

## *Elijah and Elisha*

#1, We need more rain! – I Kings 17:1-3

It had been approximately seventy five years since the end of Solomon's reign and the start of the divided kingdom. The Southern kingdom, made up of the tribes of Judah and Benjamin, was called Judah. The remaining ten tribes made up the Northern kingdom of Israel.

This study is in two parts, and focuses on the ministries of Elijah and Elisha. We will start with Elijah.

[1.] Refer to the MACARTHUR STUDY BIBLE diagram on pg #2 to answer the next few questions. When the Lord called Elijah, who was king in Israel?

[2.] During the time of Elijah, who was the king of Judah?

[3.] On the national scene, what two nations were in power?

[4.] During the time of Elisha, two other prophets were serving. Who were they?

[5.] From the diagram, approximate the number of years that Elijah & Elisha served.

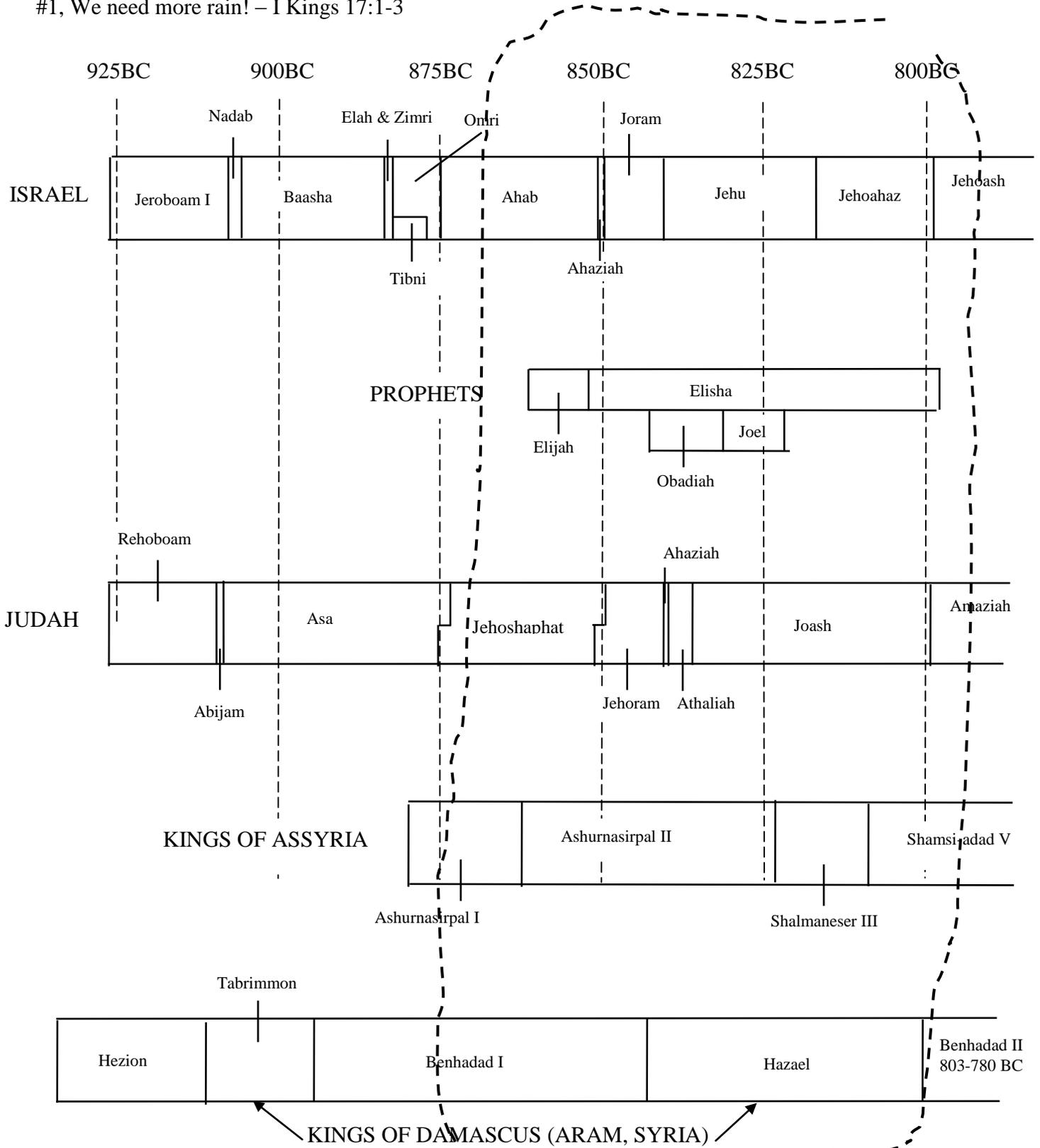
Elijah \_\_\_\_\_ yrs.

