

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

ISRAEL: PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE

RLJ-1616

JOHN S. TORELL

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PART 12: PLAYING WITH FIRE

LIVING CONDITIONS

Living conditions were modest during the time that Elijah lived on earth. There were no sewage systems in the cities; people frequented outhouses and the human waste was picked up by sanitation workers and deposited outside the cities.

Kings lived slightly more sophisticated in their palaces. There was a 40 foot shaft beneath the toilet seat and the basement sewer pit. It was here that the royal family went to the bathroom. The shaft was protected by a lattice to make sure that no one fell into the shaft.

King Ahaziah, the son of Ahab, fell down the toilet shaft while trying to use it for his personal needs. Not only did he fall and hurt himself, but he also ended up with an infection.

Instead of calling upon the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, this wicked man sent a message to the Philistine prophets in Ekron concerning the demon god Baalzebub and whether he would be healed. **2 Kings 1:1-2**

GOD'S INTERVENTION

Not even a sparrow falls to the ground dead unless it is God's will. **Matthew 10:29**

King Ahaziah fell into the shaft as a judgment for his wickedness and holy angels reported to God that he had called upon a demon god for help. God activated Elijah once again and had him intercept the king's messengers. **2 Kings 1:3-4**

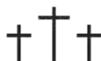
When they returned with Elijah's message, Ahaziah decided to retaliate by having Elijah executed. **verses 5-9**

This wicked son of Ahab obviously did not pay attention to what had happened on Mount Carmel when the fire fell from heaven. God still had plenty of fire and Elijah showed no fear to the captain and his fifty men who were ordered to grab him. **verse 10**

Ahaziah was stupid in sending out another detachment to arrest Elijah and they did not fare any better than the first group. **verse 11-12**

Ahaziah still did not get the message after losing 2 captains and 100 men and sent out a third detachment. This particular captain had the fear of God in him, and instead of ordering Elijah around, he humbly approached on his knees and begged for his life to be spared. **verses 13-14**

Elijah heard from the angel of the Lord not to fear this captain and his soldiers. He repeated the judgment of God to Ahaziah personally and walked away. **verses 15-18**



HEAVEN BOUND

Since the beginning of time, there are only two recorded instances where someone did not physically die, but was taken straight to heaven. This would be Enoch and Elijah.

Genesis 5:18-24; Hebrews 11:5

Both of these men walked with God on earth, rejected idol worship, prophesied for the Lord, had faith, and they were bold.

Only by reading the book of Enoch is it possible to learn more about the man that lived before the flood in a world filled with wickedness.

Elijah knew the Lord would take him alive into heaven and must have communicated this to Elisha. Elijah tried to shake off Elisha, but the latter hung on to Elijah like dog on a bone and refused to leave his master. **2 Kings 2:1-2**

God had other prophets confirm to Elisha that the departure of Elijah was imminent. **verses 3-7**

FAITH AND PERSEVERANCE

Elisha was determined to get the anointing from God; he did not just want to be one of the prophets but unselfishly wanted to have all the blessings of the Lord. **verses 8-10**

How can a man who has never seen an airplane describe what he saw when the angels came for Elijah? There were no automobiles at that time, only horse drawn chariots and that is the description used by Elisha to describe how Elijah was taken up into heaven. The angels separated the two men and then Elijah was taken into the craft that God had sent to ferry Elijah to Him. **verses 11- 12**

It is interesting that when Elijah was taken up to heaven, he went with his clothing except for the mantle that was left behind for Elisha. **verse 13**

God then established Elisha as the successor to Elijah when he smote and parted the waters of Jordan. **verse 14**

The rest of the prophets were not happy because they thought that Elijah was still on earth. They even insinuated that Elisha had killed Elijah and shamed him to the point that Elisha allowed a search party to be sent out to verify that Elijah's body was nowhere to be found. **verses 15-18**

A LAST APPEARANCE

Elijah came back to earth some 880 years later as a messenger and comforter to Jesus as His crucifixion was at hand. **Matthew 17:1-6**

Elijah made an impact upon Israel that not only affected the people who lived at that time, but every new generation on this earth that reads his life story cannot help but be stirred and challenged to have faith in God. Let's believe it and starting to live in the supernatural. **John 14:11-18**

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

Do you have an ear to hear with?