 Kings 22 26-28

1 Kings 22 29-33

1 Kings 22 34-36

1 Kings 22 37-40 – The palace inlaid with ivory – Archaeological excavations in Samaria have shown the buildings covered with ivory inlays, which relate to this time.

1 Kings 22 51-53 So Ahaziah Ahab's son becomes king – Q Does the bible say he was a good king?

So we now have got back to our story on Elijah

2 Kings 1 1-3

Q Who does the king say they should go and consult? A Baal-Zebub Why did he do this?

I think we should look at Exodus 20 1-6 and see what it says about worship to God, which evidently applies especially for a King

2 Kings 1 3-4 Elijah is given another difficult task by God

2 Kings 1 v5 The king asks -why have you come back (so soon) as he realises the messengers have not managed to get to their destination and back. - The story then gives us the answer v6

2 Kings 1 v7-8

2 Kings 1 v9-10 Q what do we think about the fire killing the captain and the 50 soldiers

A It did not need 50 men to ask Elijah to come along- so they were evidently sent with some secret mission – it is suggested that it was to trap Elijah and hold him hostage in some way.

It is also suggested that the power play between the King and the prophet was to show who was in charge. The king or God and the prophet.

2 Kings 1 V11-12

2 Kings 1 v13-15

Q So how was this third captain different to the ones who had gone before?

2 Kings 1 v16-18

To finish off our travels round the bible, it would be good to look at a couple of relevant passages in the New testament.

Colossians 1 15-23 The supremacy of the Son of God

So is this relevant to us today? Lets finally look at Paul's second letter to Timothy to see what he has to say about scripture

2 Timothy 3 14-17

Q how do what we have read today challenge/encourage us as far as what is going on around us?