BIBLE STUDY

January 30, 2018

ELIJAH

NEW TESTAMENT REFERENCES

- ►Jesus equates John the Baptist with Elijah (Matthew 11:15)
- Peter, James, and John witness Moses and Elijah appear to talk with Jesus (Matthew 17, Mark 9)
- ▶ Jesus and his disciples discuss Elijah's return (Matthew 17, Mark 9)

NEW TESTAMENT REFERENCES

- ► While Jesus is hanging on the cross people question whether Elijah will come to save him (Matthew 27, Mark 15)
- ▶Paul uses Elijah as an illustration to show that God has not rejected Israel (Romans 11:2)
- ►The Epistle of James lifts up Elijah as an example of faithful prayer (James 5)

CHAMPION OF DEFEATED PEOPLE

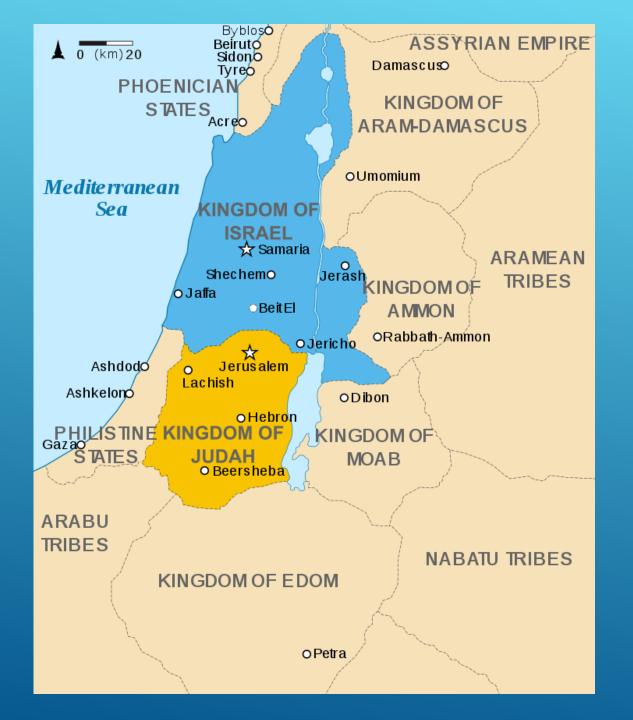
- ► Elijah appears in 1st Kings 17-19;21 and 2nd Kings 1-2
- ▶ Confronts:
 - ► Foreign Powers
 - ▶ Foreign Gods
 - ▶ Foreign Values

1ST AND 2ND KINGS

- ► Conclusion of "Former Prophets"
 - Joshua, Judges, Samuel, Kings
- ► Jewish tradition cites Jeremiah as the author
- ► 1st edition written around 620 BCE during the reign of Judean king Josiah

1ST AND 2ND KINGS

- Story begins with the end of David's reign
- Follows he monarchies of the kingdoms of Israel and Judah
- ►Tone of writing is often antagonistic towards the kings



NORTHERN & SOUTHERN KINGDOMS

DEUTERONOMISTIC HISTORY

- ► The importance of faithfulness to the LORD (YHWH) alone
- ► The belief that YHWH will punish unfaithfulness
- The importance of pure worship and sacrifice in only one place
- Hostility toward foreigners and/or foreign influence

ELIJAH'S INTRODUCTION 1 KINGS 17:1

"Now Elijah the Tishbite, of Tishbe in Gilead, said to Ahab, "As the LORD the God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall be neither dew nor rain these years, except by my word."

ELIJAH AND THE PRIESTS OF BAAL 1 KINGS 18

"20 So Ahab sent to all the Israelites, and assembled the prophets at Mount Carmel. 21 Elijah then came near to all the people, and said, "How long will you go limping with two different opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him." The people did not answer him a word."

ELIJAH HEARING FROM GOD 1 KINGS 19:11-12

"11 He said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by." Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; 12 and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence."

ELIJAH'S ASCENSION 2 KINGS 2:9-12

"9 When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." 10 He responded, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not." 11 As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. 12 Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces."