

meat in the evening; and he drank from the brook. <sup>7</sup> And it happened after a while that the brook dried up, because there had been no rain in the land.”

The Ministry of Confrontation can lead to our <sup>(16)</sup>\_\_\_\_\_.

**HOWEVER:** Spirit-led isolation means spiritual <sup>(17)</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ and spiritual deepening.

Most great men and women of God endure spiritual isolation:

- Abraham.
- Moses.
- John the Baptist.
- Jesus.
- The Apostle Paul.

Through this isolation Elijah would develop two strong spiritual traits:

- **Trait #1:** Elijah became a man of <sup>(18)</sup>\_\_\_\_\_.

Elijah had no <sup>(19)</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ of either the water or the food.

- **Trait #2:** Elijah became of man of <sup>(20)</sup>\_\_\_\_\_.

James 5:17—“17Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years.”

**UNFORTUNATELY:** The Ministry of Confrontation can lead to Our <sup>(21)</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ – v. 7

Elijah had learned to rely on God while <sup>(22)</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ appeared to be plenty – now he would have to rely on God with nothing in his favor.

*“Now Elijah could have figured very closely the time he was going to die – he could have done it mathematically. But, you see, the cold figures of mathematics do not take into account the spiritual fire that is there. You cannot put the condition of the church in the form of a bank statement. You cannot measure it on a computer. Even a revival is not determined by numbers. When Elijah looked at that little brook which was getting smaller and smaller he learned a spiritual lesson...(God would provide.)”* McGee, 284.



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Answers: 1-Elijah 2-Ahab 3-unique 4-Messiah 5-end times 6-alive 7-control 8-rain 9-personally 10-Christian 11-leadership 12-credibility 13-understanding 14-humility 15-temptations 16-isolation 17-training 18-trust 19-control 20-prayer 21-Hardship 22-resources

**First Family Church 7700 W. 143rd St, Overland Park, KS 66223 913-681-3341 [www.ffc.org](http://www.ffc.org)**



**“The Harsh Reality of Living for God in a Godless World”**

**A study of the Life and Ministry of Elijah**  
**Sunday Evening, February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

**Message #2: “The Ministry of Confrontation and the Isolation that Follows”**

**I Kings 17:1-7**

**Pastor Christian Newsome**

*I Kings 17:1-7—“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.”*  
<sup>2</sup> Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, <sup>3</sup> “Get away from here and turn eastward, and hide by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan. <sup>4</sup> And it will be that you shall drink from the brook, and I have commanded the ravens to feed you there.”  
<sup>5</sup> So he went and did according to the word of the LORD, for he went and stayed by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan. <sup>6</sup> The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning, and bread and meat in the evening; and he drank from the brook. <sup>7</sup> And it happened after a while that the brook dried up, because there had been no rain in the land.”

**“The Ministry of Confrontation and the Isolation the Follows”**

**Key #1: The Man of Confrontation:** <sup>(1)</sup>\_\_\_\_\_

*I Kings 17:1a—“And Elijah the Tishbite, of the inhabitants of Gilead, said to Ahab...”*

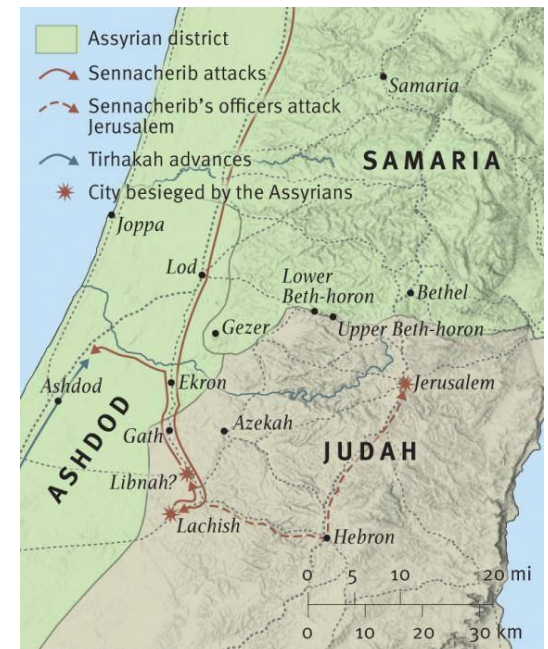
**REMINDER:** The man confronted – <sup>(2)</sup>\_\_\_\_\_.

**Israel – A Nation Divided:**

- Northern Kingdom: “Israel” – 19 Kings
- Southern Kingdom: “Judah” – 20 Kings

**King Ahab:**

- **FACT #1:** Under the reign of Ahab Israel experienced tremendous economic strength.
- **FACT #2:** Under the reign of Ahab Israel had tremendous international diplomacy.
- **FACT #3:** Under the reign of Ahab Israel had tremendous military strength.



