

WEEK
Thirteen

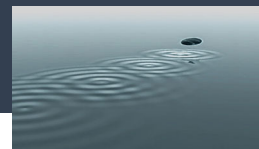
THE GOSPEL OF MARK: JESUS AS A TYPE OF ELIJAH

John was a type of Elijah.
Is Jesus also a type of Elijah?



- *We already noted the John the Baptist appeared suddenly, like Elijah, and looked like Elijah, “hairy man ” wearing “a leather belt” (2 Kings 1:8, Mal 3:1, 4:5)*
- *Why was the Israelite nation looking for Elijah? (John 1:19-25)*
 - *Because all Jews knew of the prophet Malachi’s prophecy that God would send Elijah the prophet before the coming of the Messiah. That is, unless Elijah appeared, anyone who claimed to be the Messiah would be considered an imposter.*
 - *This was exactly Jesus’ position throughout his 3-year ministry. He spoke with authority and did many miracles, but in the eyes of the religious leadership and many conservative Jews, it was impossible for Jesus to be the true Messiah as Elijah had not yet appeared.*
 - *This is why upon witnessing Jesus conversing with Moses and Elijah on a mountain, Jesus’ disciples asked him, “Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?” (Matt. 17:10) And then Jesus clearly told them that John was Elijah.*

John was a type of Elijah. Is Jesus also a type of Elijah?



- *Jesus said that John was the Elijah who was to come (Mark 9:11-13, Mat 17:10-13).*
- *So why did John deny to be Elijah and reference Isaiah, not Malachi? (John 1:19-25)*
 - *Because he wasn't Elijah in the fullest sense. He came in the spirit of Elijah. But he was not Elijah returned.*
 - *John must have known that when he denied being Elijah, that to the religious leaders and others it meant "We still have to wait. John may be a great prophet, but as he isn't Elijah, the Messiah hasn't come yet."*
 - *For the purpose of announcing the Messiah, John was Elijah. (Mark 11:27-33)*
 - *But John was a type of Elijah. Jesus is the fulfillment of Elijah.*

John was a type of Elijah. Is Jesus also a type of Elijah?



- *Elijah is named 26 times in the Gospels*
 - *9 in Matthew*
 - *7 in Mark*
 - *6 in Luke*
 - *2 in John*
- *From a concentration perspective, Mark is the clear winner.*
- *Did Mark organize his life of Jesus after the pattern of the life of Elijah?*

John was a type of Elijah. Is Jesus also a type of Elijah?

The Elijah account is composed of 6 stories, each of which is alluded to in the Gospel account of Jesus in Mark.

I Kings

1. *Elijah's prediction of drought and flight to Sidon;*
2. *The contest at Carmel with the priests of Baal;*
3. *The flight to Horeb from Jezebel; and*
4. *The story of Naboth's vineyard.*

II Kings

5. *The illness of Ahaziah and the oracle of Beelzebub; and*
6. *The translation of Elijah into heaven.*

1. Jesus multiplies food for the hungry like Elijah (Mark 6:35-44, 8:1-9; 1 Kgs. 17:14, 2 Kgs. 4:1- 7).

- *In both accounts the elements are meager compared to the need.*
- *Nonetheless, they are miraculously multiplied to the full satisfaction of the requirements of the recipients.*
- *Elijah multiplies the meal and the oil of a widow of Zarephath, Elisha likewise multiplies the oil of a widow. Christ multiplies loaves and fish.*

2. Elijah' great contest upon Carmel between God's prophet and the priests of Baal remind us of the crucifixion.

- *Both apparently transpire from midmorning until mid-afternoon (1 Kgs. 18:26-29, Mark 15:25, 33).*
- *Jesus' death mocked by the priests (Mk 15:31) corresponds to Elijah's mocking the futile cries of the priests of Baal (1 Kgs. 18:27).*
- *The priests resemble Elijah as they mock Jesus, whose lacerated and bloody body writhing in the agony of crucifixion, and whose apparently futile cries, uttered in a loud voice, for His God not to abandon Him.*
- *Elijah mocks the priests of Baal as they call out in loud voices for Baal to answer them, all while cutting themselves until covered in blood, and writhing about the altar of sacrifice they had made themselves (1 Kgs. 18:26-29).*

