



TEACHER NOTES FOR CHAPTER 9 THE KINGS & PROPHETS OF ISRAEL

PAGE	147
THEME	ELIJAH: THE GREAT CONFRONTATION
HOMEWORK BIBLE READING	1 Kings 17-19
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OVERVIEW

At this point in the course there is a greater opportunity to focus on the prophets that God raised up to speak into the life of his nation, Israel. This chapter in particular gives you the opportunity to highlight one of the most challenging and charismatic figures of the entire Old Testament followed on by next chapter's investigation into the writing prophets of this period.

Elijah's ministry begins with a grand confrontation. Without any real introduction or background we see him proclaiming the oncoming drought followed by his time in isolation as God gives the nation the opportunity to reflect upon their condition.

The great rumble on Mt Carmel puts one man who stands for God against the King and his entourage of Baal worshiping priests as God uses Elijah to expose the absolute impotence of their man made gods and the overwhelming power and might of Israel's architect, covenant maker and creator of the universe.

The chapter again begs for some drama in the classroom, it is a great opportunity to look beyond this event to others who have stood against the tide of culture to bring reform. The highs and lows of Elijah's experience as a spokesperson for God also provide many opportunities to explore with the students the challenges that can be faced in life by those who seek to walk in God's ways.

On P162 there is an opportunity to explore the relationship between God's perspective and that of his servants. Elijah thought everything was hopeless after Carmel and he didn't recognise that there were many others in the nation that had remained faithful to God during the dark times of Ahab and his evil wife Jezebel. When things look hopeless to us, when it seems like the tide of culture can't be turned, God is still at work, his covenant promises still stand....Where there is life there is hope!

OUR TIPS

P149 Elijah the Prophet

A brief activity to see how much the students already know about Elijah. You may want to do it as a class or ask them to spend a couple of minutes working on it before you discuss it. You could even turn it into a challenge to see who can accurately fill in the blanks in the shortest amount of time.

P151 Where are the gaps today?

We want the students to recognise that it is not only in the Old Testament stories that God called people to represent him on earth. Our world is broken and in need of a generation of people who are willing to stand on behalf of God in circumstances where his light and grace are needed. The students should already have a good idea of where they see these needs. Get them to draw a mind map that explores both 'the gaps' in society that they believe God wants people to stand in and also what practical measures they see could be taken to bring change.

P157 Let's rumble! Things heat up on the mountain

The confrontation on Mount Carmel needs to be brought to life as the students read and discuss it in class. Things to discuss include: Elijah's mocking of the false prophets, the way that the false religion had dehumanised the prophets of Baal to the point where they were self harming to try and conjure him up, and the way that the God of Israel only needed the quiet prayer of his prophet to respond with supernatural power. What happens after the confrontation is also of interest. Elijah takes no prisoners! The prophets of Baal are killed for what they have spread through Israel.

Another aspect of the confrontation which is interesting is the aftermath. While there is a positive response on the mountain, Jezebel wants to kill Elijah when she hears of what he has done. A good chance to point out that in the Bible the miraculous activity of God does not guarantee that people will respond to him in a positive way.

YOUR TIPS

We would love to hear what you have learnt after teaching this chapter. If you have tips that you are happy for us to freely share with other teachers using this course please let us know by emailing them through to us at admin@biblicalturningpoints.com.au.

COMMON QUESTIONS STUDENTS ASK

- Why did Elijah kill the prophets after he defeated them...I thought murder was wrong?
- If God could do the miracles that he did in front of the false prophets, why doesn't he call fire down from heaven today?

We would love to hear what questions students are asking in response to the content of this chapter. Please let us know at admin@biblicalturningpoints.com.au.

RESOURCES TO HELP YOU TEACH THIS CHAPTER

- Kings and Prophets Visual aid

If you know of any websites or resources that would assist teachers with bringing this chapter to life please let us know at admin@biblicalturningpoints.com.au.

ANSWERS FOR CHAPTER 9

Answers have been provided for questions where we believe clarification may be needed or where an activity requires the teacher to have the correct answer before the students commence the activity.

If you have any questions about an activity not written up in the following notes, please contact us at admin@biblicalturningpoints.com.au.

CHAPTER 9

p. 149 Activity	<p>Elijah the prophet</p> <p>Elijah was a prophet while Asa, Jehoshaphat and Jehoram were kings in Judah.</p> <p>Elijah was a prophet while Ahab, Ahaziah and Joram were kings in Israel. Elijah dealt with Israel's King Ahab and his wife Jezebel.</p> <p>Elijah confronted, defeated and killed the prophets of Baal at Mt Carmel. Elijah met with God on Horeb.</p> <p>Elijah was taken up into heaven in a whirlwind.</p> <p>Elijah was fed by ravens when he was hiding from Ahab.</p> <p>Elijah caused the rain to stop for 3 1/2 years.</p> <p>Elijah was succeeded by Elisha.</p> <p>Elijah is seen in the New Testament in Luke 9, when Jesus was transfigured on a mountain.</p>
p. 156 Activity	<p>Background to the confrontation at Mt Carmel</p> <p><i>What events happened to Elijah between his meeting with Ahab and the showdown at Mt Carmel?</i></p> <p>He was fed by ravens in the desert.</p> <p>He stayed with a widow at Zarephath and the flour and oil did not run out.</p> <p>He med with Obadiah.</p> <p><i>Who was Obadiah?</i></p> <p>A devout believer who hid 100 prophets from Jezebel to save them.</p> <p><i>What support did Obadiah show to the prophets of God at a time when Ahab's wife was trying to exterminate them?</i></p> <p>He hid them in caves and supplied food and water.</p> <p><i>Who or what is Baal in the Bible?</i></p> <p>The most popular Canaanite god, represented by a bull.</p> <p>Symbol of strength and fertility</p> <p>God of rains and harvest.</p> <p><i>What did Baal worship involve?</i></p> <p>Prostitution played a large part.</p> <p><i>What history did the Israelites have with Baal worship?</i></p> <p>Asherah poles</p> <p>People who lived around them worshipped Baal.</p> <p>Gideon destroyed the altars.</p>
p. 161 Activity	<p>The aftermath of Mt Carmel</p> <p><i>What causes Elijah to flee Horeb and what is significant about the location?</i></p> <p>Horeb is Mt Sinai.</p> <p>Elijah runs because Jezebel threatens to kill him.</p> <p><i>What does God teach Elijah from the way that he appears to Elijah at Horeb?</i></p> <p>God doesn't just reveal himself in big, powerful and obvious ways.</p>

p. 163 Activity	Case Study: Naboth's vineyard
	<p><i>Briefly summarise the event recorded in 1 Kings 21.</i> Ahab wanted Naboth's vineyard. Naboth said no. Jezebel plotted to falsely accuse Naboth to get the vineyard. Naboth is killed. God tells Elijah to go there and confront Ahab.</p> <p><i>What does this episode reveal about Ahab's character and Jezebel's influence on his life?</i> Ahab is weak and easily influenced.</p> <p><i>Think back to Samuel's warnings to the people of Israel. How does this story fit in with what Samuel said would happen?</i> 1 Samuel 8:14 A king will take the best of your fields and vineyards.</p> <p><i>How does God use Elijah in this situation?</i> Elijah confronts Ahab and Jezebel about their sin.</p>