

**Elijah to Jeremiah**  
*Finding Light in the Darkness, Session 13*  
*Slide Notations – Cere Muscarella*

**Left off... Elijah!** One of the greatest prophets in Bible history, was an unknown... Least of us greater than him! **Lk7.28** Can succeed w/o a pedigree! **1K17** Can start out great and end bad! **1K19** Even after we are done, we can still do great things for God! (mercy!) **2K1/2** calls fire 2x/divides

Jordan/transfig/end. Let's go out in a blaze of glory and leave a double legacy behind! **2K2.9-15**

**And it proves that God has room enough for anyone in His kingdom who is willing to speak out in His name!**

**Elisha...** Elijah's name meant "My God is Jehovah!" Elisha's name means "God is salvation!" Elijah: Law! Elisha: Grace! Elijah checking out, asks Elisha what he wants: "A double portion/spirit!" It's a hard thing you want – but if you are watching when I go it will be so. **2K2.9** And Elisha was faithfully watching as Elijah taken up/fully rewarded!

**Elisha actually did twice as many miracles as Elijah, including raising a man from the dead when his body touched Eli's dead bones!**

**Elisha Notables...** Widow's oil! **2K4.1-6** Your servant is dead... The debtors are coming for my two boys... What do you have in your house? Nothing but a pot of oil! Go get all the vessels you can, shut the door and begin pouring out of your pot! When she filled every pot/oil stopped! Go sell the oil and pay your debts!

**Elisha Notables...** Naaman: Syrian captain w/leprosy! **2K5** Comes to Elisha for healing... Sends out Gehazi, w/prescription... "Go wash in the Jordan seven times!" Naaman left angry: wanted personal audience, dignity, miracle-worker action! If asked to do a hard thing you would have done it... why not easy thing? **We're looking for a dog and pony show or some part to play... when all God wants is simple obedience!** Naaman obeyed reluctantly, and his flesh was restored to that of a child... and he became a very grateful convert!

**Mini-profile... Gehazi:** Elisha's know-better servant! Naaman wanted to pay for his miracle! Elisha refused, but Gehazi wondered what could it hurt to take a little... Ran after Naaman, "Elisha has a need!" "Where have you been Gehazi?" No where... "Didn't you know I would know? You went for his money, now Naaman's leprosy will be yours!"

**What can it hurt trying to cash in on the glory of God?**

**Elisha Notables...** "Surrounded by the King of Syria, Elisha's servant cries out, 'What will we do?' Elisha answered, "fear not for there are more with us than with them!" And when he prayed the servants eyes were opened and he saw the mountain full of horses and chariots of fire surrounding Elisha! **2K6.8-18 Good lesson for all young servants! Rest of his story... 2Kings 13**

**Hezekiah...** Hezekiah, son of Ahaz, wicked king of Judah... and godly mother Abijah... Daughter of Zachariah: God is renowned! As wicked as Ahaz was, his mother was good! She counteracted all the evil influence! Hezzie, began his reign cleansing the temple; pulling down the places of idol worship; preparing for the Passover.

**Hezekiah,** man of prayer, besieged by Sennacherib, takes it to the Lord! **18-19 Is 37.14-20** simple prayer! **Is 37.33-38** complex, complete answer! 185,000 soldiers died/later, king!

**Hezekiah** became very sick, enough to die... “Set your house in order!” **20** Takes it to the Lord, weeping for more! Isaiah: in 3 days you will be healed and I will give you 15 more years!

**15 years...** Compromised his kingdom and brings horrible judgment down on his kingdom! Fathered his heir... Manasseh... Who was noted as the meanest and most sinful of the kings... *A granted request for what he thought was best and bro't leanness to his soul!*

**Lessons...** Good mothers (or dads)/grandparents can counteract a lot of evil! When God places us in authority, do good – host revival, tear down idols! Anytime anything happens, take it to God! Be a person of prayer! Pride can defeat you anywhere along your way! Know what you're asking for!

**Mini-profile: Ezra** was a descendant of Aaron **7.1-5** and a teacher of the Word **v6** He was a dedicated believer **v10** Ezra was about: worship, the Word of God, reading and teaching the Word, the power of prayer, separation from the world, using the wisdom of God in everyday life!

**Nehemiah...** Tribe of Judah, born in captivity, but grew up w/abiding faith in God! *‘A man w/the counsel of God alone in his mind and heart. A reserved and resolute man. A man to take command of other men. A man in no haste or hurry. A man who will not start until the cost has been counted and will not stop until the work is finished!’ – Whyte*

**Nehemiah** served as the cupbearer to King Artaxerses! **1.11/2.1** Heard about the condition of Jerusalem wept, fasted, prayed/3 months **1.1/2.1** *“If you love you will pray, if you pray in love you will stay until answered.”* Took his life in his hands by appearing before the king with his burden! **2.2** Prayed before, prayed thru, prayed after!

