



Welcome!

February 27, 2022

“If the Son sets you free... you are free indeed!” -John 8:36

Our Worship Gathering

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship

Worship through Song

As We Gather

Seek Ye First

Great is Thy Faithfulness

Worship through Prayer

Worship through Scripture

God's Messengers | The Story #15 | Pastor Scott

Worship by Responding

Let the Heavens Be Glad

Sending

Worship by Going

**If you'd like to *worship by giving*, there is an offering box in the back.
You can also give through the app and web page**

Colorado Freedom Church

6862 Galley Road | Colorado Springs, CO 80915

www.ColoradoFreedomChurch.com

719-387-1618

Sunday: Dinner and Study, all ages, 5 pm

Announcements:

- Visit the App Store or Google Play and download the FC App!
- Please consider setting up recurring online giving through the app or web page.
- If you are interested in partnership, please pick up an information packet at the information table.

Upcoming Events:

- March 2, 10am-12 pm; @ Freedom Church: Start of Women's Bible Study
 - Becoming a Titus 2 Woman. See Anna Bazemore
- Compassion Food Distribution of Colorado, 8 am – 3 pm
 - Next one: **March 5**

Prayer Matters

Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

Matthew 22:37-39 (NLT)

Berean Church

North Platte, NE –North Platte Berean Church (John & Jessica)

Global Outreach

The Berean Fellowship-National Church Planting

Other

“God speaks through His Word and the Holy Spirit, are you listening?”

Why did God divide the nation?

I. God divided the nation because his people were sending a wrong message.

A. God wanted his people to be blessed by him so that others would be drawn to their God.

B. The nation rebelled from God, becoming complacent in devotion, disobedient to God’s commands, and worshipers of pagan gods.

C. In disobedience, God’s people were sending a wrong message to themselves and to the surrounding nations.

D. God does not need all 12 tribes to fulfill his promises to Abraham and David.

E. From the offspring of David from the tribe of Judah God will bring the Messiah.

II. God sent prophets to the Northern Kingdom to call his people back to obedience.

A. God sent 9 prophets to the 19 kings in Israel (North) over a period of 208 years.

B. Two of the nine prophets were Elijah and Elisha.

C. These prophets were spokesman for God.

III. Glimpses into Elijah’s Life

A. Prophets of Baal vs. God. 1 Kings 16:30; 18:17-40

B. Elijah runs from Jezebel. 1 Kings 19:1-15

IV. Glimpse into Elisha's Life

2 Kings 6:8-20

Application & Lessons Learned.

1. God speaks through His Word and His Son.
2. God uses the Holy Spirit to inform our life.
3. We must be God's messengers to this world.

God is calling, are you going to answer it, listen, and obey? Or are you going to send God to voicemail?

The Story #15 Going Deeper

Key Question: How can we listen to God better? ¹

Elijah on Mount Carmel

A little over fifty years after the northern tribes split from Judah, Ahab became king of Israel. Influenced by his wife Jezebel, he made Baal worship the national religion.

God sent prophets to call his people back to him, but Jezebel killed as many as she could find. It seemed Baal was stronger than the Israelite God, Yahweh. The people wavered: Who was the *real* God?

God answered that question through the prophet Elijah.

1. (a) What did Elijah tell King Ahab in 1 Kings 17:1?

(b) The Canaanites believed Baal² was a storm god who controlled rain, gave life through rain, spoke through thunder, and used lightening as a weapon. What was Elijah's message designed to prove?

After three years of drought drove home the point, God sent Elijah to Ahab. Elijah, Ahab, 450 Baal prophets, 400 Asherah prophets, and onlookers gathered on Mount Carmel.

2. (a) What did Elijah ask the people (1 Kings 18:21)?

(b) Considering the people's beliefs about Baal, why do you think Elijah proposed calling for an answer by fire (18:23–24)?

From morning to evening the Baal prophets called for their god to answer, to no avail. Finally, Elijah stepped forward. It was time to call on the God who had named their forefather Israel, the very name by which they now called themselves.³

3. (a) What was this contest designed to let the people know (1 Kings 18:36–37)?

(b) What happened when Elijah prayed (18:38)?