Elisha \_\_\_\_\_ yrs.

[6.] Who was king of Damascus during the time of Elijah?

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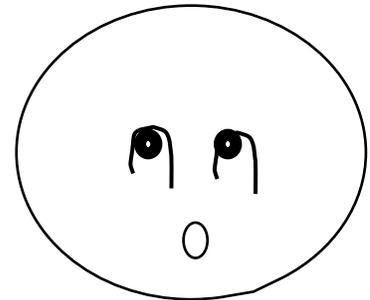
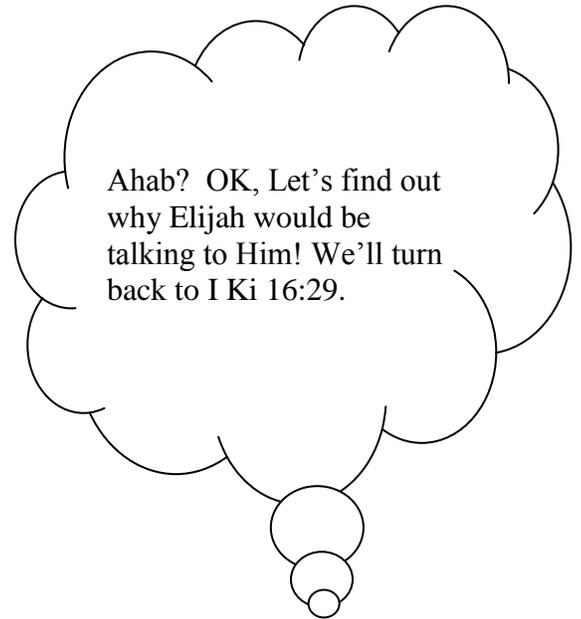
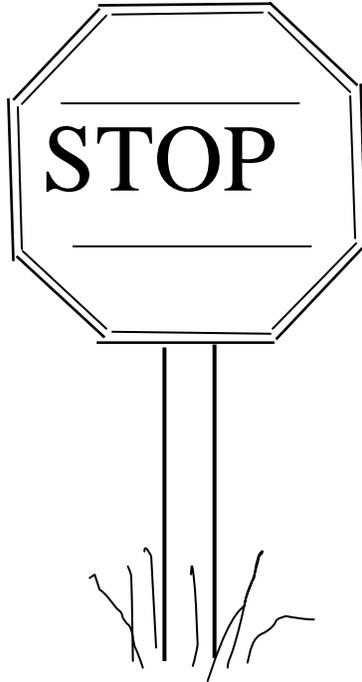


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I Kings 17:1 Now Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the settlers of Gilead, said to Ahab, "As the Lord, the God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, surely there shall be neither dew nor rain these years, except by my word."



I Kings 16:29 Now Ahab the son of Omri became king over Israel in the thirty-eighth year of Asa king of Judah, and Ahab the son of Omri reigned over Israel in Samaria twenty-two years. 30 Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the Lord more than all who were before him.

31 It came about, as though it had been a trivial thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he married Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Sidonians, and went to serve Baal and worshiped him.

