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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."

(1 Kings 17:1)

2

Elijah/Elisha Narrative

- occupies the center of the Book of Kings – 19 chapters! (1 Kings 17– 2 Kings 13)
- marks an epochal shift in the Lord's work with Israel – though prophets
- commences with the rise of Baal worship under King Ahab and Jezebel

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Baal Worship

- Canaanite storm-god; rain and thunder (rider of the clouds)
- responsible for rain, fertility and life; occasionally subdued by "Mot" (god of death)



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Elijah & the Word of Yahweh

- Elijah's appearance is ominous and hopeful
 - he enacts the Lord's covenant curse on the nation of Israel – drought (cf. Deut. 11:17)
 - he calls for repentance and reformation – the Lord continues to pursue His people

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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. ⁴ It shall be that you will drink of the brook, and I have commanded the ravens to provide for you there." ⁵ So he went and did according to the word of the LORD, for he went and lived by the brook Cherith, which is east of the Jordan. ⁶ The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning and bread and meat in the evening, and he would drink from the brook. ⁷ It happened after a while that the brook dried up, because there was no rain in the land.

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²⁴ And He said, "Truly I say to you, no prophet is welcome in his hometown. ²⁵ But I say to you in truth, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the sky was shut up for three years and six months, when a great famine came over all the land; ²⁶ and yet Elijah was sent to none of them, but only to Zarephath, *in the land* of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow.

(Luke 4:24-26)

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¹⁷ Now it came about after these things that the son of the woman, the mistress of the house, became sick; and his sickness was so severe that there was no breath left in him. ¹⁸ So she said to Elijah, "What do I have to do with you, O man of God? You have come to me to bring my iniquity to remembrance and to put my son to death!" ¹⁹ He said to her, "Give me your son." Then he took him from her bosom and carried him up to the upper room where he was living, and laid him on his own bed. ²⁰ He called to the LORD and said, "O LORD my God, have You also brought calamity to the widow with whom I am staying, by causing her son to die?"

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²¹ Then he stretched himself upon the child three times, and called to the LORD and said, "O LORD my God, I pray You, let this child's life return to him." ²² The LORD heard the voice of Elijah, and the life of the child returned to him and he revived. ²³ Elijah took the child and brought him down from the upper room into the house and gave him to his mother; and Elijah said, "See, your son is alive." ²⁴ Then the woman said to Elijah, "Now I know that you are a man of God and that the word of the LORD in your mouth is truth."

(1 Kings 17:7-24)

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Elijah & the Word of Yahweh

3. God's Ultimate Provision

- the boy's death raises a whole new challenge to Yahweh's authority and provision – does it extend to the grave?
- the word of Yahweh, which gives life, is utterly true and trustworthy

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Elijah & the Word of Yahweh

➤ Pre-figuring the Messiah

- Jesus raising the widow's son at Nain (Luke 17:11-17), and Lazarus at Bethany (John 11)
- He Himself is "the resurrection and the life" (John 11:25)

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