



PROPHETS TO GOD'S PEOPLE

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NOTE TO THE TEACHER

Display each illustration where indicated in text, laying volume aside when the story line continues beyond the picture.

Lesson 1

ELIJAH, THE TRUE PROPHET

NOTE TO THE TEACHER

Prophecy is telling the message of God to man. Sometimes it tells what will happen in the future. More often it speaks of correction for God's people in the present. Prophets were chosen by God to be His messengers. Many times God's people accepted the prophetic messages. Too often they refused to listen to the prophets. For this, they suffered.

Biblical prophets apparently studied with other prophets who taught them. (See 2 Kings 2:3, 5, 16-18.) They would have learned how to hear and recognize God's voice. They had to know how to speak His message. To deliver God's prophecy at exactly the right time was very important.

In this and the two following volumes, God's prophets are featured. A fascinating study is ahead for you and your class!

Elijah (of the city of Tishbe) is a particularly interesting prophet. He could speak with fearsome authority and stand firm.

But sometimes he prophesied, then ran far away and hid. And he ran long distances! Once he went 30 miles (48 kilometers) from Samaria to the Brook Cherith. From Cherith he went almost 90 miles (144 kilometers) to Zarephath to be fed. Later he spoke God's message to Ahab. When he ran from King Ahab, he went (to Beer-sheba and finally Horeb) more than 200 miles (320 kilometers)! Remember, there were no bicycles, no cars, and no buses when Elijah lived. Depending upon the age of your students, use back cover map to show places named.

When Elijah prophesied there would be no rain, there was none "for three-and-one-half years." (See Luke 4:25; James 5:17.) Ravens are known for *not* feeding their baby birds. (See Job 38:41; Psalm 147:9.) Yet ravens fed the exhausted, hungry Elijah. Such are the miracles of our loving Lord! Teacher, make the Bible live to your students!

Scripture to be studied: 1 Kings 16:30-33; 17:1-16; 18:1-19:3a; 21:1-25; Deuteronomy 11:16-17a

The aim of the lesson: To challenge students to know God's Word and obey it.

What your students should know: That because God loves His people, He sent prophets to lead them to repent.

What your students should feel: A desire to turn from sin and live to please God.

What your students should do: Listen to God's Word and obey His will.

Lesson outline (for the teacher's and students' notebooks):

- God's punishment for idolatry (1 Kings 16:30-33; Deuteronomy 11:16-17a; 1 Kings 17:1; 18:1-2).
- God's provision for Elijah (1 Kings 17:2-16; 18:7-18).
- God's power over Baal (1 Kings 18:19-19:3a, 16b).
- God's pronouncement of judgment (1 Kings 21:1-25).

The verse to be memorized:

As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live. (Ezekiel 33:11a)

THE LESSON

Have you ever heard someone say, "There will be rain tomorrow"? Maybe he said, "Day after tomorrow will be cold and windy." And perhaps he was exactly right. Or he may have been quite wrong.

Did you ever hear this: "There cannot be any rain until *I say* it will rain"? (No!) In the long ago, one man did say this. We shall learn about him today. Listen!

1. GOD'S PUNISHMENT FOR IDOLATRY

**1 Kings 16:30-33; Deuteronomy 11:16-17a;
1 Kings 17:1; 18:1-2**

King Ahab was ruling over Israel, the Northern Kingdom. Ahab married Jezebel. Jezebel came from Sidon, a land of idol-worshipers. (Show Sidon on back cover map.) Her father was king of those idol-worshipers. He would have demanded, "My daughter cannot marry Ahab. Never! Not unless he lets her take our gods (idols) into Israel!"

King Ahab knew God had forbidden His people to marry idol-worshipers. (See Deuteronomy 7:3-4.) But Ahab didn't