



Lesson 115

Ahab Meets Elijah

Story Elements

- **Text:** 1 Ki. 16:29-17:7
- **Setting:** circa 874 B.C.
- **Main Characters:** God, Ahab, and Elijah
- **Plot:** Ahab's wicked reign is interrupted by the prophet Elijah pronouncing God's judgment in the form of severe drought.
- **Key word(s):** " _____ "
- **Climax:** 1 Kings 17:1 *And Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the inhabitants of Gilead, said unto Ahab, As the LORD God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word.*

Prophecy and Punishment

1. (1 Ki. 16:29-34) In the 38th year of Asa's reign Ahab came to the throne of Israel. The beginnings of his kingdom are marked by rebellion against _____:
 - (a) Ahab rebelled against the prohibition of marrying pagan Canaanites by taking as his wife _____, the daughter of Ethbaal¹ of Zidon. (cf. Deu. 7:3)
 - (b) A remarkable incident occurred during Ahab's reign that seems a fitting backdrop to the kingdom of one of Israel's most wicked men: Hiel the Bethelite rebuilt _____ – against the prohibition of Joshua and thus receiving the curse pronounced by the same.

Joshua 6:26 And Joshua adjured them at that time, saying, Cursed be the man before the LORD, that riseth up and buildeth this city Jericho: he shall lay the foundation thereof in his firstborn, and in his youngest son shall he set up the gates of it.

2. (1 Ki. 17:1) Into this scene of rampant idolatry and disregard for the LORD, Elijah the prophet is sent to spur the nation to _____.
 - (a) Elijah announced to Ahab the coming of a great drought that would last for years and would only be ended at the word of the _____ (indicating that their pagan gods and priests would be unsuccessful in securing a remedy).
 - (b) Severe drought was an indication of God's judgment on national _____.

Deuteronomy 11:16 Take heed to yourselves, that your heart be not deceived, and ye turn

¹“He was priest of Ashtaroth or Astarte, who, having murdered Philetas, king of Tyre, ascended the throne of that kingdom, being the eighth king since Hiram. Jezebel was the wicked daughter of this regicide and idol priest...” (Jamieson, Robert, A. R. Fausset, and David Brown. *Commentary Critical and Explanatory on the Whole Bible*. Vol. 1. Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997. Print.)

aside, and serve other gods, and worship them; 17 And then the LORD's wrath be kindled against you, and he shut up the heaven, that there be no rain, and that the land yield not her fruit; and lest ye perish quickly from off the good land which the LORD giveth you.

Protection and Provision

3. (1 Ki. 17:2-7) Elijah was instructed to take refuge by the brook Cherith where he would find water and be fed by ravens. The delivery of food by ravens was a sign of God's miraculous provision for his faithful during times of God's _____ on the unfaithful.

Application

4. When sin and rebellion against God's word become society's norm, God's people can be assured of two things: (1) They will be a persecuted _____, and (2) God will _____ for them.
5. The miracle of the ravens is a striking illustration of God's care for His people. "God could have sent angels to minister to him, as he did afterwards (ch. 19:5)...but he chose to send by winged messengers of another nature, to show that when he pleases, he can serve his own purposes by the meanest creatures as effectually as by the _____." ² Let us then...
- (a) ...praise God that He graciously uses us poor sinners.
- (b) ...be grateful when he likewise supplies our needs through means we would not normally welcome.
6. Through the course of Israel's history, God proved to them over and over that other gods were _____ – Baal cannot give rain. (cf. Jer. 14:22)

Notes: _____

Answer Key: Key word(s): rain • 1. God's word; a) Jezebel; b) Jericho • 2. repentance; a) prophet; b) idolatry • 3. wrath • 4. minority; care • 5. mightiest • 6. powerless

How to use this worksheet for personal Bible study: (1) Read the Bible passage given in the **Story Elements** section. (2) Read through the worksheet and try to fill in the blanks without looking at the **Answer Key**. (3) Check your answers with the key and make the necessary corrections. Keep in mind that some answers are a matter of opinion, and often more than one answer is correct. (4) Write down your own thoughts, applications, and questions for further study in the **Notes** section.

² Henry, Matthew. *Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible: Complete and Unabridged in One Volume*. Peabody: Hendrickson, 1994. Print.