**Nehemiah,** Tells the king his burden **2.3** King asks what he wants to do **2.4** Prays before speaking **v4-5** Gets permission, w/time condition **v5-6** Asks for protection and provision **v7-8** Picks up his first enemies! **v10** Surveys the problems! **v11-16** Organizes the men! **2.17-3.32** Does the impossible! **6.15**

**Nehemiah Notable...** From the beginning, Nehemiah is on Sanballat and Tobiah's radar! **2.10** Just kept escalating; accusations of disloyalty **2.19** to mockery (feeble Jews, weak wall – a fox climbing up will break it down) **4.1-3** to anger **v7-8** And treachery! **6.1,2** “Let us meet together and talk, but they meant to do mischief”

*“I am doing a great work and I cannot away, why should I interrupt what I am doing to come down to talk to you?”*

**In all our lives, a million things will come to take us off our work... and nothing is worth it! Nothing! And when you come to this point of recognition... you will be able to say to God: “so the work was finished!” 6.15**

**Nehemiah Notable...** The work is finished and the people are gathered for the first meeting... **8.1ff** People are eager for Bible instruction... Discontent with social condition... Ezra read the word for 4 hours... People cried: stirred, awakened, hi-line! Nehemiah/Ezra call out: Not a time for weeping but a day of reconciliation – go and share with underprivileged – food and joy; because they understood! **v12**

**Lessons...** (recurring theme) Don't have to start well to end well! (Captivity!) Just need a heart for God, alone! God and us makes a majority! Ask and receive if God is for you! Will pick up enemies doing God's will! Live unshaken, unafraid, on track! Peo need His people/deliver His word!

**Esther...** was an orphan, adopted by Mordecai – a kinsman! **2.5-7** Vashti's replacement/Queen! **2.17** Plot to kill all Jews hatched by Haman/ they obeyed God's Word/not bow! **3.** Mordecai hears about the plan **4.** Approaches Esther to intervene **4.13-14** *If you don't help, God will find someone else but maybe it's for this very reason that you have come to the kingdom at this time!* **7.14**

**Lessons...** Esther had to make a decision to play it safe or risk for her people! Courage against enemy Courage w/i own house. Esther didn't forget who she was even though she had been exalted! Esther did great things because she was available to the God of great things!

**Isaiah...** The Prince of the Prophets! He was a city guy – lived and ministered in Jerusalem, 50 yrs! Grew up in days of great prosperity! Watched Israel/Judah plunge into sin! Though aristocratic, he dressed like one of the old prophets, calling people to repentance!

**Isaiah** Opening vision: like animals who don't know their masters **1.3**, nation heavy w/sin, the seed of evil doers and corrupters, alienated from God **v4**, un-correctable, head-sick, heart-faint **v5**, totally unsound, wounds and bruises and putrefying sores **v6**, desolate country, overthrown and devoured by strangers **v7** – only a remnant left! **v8**

**Isaiah** In the midst of the corruption and calamities, the calling of the prophet! **6.1** "I saw the Lord, high and lifted up!" "Woe is me, for I am undone; a man of unclean lips..." **v5** "With the coal from the altar on your mouth your sin is taken away..." **v6,7** "Now who will I send? Send me!" **v8** Go, tell, until... and, tenth! **v9-13**

**Lessons...** God is always looking for someone to speak for Him in every generation! And there are people willing to respond to Him from every walk of life! In the presence of a holy God, we see ourselves for who we are, needy to be cleansed! You can be called and equipped, but only a few will respond! Go – until!

**Jeremiah...** Isaiah was the city born Prince of Prophets... Jere was born into the ministry; son/priest! **1.1** "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you and sanctified you and ordained you to be a prophet to the nations!" **v5** "don't tell Me the reasons you can't do this, I will send you and you will say what I say, My words will be in your mouth!" **v8,9**

**Jeremiah** "I have set you over nations & kingdoms to root up, pull down, destroy and throw down, to build and plant...! **1.10** Thanks Lord, great calling/message! "Be strong, get up, speak out what I say don't be dismayed at their looks or I will confound you before them!" **v17** Stern warning for sympathetic man! Over/over had to call on God/strength!

**Jeremiah** Is the weeping prophet! Author of Lamentations!" He loved his nations and words of judgment cut deep into him... **9.1** Wanted to quit but the word was in his heart as fire shut up in his bones! **20.7-9** Distress growing, sorrow deepening, wished he had never been born! **v14-18** Delivered the restoration messages, but all promises on the other side of obedience!

**Lessons** God has a plan for everyone He knows... We have to be faithful even if we can't be successful! We should expect resistance and criticism from the world around us! We must take comfort knowing God is always faithful and just! We must be identifiable by His character! Huh?

**"Jesus asked, 'whom do men say that I am?' And they said, 'some say you are John the Baptist, some Elijah, others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets!'"**

They were assessing Him on His likeness to those who spoke/lived for God! Actually they were of His spirit/ilk!

*Could that be said of us...*