



Elijah – A Human Being Just Like Us



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**1. Was John
the Baptist a
reincarnation
of Elijah?**



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Luke 1:12-17

“Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John. ¹⁴ He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, ¹⁵ for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born.



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- ➡ ¹⁶ He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. ¹⁷ And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”



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Malachi 4:5-6

- ➡ “See, I will send the prophet Elijah to you before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes. ⁶ He will turn the hearts of the parents to their children, and the hearts of the children to their parents; or else I will come and strike the land with total destruction.”



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➡ But Jesus told His disciples -
“For all the Prophets and the
Law prophesied until John.
¹⁴ And if you are willing to
accept it, he is the Elijah who
was to come.” (Matthew 11:13-14)



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- John the Baptist was not Elijah reincarnated, but came in the spirit and power of Elijah.
- The disciples recognized Elijah on the Mount of Transfiguration
- We have a better message – the Kingdom of God has come because of the death and resurrection of Christ
- **Without repentance there can be no salvation or Jesus died in vain for our sins**



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2. How Great is Your God?



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James 5:17-18

“Elijah was a human being, even as we are. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. ¹⁸ Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.”



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1 Kings 19:3-4

- Elijah was afraid and ran for his life. When he came to Beersheba in Judah, he left his servant there, ⁴ while he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness. He came to a broom bush, sat down under it and prayed that he might die. "I have had enough, LORD," he said. "Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors."



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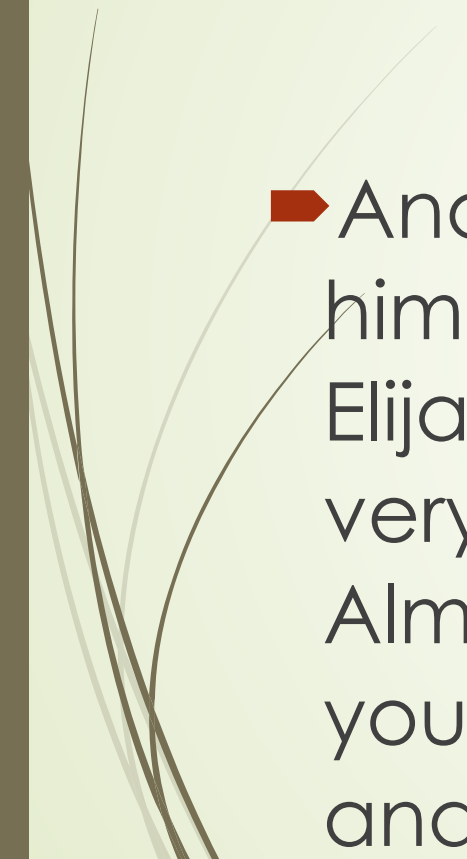
1 Kings 19:8-15

- ➡ “So he got up and ate and drank. Strengthened by that food, he travelled forty days and forty nights until he reached Horeb, the mountain of God. ⁹ There he went into a cave and spent the night. And the word of the LORD came to him: “What are you doing here, Elijah?”



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1 Kings 19:8-15

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- And the word of the LORD came to him: “What are you doing here, Elijah?”¹⁰ He replied, “I have been very zealous for the LORD God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too.”



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1 Kings 19:8-15

- ➡ ¹¹ The LORD said, “Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by. ”Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake.



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1 Kings 19:8-15

- ➡ ¹² After the earthquake came a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. ¹³ When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave. Then a voice said to him, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” ¹⁵ The LORD said to him, “Go back the way you came..”



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- God is in control of all events – big and small
- God says, “I reserve seven thousand in Israel—all whose knees have not bowed down to Baal and whose mouths have not kissed him.” (1 Kings 19:18)
- Bringing Israel to repentance is God’s work, even though he uses “human beings such as we are”.



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3. The spirit and power of Elijah



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2 Kings 2:9-10

- When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Tell me, what can I do for you before I am taken from you?” “Let me inherit a double portion of your spirit,” Elisha replied.¹⁰ “You have asked a difficult thing,” Elijah said, “yet if you see me when I am taken from you, it will be yours—otherwise, it will not.”



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- The Holy Spirit lives in us so we have more than the spirit and power of Elijah
- Just as Elijah's prayers were answered, we can be sure that God hears and answers our prayers
- God still uses "human beings just as we are"