

GOD'S NOBODY

THE TIMES OF ELIJAH

- James 5:16-17 Elijah was a person just like you and I
- Saul was the first king of Israel, the united nation
- It was a nation that followed God
- Under David and Solomon the kingdom reached its pinnacle of power and splendor – 1 Kings 1-11
- The death of David was the beginning of a decline of spiritual temperature of the nation- 11
- The death of Solomon was the beginning of the journey away from God - 1 Kings.12

THE TIMES OF ELIJAH

- Rehoboam, Solomon's son, greedy for power and wealth, created a split north-south in the nation
- Rehoboam reigned in the south, Jeroboam I, in north
- Jeroboam was afraid of losing the people 12:25-14
- The golden calves became know as the sin of Jeroboam
- He made their religion easy, convenient
- The next 5 Kings of Israel, all walked in evil ways 15-16
- It was a steady progression away from God, till Ahab

THE TIMES OF ELIJAH

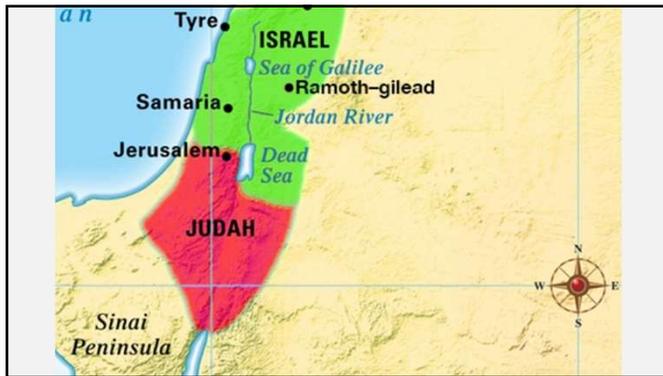
- Ahab, Israel's 7th king, and by far the most wicked 16:30
- Jeroboam's setting up the golden calves was trivial to Ahab's marriage to Jezebel daughter of Ethbaal, king of Sidonians. Ethbaal means – with baal- with chief god
- Politically a wise move, but spiritually deadly Deut.7:3-5 they were not to intermarry. Exactly what Moses said would happen, did.
- Baal and Asherah worship – fertility gods, fertility of wives, livestock, crops and rain

THE TIMES OF ELIJAH

- Jezebel turned Samaria into the Baal cult center
- She had Ahab grow Asherah groves where Asherah was worshipped through ritual prostitution. 16:33
- Baal worship involved ritual prostitution and child sacrifice. It brought humanity to its lowest point.
- She had 400 prophets of Asherah and 450 prophets of Baal eating at the palace table
- She had killed all but 100 prophets of God. There were only 7000 people left who had not bowed to Baal

THE TIMES OF ELIJAH

- Jezebel had succeeded in taking Israel away from God
- Vs.34 is an indication the people did not take God at His word – Josh.6:26
- Israel was a long way from God
- It is in the midst of this horrid, decadent regime that Elijah suddenly appears.
- 1 Kings 17:1



THE PERSON OF ELIJAH

- What do we know about Elijah's background? Little
- He is from the village of Tishbe in Gilead
- He came from the east side of the Jordan. Rough, coarse, crude type of people. Unsophisticated
- They figure he was born about 900 B.C.
- His name is combination of 2 Hebrew names for God. Eli - God, Jah - Jehovah, meaning "my God is Jehovah"
- In a time when Baal worship was predominate, his name spoke of his character

THE PERSON OF ELIJAH

- His style was one of tenderness toward God.
- He was obviously open to the Lord's leading and one who knew God's word. Deut.11:13-17; 1Kings 8:35
- He harboured neither hate nor malice toward the king
- He was defending their ancestral faith
- To him, Jehovah was a living, fresh reality
- His trust was consistent and absolute

LESSONS FROM ELIJAH

- Society in Elijah's time had completely turned from God, as has ours today.
- Our culture is no longer God centered, it is man centered. That is called humanism.
- We are afraid to express our faith in and dependence on our God because we are afraid of ridicule.
- Our religion has become too easy. Our God is too small

LESSONS FROM ELIJAH

- 3 Lessons we learn from this intro to Elijah
- 1. God looks for special people in difficult times.
 - Isa.6:8; Ezk.2; 22:30-3, 1Kings 17:1 he found Elijah
- 2. God's methods are surprising
 - A country hick to confront a king
 - 1Cor.2:1-5 God is not looking for ability but availability
- 3. We stand accountable before God not men
 - Fear of man and respect for God cannot coexist