[7.] I Ki 16:29-30, more than all, If there were an "evil scale", where would Ahab found on it?

[8.] v:31, It came about, What were two of Ahab's evils that this verse mentions?

[9.] v:31 again, Sidonians, On the map (pg ?), find Sidon and circle it.

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**Baal**, Meaning “lord, husband, owner,” Baal was the predominant god in Canaanite religion. He was the storm god who provided the rain necessary for the fertility of the land.

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32 So he erected an altar for Baal in the house of Baal which he built in Samaria. 33 Ahab also made the Asherah. Thus Ahab did more to provoke the Lord God of Israel than all the kings of Israel who were before him.

[10.] v:31 again, Any offspring that this marriage provided, would be royalty in Israel and possibly even the next king. How was Ahab’s marriage a detrimental act to the nation?

[11.] v:32-33, Ahab also made, So between Jezebel and Ahab, who had the greater influence over whom?

[12.] question [11.], What vital lesson can any one, choosing a spouse, learn from this account?

Note:

Before we move on let’s look at one more bit of information. We just saw from I Ki 16:31 (above) that Ahab walked in the “sins of Jeroboam”. From the MacArthur diagram we see that the kingdom of Israel was divided after the death of Solomon. Rehoboam became king in Judah and Jeroboam in Israel. Turn back again to, I Ki 12:25.

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I Kings 12:25, Then Jeroboam built (fortified) Shechem in the hill country of Ephraim, and lived there. And he went out from there and built Peniel. 26 Jeroboam said in his heart, "Now the kingdom will return to the house of David. 27 " If this people go up to offer sacrifices in the house of the Lord at Jerusalem, then the heart of this people will return to their lord, even to Rehoboam king of Judah; and they will kill me and return to Rehoboam king of Judah."

28 So the king consulted, and made two golden calves, and he said to them, "It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem; behold your gods, O Israel, that brought you up from the land of Egypt." 29 He set one in Bethel, and the other he put in Dan. 30 Now this thing became a sin, for the people went to worship before the one as far as Dan. 31 And he made houses on high places, and made priests from among all the people who were not of the sons of Levi.

32 Jeroboam instituted a feast in the eighth month on the fifteenth day of the month, like the feast which is in Judah, and he went up to the altar; thus he did in Bethel, sacrificing to the calves which he had made. And he stationed in Bethel the priests of the high places which he had made. 33 Then he went up to the altar which he had made in Bethel on the fifteenth day in the eighth month, even in the month which he had devised in his own heart; and he instituted a feast for the sons of Israel and went up to the altar to burn incense.



[13.] I Ki 12:25-27, said in his heart, We get a glimpse into Jeroboam's paranoia. What did he conclude?

[14.] v:28, two golden calves, Review how the golden calf worked out, for Israel, at Mt Sinai?

[15.] v:31, made priests, What was wrong with Jeroboam's selection of priests?

[16.] v:32, instituted a feast, Adding in this non-Mosaic feast day, sum up the sins of Jeroboam.

[17.] v:32-33, Like in Israel, unfortunately even believers will sometimes blindly follow their leaders. Turn to II Peter 2:1-3 and describe why it is of sovereign importance for Christians to know what the Bible says.

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**Tishbite**, Elijah lived in a town called Tishbe, E. of the Jordan River in the vicinity of the Jabbok River.

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[18.] I Ki 17:1, On your map, page 7, find Tishbe and circle it.

[19.] v:1 again, said to Ahab, Describe your feelings if you were instructed to go nose to nose with some high powered leader, and give them this message.