(c) How did the people respond (18:39)?

(d) What long-lasting results should this have brought in Israel?

¹ Unless otherwise noted, all commentary and questions are from *Personal Journal and Discussion* by Jean E. Jones.
<http://www.jeanejones.net/the-story-bible-study-guides/>

² *Baal* means "lord."

³ 1 Kings 18:31.

God acted miraculously so the people would know he was the one true God. Miracles are temporary suspensions of the laws of nature designed to prove that God is God and to confirm messengers and messages as being sent from him. The miraculous birth of Isaac to the barren elderly Sarah confirmed God's promise that he was building a nation through Isaac. The miraculous deliverance from Egypt through Moses proved that God called the Israelites, gave the covenant, and sanctioned Moses as leader and prophet.

And now, the miraculous fire from heaven proved the Lord God was God and he was the provider of rain, not Baal.

4. We communicate with God through prayer. Compare the Baal prophets' prayers in 1 Kings 18:26–29 with Elijah's prayer in 1 Kings 18:36–37. What can we learn about prayer from these passages?

Elijah on Mount Horeb

The contest on Mt. Carmel showed decisively that the Lord is God. But Jezebel didn't buy it: When King Ahab told her what happened, she sent a message to Elijah that she planned to kill him.

Frightened, Elijah fled south. Leaving his servant in Judah, he continued alone into the wilderness beyond. There, convinced that the events on Mt. Carmel had failed to turn Israel back to God, he asked God to let him die.

5. (a) How did God provide for the exhausted and discouraged prophet's needs (1 Kings 19:5–8)?

(b) What can we learn about God's character from this?

Elijah traveled to Mt. Horeb, the place where God had called to Moses from the burning bush,⁴ established his covenant with the Israelites,⁵ and passed by Moses to show him his glory.⁶

6. (a) What reason did Elijah give for going to Mt. Horeb (1 Kings 19:9–10)?

(b) What other reasons might Elijah have had?

The Lord told Elijah he was about to pass by.

7. (a) In what phenomena did Elijah not find the Lord (19:11–12)?

(b) Elijah may have thought that the Israelites' rejection of God's covenant would bring immediate destruction through one of these phenomena, but that was not so. What form did God take to reveal himself to Elijah (19:12–13)?

(c) What can we learn from this?

⁴ Exodus 3:1–4.

⁵ Exodus 17:5; 19:1–3; 20:18–19; Deuteronomy 5:2; 18:16. Mount Sinai is probably another name for Mount Horeb.

⁶ Exodus 33:18–23; 34:5–7.

Elijah may have felt like a failure with no purpose for living, but God assured him otherwise. He sent Elijah back to continue his work, but not alone. He told Elijah to anoint a successor, Elisha, who would travel with him and serve him. He assured Elijah that Israel had 7,000 other faithful followers. Other prophets came out of hiding and Elijah mentored them. Elijah was no longer alone: He had fellowship and support. God met his every need.

God continued reaching out to Israel through more messengers. Jehoshaphat king of Judah encouraged Ahab to follow God, to ignore the false prophets who only told him whatever he wanted to hear, and to respect God's true prophets.⁷ After Ahab died, Jehoshaphat sent Levites into Israel to teach Scripture.⁸

Elisha

Elisha eventually inherited Elijah's ministry, and God did miracles through him too.⁹ Ordinary people spread the word throughout Israel, Judah, and other nations.

8. We're God's messengers when we tell others about what God has done, even when it's not miraculous. Briefly describe something God has done for you.

Sometimes God grants special glimpses into the spiritual realm. That's what he did for Elisha's scared servant when an Aramean army approached.

9. (a) What did Elisha tell his servant (2 Kings 6:15–16)?

(b) After Elisha prayed for his servant's eyes to be opened, what did the servant see (6:17)?

(c) What can we learn about the spiritual realm from this?

Amos

Kings and prophets came and went. About forty years after Elisha's death, Amos prophesied in Israel.

