

Elijah, John, and Jesus

I. Elijah and John – Similarities

Prophets of judgment –

- 1 K.17:1, And Elijah the Tishbite, of the inhabitants of Gilead, said to Ahab, As the Lord God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, except at my word.
- Mt.3:2

Lived in wilderness –

- 1 K.17:2, Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, 3 Get away from here and turn eastward, and hide by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan. 4 And it will be that you shall drink from the brook, and I have commanded the ravens to feed you there.
- Mt.3:1,4

Troubled Israel –

- 1 K.18:17, Then it happened, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said to him, Is that you, O troubler of Israel?
- Mt.3:7-10

Condemned wicked kings and queens –

- 1 K.18:18 And he answered, I have not troubled Israel, but you and your father's house have, in that you have forsaken the commandments of the LORD and have followed the Baals. 19 Now therefore, send and gather all Israel to me on Mount Carmel, the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal, and the four hundred prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table.
- Mt.3:7; 14:3-12

Preached repentance –

- 1 K.18:21, And Elijah came to all the people, and said, How long will you falter between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him. But the people answered him not a word.
- Mt.3:2, 8, 11

Rejected by own people –

- 1 K.18:21, And Elijah came to all the people, and said, How long will you falter between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him. But the people answered him not a word.
- Mt.21:32; Lk.7:29-30

Hated by wicked queen –

- 1 K.19:1, And Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, also how he had executed all the prophets with the sword. 2 Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time.
- Mk.6

Peculiar dress –

- 2 K.1:7, Then he said to them, What kind of man was it who came up to meet you and told you these words? 8 So they answered him, A hairy man wearing a leather belt around his waist. And he said, It is Elijah the Tishbite.
- Mt.3:4

Suffered discouragement –

- 1 K.19:4, But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he asked that he might die, saying, It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life, for I am no better than my fathers.
- Mt.11:2-3, 18

Changed hearts –

- Mal.3:1, Behold, I send My messenger, And he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, Will suddenly come to His temple, Even the Messenger of the covenant, In whom you delight. Behold, He is coming, Says the Lord of hosts. . . . 4:6, And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.
- Lk.1:17

Praised / rewarded by God –

- 2 K.2:11, And as they still went on and talked, behold, chariots of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them. And Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. 12 And Elisha saw it and he cried, My father, my father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen! And he saw him no more.
- Mt.11:...7-18

I. Elijah and John – Similarities

II. Elijah and John – Differences

El: no family history,
1 K.17

Jn: detailed history,
Lk.1

El: lived with
foreigners, 1 K.17

Jn: Israelites only,
Lk.3:3...

El: miracles, 1 K.17-19

Jn: no sign, Jn.10:41

El: did not die,
2 K.2

Jn: violent death, Mk.6

El: succeeded by
another prophet, 2 K.2

Jn: succeeded by
Lord, Lk.3:20...23

I. Elijah and John – Similarities

II. Elijah and John – Differences

III. Elijah and John – Lessons

A. Fulfilled prophecies

Mal.4⁵ Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. ⁶And he will turn The hearts of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.

- Was John Elijah? Yes – in type
 - Mt.11:13-14
 - John was not Elijah reincarnated. Mt.17
 - Jesus refers to Mal.4:5
 - Cf. Ezk.34. David...

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- Was John Elijah? No – in person
 - Lk.1:17
 - Jn.1:19-21

A. Fulfilled prophecies

B. Flawed prophets

- 1 K.19 – same Elijah as chap.18?
- Lk.7:18-19 – same John? (3:19-20)
 - Lk.3:21-22 – how could John doubt signs at Lord's baptism?
 - Prejudice: Lord did not meet his expectation (3:7,9, punishment, destruction?)
 - Persecution: Jesus did not deliver him (Lk.7)

A. Fulfilled prophecies

B. Flawed prophets

- 1 K.19 – same Elijah as chap.18?
- Lk.7:18-19 – same John? (3:19-20)
 - Lk.3:21-22 – how could John doubt signs at Lord's baptism?
 - Lk.7:20-23 – graciously offers assurance and encouragement (cf. 1 K.19)
 - Lk.7:24-27 – compliments John's stability
 - Lk.7:28 – highlights John's success

A. Fulfilled prophecies

B. Flawed prophets

- 1 K.19 – same Elijah as chap.18?
- Lk.7:18-19 – same John? (3:19-20)
 - Fear is sinful when it . . .
 1. Arises out of unbelief (Nu.13-14)
 2. Hinders obedience (Mt.10:28)
 3. Exalts man beyond his merits (Jn.12:42f.)
- Abraham ... David ... Peter ...
- Rv.21:8

A. Fulfilled prophecies

B. Flawed prophets

C. Fabricated problems

- Why did God spare Elijah, but not John?
- God's people have no edge, no hedge to protect against pain and suffering
- Issue is NOT 'why did John die' but 'why did Elijah live?'
- Never question ways / wisdom of God
 1. Eccl.3:11
 2. Ro.11:33-36 – vindicates God's justice / mercy

- A. Fulfilled prophecies
- B. Flawed prophets
- C. Fabricated problems

D. Foreign progress

- Foreigners were more receptive to God than Israelites
 - Lord marvels at foreigners' faith –
 - [Mk.6, John and Herod]
 - [Lk.4, Jesus and Nazareth]
 - Worldly show more zeal for error than Christians for truth? Lk.16

‘Most people are bothered by those passages of Scripture they do not understand, but the passages that bother me the most are those I do understand’ – Mark Twain