

THE STORY

THE BIBLE AS ONE CONTINUING STORY OF GOD AND HIS PEOPLE

CHAPTER 15 – GOD’S MESSENGERS

DISCUSSION OF GENERAL QUESTIONS

- ❶ What is God saying?
- ❷ For what does this section lead me to give thanks? (See God’s grace and promises!)
- ❸ What sins does this section lead me to confess? (See God’s expectations for his people)
- ❹ For what does this section lead me to pray? (As you ponder the Word, what needs of heart and life for yourself and others come to mind? Consider every word you read as an invitation to turn it into a prayer you speak back to your Lord!)

Key Events: the ministries of the prophets Elijah and Elisha, God’s speaks to Israel through the prophets Amos and Hosea

DIGGING IN

- 1) When King Ahab saw Elijah he said, “Is that you, you troubler of Israel?” (pg 203) What prompted this response? Why is it that people often want to blame God (or his prophet in this case) for their problems?
- 2) When Elijah was about to face off against the prophets of Baal he said to the people, “How long will you waver between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him.” (pg 204) What might Elijah say to people today who say that all religions have the same God, just different names for him?
- 3) After the LORD’s victory over the prophets of Baal, Elijah commanded that those prophets be put to death. Read **Deuteronomy 13:1-5**. Why does God take idolatry so seriously?

- 4) Running for his life, Elijah despaired. “I have had enough, LORD,” he said. “Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors.” What caused Elijah’s despair? Was it justified? Can a Christian ever pray in faith, “Lord, I’m done. Take me from this world”?
- 5) At Mt. Horeb, the LORD told Elijah that he was going to pass by. (pg 207) First there was a powerful wind. Then there was an earthquake. Then a fire. The LORD was not in any of those powerful forces. Finally the LORD came in a gentle whisper. What was the LORD teaching Elijah in this demonstration?
- 6) Chapter 15 chronicles a number of incredible miracles, including . . .
- Elijah was fed by ravens. (page 203)
 - Fire fell and burned up the altar of the Lord. (page 205)
 - Rain was sent to end the drought. (page 206)
 - Elijah was taken to heaven in a whirlwind. (page 209)
 - The Shunammite’s son was brought back to life. (pages 210-211)
 - Naaman was healed of leprosy. (Naaman was commander of an enemy nation; page 211)
 - The Arameans’ attack plans were thwarted again and again. (pages 211-212)

Which of these miracles was the most impressive or surprising to you? How did these miracles serve God’s purpose in such a wicked time?

- 7) During this time God sent his spokesman, prophets, to speak his word to the people. Pages 213-217 contain excerpts from the prophecies of Amos and Hosea. Identify their primary message to the people. In what way would their message be the same if they were to come to our nation today?

Chapter 16: The Beginning of the End

Bible Reference: 2 Kings 17-19; Isaiah 3; 6; 13-14; 49; 53