- **FACT #4:** Under the reign of Ahab Israel was dying spiritually.

*1 Kings 16:29-33—“In the thirty-eighth year of Asa king of Judah, Ahab the son of Omri became king over Israel; and Ahab the son of Omri reigned over Israel in Samaria twenty-two years. 30 Now Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the LORD, more than all who were before him. 31 And it came to pass, as though it had been a trivial thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he took as wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal, king of the Sidonians; and he went and served Baal and worshiped him. 32 Then he set up an altar for Baal in the temple of Baal, which he had built in Samaria. 33 And Ahab made a wooden image. Ahab did more to provoke the LORD God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel who were before him.”*

**NOTE:** The very distinct office of the “national” prophet arose during the time of these 39 Kings.

“**Elijah**” – “The Lord is my God.”

*“When Ahab introduced the worship of Baal as the national religion in the kingdom of Israel, and when his godless wife Jezebel was persecuting the prophets of Jehovah, the Lord God raised up the most powerful of all the prophets, Elijah. No other prophet, either before or afterwards, strove and worked for the honor of the Lord with anything like the same mighty power of God as the prophet Elijah. And there was no other prophet whom the Lord so gloriously acknowledged by signs and wonders as Elijah...the mightiest of all the prophets.”*

*Keil-DeLitzsch, Commentary on the Old Testament: Volume 3 (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1986), 229-230, 234.*



*“Elijah the prophet is one of the greatest men who ever walked across the pages of Scripture. Also, he is probably the man who will return to the earth to witness in the last days—it is predicted that he will return.”*

*J. Vernon McGee, Thru the Bible with J. Vernon McGee: Volume II (Nashville: Nelson, 1982), 283.*

*“Certainly, Elijah stood in line with Moses and Samuel as the greatest leaders of the true Worship of the Lord.”*

*Layman’s Bible Commentary: 1 and 2 Kings and 2 Chronicles (Nashville: Broadman, 1981), 40.*

Elijah is remembered for his (3) \_\_\_\_\_ appearance.

*II Kings 1:7-8—“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.”*

### Critical Place in Scripture’s History and Future:

The forerunner of the (4) \_\_\_\_\_ and the messenger of the (5) \_\_\_\_\_ find spiritual unity in Elijah.

*Luke 1:17—“And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”*

*Matthew 11:14—“And if you are willing to accept it, he is the Elijah who was to come.”*

*Matthew 16:13-14a—“ When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, “Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?”*

*14 So they said, “Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah...”*

*Malachi 4:5—“See, I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes.”*

*Revelation 11:3—“And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth.”*

### Key #2: The Message of Confrontation:

*I Kings 17:1b—“As the LORD God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, except at my word.”*

- **Message #1:** God is (6) \_\_\_\_\_ – even if you don’t acknowledge that.
  - Baal-Melkart – The god of the Sidonians [Jezebel’s Country].
- **Message #2:** God is in (7) \_\_\_\_\_ – especially over the supposed power of Baal.
  - Baal-Melkart – The god of (8) \_\_\_\_\_, produce, and fertility in the land.

### HOW DO I CONFRONT SOMEBODY IN SIN?

#### Confronting a Christian:

*Matthew 18:15-17—“Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. 16 But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that ‘by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.’ 17 And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector.”*

- **Step One:** Go and talk with them (9) \_\_\_\_\_.
- **Step Two:** Go and talk with them with another (10) \_\_\_\_\_ friend.
- **Step Three:** Get your church (11) \_\_\_\_\_ team involved.
- **Step Four:** Separate from them until their sinful attitude is gone.

#### Confronting a Non-Christian:

*I Peter 3:15 (NIV)—“But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect...”*

*II Timothy 2:15—“ Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.”*

*Galatians 6:1—“Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.”*

- **Step One:** Have spiritual (12) \_\_\_\_\_.
- **Step Two:** Have spiritual (13) \_\_\_\_\_.
- **Step Three:** Be Gentle and Respectful.
- **Step Four:** Have Spiritual (14) \_\_\_\_\_.
- **Step Five:** Avoid (15) \_\_\_\_\_.

### Key #3: The Ministry of Confrontation:

*I Kings 17:2-7—“Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, <sup>3</sup> “Get away from here and turn eastward, and hide by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan. <sup>4</sup> And it will be that you shall drink from the brook, and I have commanded the ravens to feed you there.”*

*<sup>5</sup> So he went and did according to the word of the LORD, for he went and stayed by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan. <sup>6</sup> The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning, and bread and*