2. Elijah' great contest upon Carmel between God's prophet and the priests of Baal reminds us of the crucifixion.

- *It is in such a context that the priests from Jerusalem believe they hear the name "Elijah" in the dying cries of Jesus, and so they utter the mockery, "Let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down!" (Mark 15:34-36).*
- *Each of these crises, Carmel and the cross, culminate with a dramatic acknowledgment of the true identity of the Lord God. The chronicler records that when the people saw that God had accepted Elijah's sacrifice, they "fell on their faces; and they said, 'Truly, the LORD, He is God!'" (1 Kgs. 18:39) Similarly, the evangelist writes that when the centurion heard how Jesus breathed His last, he said, "Truly this Man was the Son of God!" (Mark 15:39).*

3. Elijah brings the storm from the sea, Jesus calms the storm on the sea (Mark 4:35- 41; 1 Kgs. 18:41-45).

- *This remarkable event raises the question among the disciples, "What manner of Man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?"*
- *The answer to the disciples' question appears to be that Jesus is a prophet like Elijah.*
- *If this is Mark's teaching, the answer justifies the response of the disciples to the question later posed by Jesus Himself, "Whom do men say that I am?" (Mk 8:37).*
- *The answer of the disciples was, "some say...Elijah." (Mark 8:28)*

4. Parable of the vineyard compared to the matter of Naboth's inheritance.

- *Spoken to the religious leaders of Jerusalem, these leaders understood that Jesus had spoken against them (Mark 12:1-12).*
- *The lord of the vineyard had sent his "beloved son" (clearly Jesus) to the vine growers, but they killed him in order to take his inheritance for themselves.*
- *Framed like the encounter of Elijah with Ahab over Naboth, Jesus aligns His own impending death with the murder of Naboth, and the plots against Him by the religious leaders with the schemes of Ahab and Jezebel.*
- *The enmity of Jezebel for Naboth corresponds to the passion details of Mark. Jezebel designed her plot to occur during a sacred fast (1 Kgs. 21:10; cf. Mk 15:42); it involved false testimony for a sham legal proceeding (1 Kgs. 21:10; cf. Mk 14:10-11); it raised the issue of blasphemy, a capital crime (1 Kgs. 21:10; cf. Mk 14:55); and it resulted in the condemned being taken out of the city to execution (1 Kgs. 21:13; cf. Mk 15:22).*

5. The illness of Ahaziah references Beelzebub, a specific allusion to Elijah (Mark 3:22; 2 Kings 1:2, 4, 6).

- *Ahaziah's apostasy was evidenced in his seeking an oracle of Beelzebub, the "Lord of the flies", the god of Ekron.*
- *That the religious leaders would accuse Jesus of exercising power over demons in the name of Beelzebub shows they recognized Jesus was nothing less than a claim to be the successor to Elijah (Mark 8:28).*
- *Their rejection of that claim aligned them with Baal's priest's rejection of Elijah. Indeed, Jerusalem's priests had claimed the mantle of Elijah for themselves.*

6. The similar the translation of the prophets, Elijah and Christ, into heaven.

- *Elijah was speaking with Elisha, his successor to continue his ministry. Elisha was to inherit his mantle, the spirit of Elijah. As Elijah was speaking, suddenly a chariot of fire appeared and took Elijah up in a whirlwind (2 Kgs. 2:11).*
- *Elijah's last departure corresponds precisely to the account of Jesus' ascension in Mark's Gospel.*
- *Jesus was speaking with His disciples, who were to be His successors and continue His ministry. The word of the disciples was confirmed by the signs that accompanied them (correspondence between the works of Elisha and the disciples (Mark 16:20)). After Jesus had spoken to the disciples, He was received up into heaven, just as Elijah had been (Mark 16:19).*

Significant events of life of Jesus and Elijah?