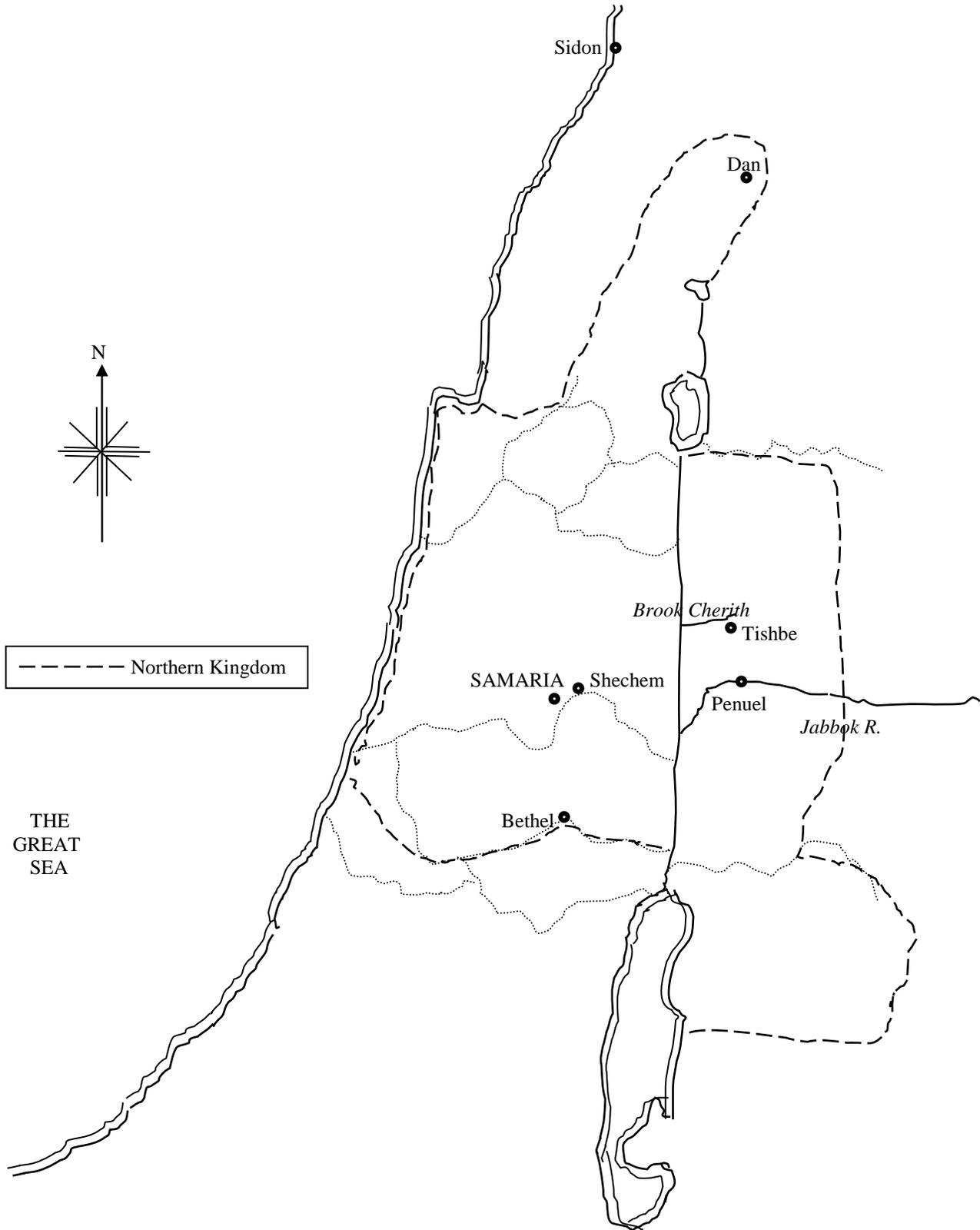
[20.] v:1 again, of the settlers of Gilead, Review Numbers 31:1-33 and jot dot down the meaning of the phrase.

[21.] v:2-3, Go away from here, Here, the lord told Elijah of danger that he should flee from. Do you believe God works with believers the same way today? If so, give some examples.

2 The word of the Lord came to him, saying, 3 "Go away from here and turn eastward, and hide yourself by the brook Cherith, which is east of the Jordan.

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### **NOTES**