

THE PROPHET WHO STANDS LIKE A MOUNTAIN PEAK
(ELIJAH)

I. BACKGROUND

A. Political Conditions:

1. King Saul has been slain - David assumes the throne of Judah.
2. David is anointed king over Israel and Judah, uniting all Israel.
3. Israel became known world wide for her wealth, power.
4. Kingdom becomes divided again, Israel, north and Judah, south
5. Ahab became ruler of Israel (north).
6. Jezebell(wife of Ahab) began to bring her pagan worship into Israel.

B. Social Conditions:

1. Living conditions intolerable, people forced to work, severe drought, but the King and court fared well.
2. Jezebell had no scruples in other's property or rights.
3. Nation was full of fear, hate, and disloyalty.

C. Religious Conditions:

1. People had, in general, lost knowledge of God's ways.
2. Jezebell killed God's prophets.
3. Moral standards were so low that immorality was rampant.
4. God fearing people hid from Jezebell.
5. Many tried to incorporate idol worship with God worship.

II. THE MAN

A. His Life:

1. The drought could be ended only by Elijah's words.
2. Was fed by birds
3. Restores life to a widow's boy
4. Won a contest between God and Jezebell's priests of Baal
5. Runs for his life, hides in a cave
6. Elisha is called to help Elijah.
7. Has seminary for young prophets
8. Does not die but is taken up by God

B. His Character:

1. Came from the wilds of Gilead
2. Very determined, with much enthusiasm
3. Great Power in prayer
4. Determined to rid Israel of Jezebell

C. His Contribution:

1. Only prophet left God could use
2. Shows that all people are under the Law of justice
3. Taught young prophets

D. HIS ESTIMATE:

1. Is referred to more in the New Testament than any other prophet
2. Jews, to this day, look for his return.
3. Was a man of prevailing prayer
4. Was God's human agent in a great time of need
5. Elijah stands like a mountain peak among the Old Testament saints.

LESSONS OF VALUE

1. Human life, rights, and property are sacred possessions.
2. National righteousness is far more important than national power.
3. No man who stands for right, stands alone.
4. God does not discard us when we run away, but funds a way to revitalize and use us.
5. One spirit-filled man can change the destiny of a nation.
6. One is fitted for his life work by seasons of quiet meditation and waiting on God.
7. The highest form of obedience is to continue to remain at our place of service when we cannot see why we are kept there.
8. God is gentle and tender in dealing with one who is discouraged and despondent.
9. God has a way of restoring drooping spirits by giving one a new task.
10. God will always have His man ready in the hour of need.