MARK	THE LXX
(1:6) "John was clothed in camel's <i>hair</i> , with a leather belt around his loins "	(4 Kgs. 1:8) "He (Elijah) is a <i>hairy</i> man with a leather belt about his loins "
(1:12-14) "Immediately the Spirit drove Him into the wilderness ...and He was there forty days ...and angels ministered to Him "	(3 Kgs. 19:4-8) "And he (Elijah) went...into the wilderness ...and the angel of the Lord said, 'Arise and eat'...and he went forty days ...to Horeb"
(3:22) "the scribes said, 'He...has <i>Baalzebul</i> (Baalzebub)'"	(4 Kgs. 1:2) "He (Ahaziah) said... 'Go, inquire of the <i>Lord of the flies</i> , the God of Ekron...' (MT 2 Kgs. 1:2 reads " Baalzebub ")
(4:41) Jesus calms the storm at sea. "And they (the disciples) became afraid, and said, 'What manner of Man is this, that even <i>the wind</i> and <i>the sea</i> obey Him?'"	(3 Kgs. 18:43,45) Elijah brings the storm from the sea. "He (Elijah) said to his servant, 'Go and look toward <i>the sea</i> '...and the heavens grew black with cloud and <i>wind</i> ..."
(6:41-42,44) Jesus multiplies food for the hungry crowd. "And He took the five loaves and the two fish...and divided (them) up...and they all <i>ate</i> ...and there were five thousand men who ate the loaves"	(3 Kgs. 17:14) Elijah multiplies food for the hungry. "'The bowl of flour shall not be exhausted, nor shall the jar of oil be empty'...and she (the widow of Zarephath)...and her household <i>ate</i> for many days" (Cf. also 4 Kgs. 2:7)

Significant events of life of Jesus and Elijah?

(7:24-25M) "He...went to the borders of Tyre and Sidon ...and a certain woman ..." Jesus heals the Sidonian woman's daughter.	(3 Kgs. 17:9-10) The Lord commanded Elijah, "Arise and go to Zarephath of Sidon ...I have commanded a woman who is a widow...." Elijah heals the Sidonian woman's son.
(12:1-7M) "A certain man planted a vineyard ...at him (the lord's servant) they cast stones ... 'This is the heir, come, let us kill him , and the inheritance shall be ours'"	(3 Kgs. 20:1-10) "And Naboth...had a vineyard ...Naboth said to Ahab, 'God forbid that I should give my inheritance '...(Jezebel wrote) 'let them... stone him that he might die'"
(14:12-14) "The Teacher says, 'Where is the guest room in which I may eat the Passover with My disciples?' And he will show you a large <i>upper room furnished and ready</i> ."	(3 Kgs. 17:19) Elijah lives as a guest in an "upper room;" cf. (4 Kgs. 4:10) Elisha is provided with "a little <i>upper room</i> (furnished with) <i>a bed...a table, a chair and a lampstand</i> ; and it shall be that when he comes to us that he can turn in there"
(15:25,31-39) "and it was the <i>third hour</i> when they crucified Him...the chief priests ...were <i>mocking</i> Him...and when the <i>sixth hour</i> had come, darkness fell over the whole land until the <i>ninth hour</i> ...' Let us see whether Elijah will come...' Jesus cried out with a loud voice ...when he (the centurion) saw...he said, ' Truly this Man was the Son of God!'"	(3 Kgs. 18:26-39) "and they (the priests of Baal) called upon the name of Baal from <i>morning</i> till <i>noon</i> ...and it came about at <i>noon</i> , that Elijah <i>mocked</i> them (the " priests ") and said, 'Call out with a loud voice ...' and they raved until the time of the <i>evening sacrifice</i> ...and when all the people saw it...they said, ' Truly the Lord is God!'"
(16:19) "after He spoke to them (His disciples) He was received up into heaven "	(4 Kgs. 2:11) "and they (Elijah and Elisha) were talking ...and Elijah was received up...into heaven "