

# The Return of Elijah

## A. Introduction - Review of the story of Elijah (1 Ki. 17-18).

1. Speaking with authority from heaven (1 Ki. 17:1).
2. God provided for Elijah during the drought (1 Ki. 17:2-16).
2. Calling people back to the commandments (1 Ki. 18:17-18).
3. He appealed for decisions to leave their falsehoods and worship God. (1 Ki. 18:21).
4. He ran before the King's chariot (1 Ki. 18:45-46).

## B. Prophecies can have several places where they apply.

1. Historical setting; initial fulfillment; 2<sup>nd</sup> fulfillment at the end of time
2. God's reason is so he may guide his people safely home through all that transpires during the journey (Ps. 119:105; Heb. 12:2; Mt. 28:20; Heb. 13:5).
2. As we study the initial stories, and then the prophecies connected with those stories, we will gain insight and guidance for our lives (Mal. 4:4-5; 2 Tim. 2:15).

## C. Fulfillment #1 - The Return of Elijah (Mal. 4:5-6).

1. Jesus' understanding of **Mal. 4:5, 6** and how He said this prophecy was fulfilled (**Mt. 11:9-14, 17:10-13**). John was the Forerunner of Christ: (**Mt. 3:1-6**).
2. Preaching a baptism of repentance to get ready for the Lord (**Mk. 1:1-5**).
3. It was prophesied that John's ministry would be "...in the spirit and power of Elijah" (**Lk. 1:5-17**).
4. When John was asked "Are you Elijah? He said, I am not": **Jn. 1:19-23**). John had **the same ministry & work of Elijah**, in preparing people to receive the Messiah (like Elijah running before the chariot), he was and witnessing to the truth and preparing the way for the Messiah's coming (**Jn. 5:33**).
5. Preaching repentance and obedience to God and His word (**Lk. 3:1-18**).

## Compare the ministry of John and Elijah. Both were doing the following:

1. Speaking with authority from heaven (1 Ki. 17:1; Jn. 1:33-34).
2. Calling people back to the commandments (1 Ki. 18:17-18; Lk. 3:3).
3. Making appeals for people to repent and change their ways.
4. Preparing the way for the coming king.

## C. If you're willing to receive it? (Mt. 11:14). Why would Jesus say it that way?

1. All would not accept him (Jn. 1:10-11) Even the disciples of Jesus did not fully understand about the Messiah's mission (Lk. 24:21).
2. Do you know the prophecies well enough to understand God's plan for his people and church?
3. Does your method of Bible study reveal God's plan for you or just confirm what you want to believe? (2 Tim. 3:16; Isa. 28:10; Lk. 24:25-27).