A wealthy class now lived in luxury and pleasure seeking, but ignored God's laws to protect the needy. They oppressed the poor and sold them into slavery over paltry debts. The courts denied justice to the weak. Cheating, lying, drunkenness, and immorality abounded. Leaders silenced God's prophets and forced godly people to break vows. Idolatry was everywhere.¹⁰

10. (a) According to Amos 3:1–2, why would God punish Israel's sins?

(b) What does God's decision to punish the unrepentant tell us about his care for the oppressed?

⁷ 2 Chronicles 18:5–7.

⁸ 2 Chronicles 17:7–9; 19:4.

⁹ Elisha's request for a "double portion" of Elijah's spirit in 2 Kings 2:9 was a request for the inheritance rights of the firstborn.

¹⁰ Amos 2:6–12; 4:1; 5:7; 5:10–12; 6:4–6; 8:4–6.

(c) What does it tell us about God's justice?

11. (a) When the people refused to listen to the Provider of all good things, how did he communicate they were heading for danger (Amos 4:6 and 4:10)?

(b) The New Testament tells Christians to “endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father?”¹¹ What does this tell us about how God uses hardship?

A prophet's life was hard, for few people like being told their actions are wrong. A priest accused Amos of conspiring against the king and ordered him to get out.¹²

12. (a) According to Amos 5:6 and 5:14–15, what could the people do to avert disaster?

(b) What does this tell us about the purpose behind godly exhortation?

(c) Who was doing what was truly best for the people: Amos with his unwelcome message, or the priest who ordered him to stop prophesying? Why?

Hosea

After Amos, God sent Hosea to Israel.¹³ Conditions had worsened. Political assassinations divided the nation. Worse, the Israelites were sacrificing children to Canaanite gods.¹⁴

13. (a) In Hosea 4:1, what did Hosea say the people lacked?

(b) What did they have instead (4:2)?

(c) Hosea said people were mourning and wasting away because of this (4:3). Describe how you imagine it was like to live in Israel then.

(d) What does God's concern about these things tell us about him?

¹¹ Hebrews 12:7.

¹² Amos 7:10–13.

¹³ Amos prophesied from about 760–750 B.C., and Hosea from about 750–715 B.C.

¹⁴ Hosea 13:2.

Israel as a nation no longer served her purpose, and her oppression of the helpless had to be stopped.

14. What was inevitable now for the northern kingdom of Israel (Hosea 9:7)?

Israel's people could not stay in the land; they were going to Assyria.¹⁵ By this God would heal their waywardness¹⁶ so one day, the Israelites might seek God and again be under David their king.¹⁷

15. We've seen God speak to people through dramatic miracles, gentle whispers, loving provision, godly teachers, inspired Scripture, everyday people, spiritual glimpses, caring discipline, and stern exhortations. What are two steps you can take this week to listen to God better?

Closing Thoughts

16. God still loves His people, still tenderly seeks to warn us when we are in danger. Name some ways God posts a warning sign in the middle of the road as we travel through life.¹⁸

17. It is clear that if God's people will repent (turn from sin and return to Him) God is ready to embrace them with love and grace. How is God still offering this same invitation through Jesus today? What does true repentance and turning back to God look like, in light of the cross of Jesus?

18. Baal worshipers believed their god made rain and storms, and during the dry season he needed to be brought back to life. Mount Carmel was his supposed sacred dwelling place. What was the point in God taking the battle to enemy territory?¹⁹

19. God sent Elijah to the Kerith Ravine where he was fed by Ravens. How has God provided for you in unlikely or surprising ways?²⁰

20. What role did prayer play in Elijah's life? Look up James 5:16-18. What made Elijah's prayer effective? What makes you righteous and your prayers effective? (See 2 Corinthians 5:21 and Galatians 3:6).

¹⁵ Hosea 9:3.

¹⁶ Hosea 14:4.

¹⁷ Hosea 3:4-5.

¹⁸ 16 and 17 from *The Story Adult Curriculum*

¹⁹ From *The Story Small Group Study Guide*

²⁰ 19 and 20 from *The Story Personal Devotion*

21. According to the prophecies of Amos and Hosea, what does God warn is coming? What is His ultimate purpose in Israel's judgment? What does this tell you about God?²¹

²¹ From *The Story Adult Devotional*