



# PROPHECY EXPO

## The Three Elijahs Alive!

I. The Early Roman Jewish community was looking for the coming of the Messiah. The main reason for their anticipation of the Messiah was found in the book of Daniel

A. Daniel 9 provides a chronology of the Messiah's coming

"So you are to know and discern *that* from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince *there will be* seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; it will be built again, with plaza and moat, even in times of distress.

<sup>26</sup> "Then after the sixty-two weeks the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing, and the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. And its end *will come* with a flood; even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined."

(Daniel 9:25-26; NASB637; SP878)

B. In New Testament times Daniel was considered as one of the prophets

"Moreover Josephus and Melito also think of him as a prophet, and in fact the first written evidence that places Daniel not among the prophets but among the Ketubim or Writings is the much later Talmud. So Daniel was among the prophets in Judaism generally in the first century."

Eugene Ulrich, *The Dead Sea Scrolls and the Origins of the Bible*, Eerdmans, pp. 21-22.

C. Elijah is associated with the Messiah because of the promised return of Elijah to prepare the way for the Messiah in Malachi 4:4-5

"Behold, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the LORD.

<sup>6</sup> "He will restore the hearts of the fathers to *their* children and the hearts of the children to their fathers, so that I will not come and smite the land with a curse."

(Malachi 4:5-6; NASB678; SP927)

D. Elijah was to come before the “day of the LORD,” which always means the end of the world by all Old Testament writers

“Wail, for the day of the LORD is near! It will come as destruction from the Almighty.”  
(Isaiah 13:6; NASB496; SP700-701)

“Behold, the day of the LORD is coming, Cruel, with fury and burning anger, To make the land a desolation; And He will exterminate its sinners from it.”  
(Isaiah 13:9; NASB496; SP701)

“Blow a trumpet in Zion, And sound an alarm on My holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, For the day of the LORD is coming; Surely it is near.”  
(Joel 2:1; NASB648; SP890)

II. Elijah the prophet is best known for his call to be loyal to God on Mount Carmel (1 Kings 18)

A. Because of evil acts of King Ahab and Queen Jezebel Elijah said there would be no rain for three years

“Now Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the settlers of Gilead, said to Ahab, ‘As the LORD, the God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, surely there shall be neither dew nor rain these years, except by my word.’”  
(1 Kings 17:1; NASB266; SP373)

B. Eventually Elijah called every Israelite to assemble on Mount Carmel

“Now then send *and* gather to me all Israel at Mount Carmel, *together* with 450 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of the Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table.”  
(1 Kings 18:19; NASB266; SP373)

C. Elijah called everyone to decide who was their God, Baal or YYWH

“Elijah came near to all the people and said, “How long *will* you hesitate between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him.” But the people did not answer him a word.”  
(1 Kings 18:21; NASB267; SP375)

D. Elijah also had a sense of humor

“It came about at noon, that Elijah mocked them and said, ‘Call out with a loud voice, for he is a god; either he is occupied or gone aside, or is on a journey, or perhaps he is asleep and needs to be awakened.’<sup>28</sup> So they cried with a loud voice and cut themselves according to their custom with swords and lances until the blood gushed out on them.”  
(1 Kings 18:27-28; NASB267; SP375)

E. Elijah prayed and fire came down out of heaven and consumed the offering and altar

“Then Elijah said to all the people, ‘Come near to me.’ So all the people came near to him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD which had been torn down.”  
(1 Kings 18:30; NASB267; SP375)

“At the time of the offering of the *evening* sacrifice, Elijah the prophet came near and said, ‘O LORD, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, today let it be known that You are God in Israel and that I am Your servant and I have done all these things at Your word.’”  
(1 Kings 18:36; NASB268; SP376)

“Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt offering and the wood and the stones and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench.”  
(1 Kings 18:38; NASB268; SP975)

III. When Jesus came preaching many supposed that he was either a risen John the Baptist or Elijah

“And King Herod heard of *it*, for His name had become well known; and *people* were saying, ‘John the Baptist has risen from the dead, and that is why these miraculous powers are at work in Him.’<sup>15</sup> But others were saying, ‘He is Elijah.’ And others were saying, ‘*He is* a prophet, like one of the prophets of *old*.’”  
(Mark 6:14-15; NASB: SP)

A. Jesus was clear, John the Baptist was not a risen Elijah, but he was Elijah; he had the message of Elijah

“And His disciples asked Him, “Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?”<sup>11</sup> And He answered and said, ‘Elijah is coming and will restore all things;<sup>12</sup> but I say to you that Elijah already came, and they did not recognize him, but did to him whatever they wished. So also the Son of Man is going to suffer at their hands.’<sup>13</sup> Then the disciples understood that He had spoken to them about John the Baptist.”  
(Matthew 17:10-13; NASB14; SP951)

B. John the Baptist served to prepare people for the coming Messiah

“Now in those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying,  
<sup>2</sup> ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.’  
<sup>3</sup> For this is the one referred to by Isaiah the prophet when he said, ‘THE VOICE OF ONE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS, ‘MAKE READY THE WAY OF THE LORD, MAKE HIS PATHS STRAIGHT!’”  
(Matthew 3:1-3; NASB2; SP932)

1. Get ready for the coming of the Messiah
2. Get rid of those traditions, which hinder His appearance

C. Did John the Baptist preach before the great and terrible Day of the Lord?

“Behold, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the LORD.  
<sup>6</sup> ‘He will restore the hearts of the fathers to *their* children and the hearts of the children to their fathers, so that I will not come and smite the land with a curse.”  
(Malachi 4:5-6; NASB678; SP927)

IV. The Third Elijah will be like the second Elijah; he will have the message of Elijah

A. That message is found in Revelation 14:6-12; the Three Angels’ Messages

“And I saw another angel flying in midheaven, having an eternal gospel to preach to those who live on the earth, and to every nation and tribe and tongue and people;  
<sup>7</sup> and he said with a loud voice, ‘Fear God, and give Him glory, because the hour of His judgment has come; worship Him who made the heaven and the earth and sea and springs of waters.’  
<sup>8</sup> And another angel, a second one, followed, saying, ‘Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, she who has made all the nations drink of the wine of the passion of her immorality.’  
<sup>9</sup> Then another angel, a third one, followed them, saying with a loud voice, ‘If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand,  
<sup>10</sup> he also will drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is mixed in full strength in the cup of His anger; and he will be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.  
<sup>11</sup> And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever; they have no rest day and night, those who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.’  
<sup>12</sup> Here is the perseverance of the saints who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus.”  
(Revelation 14:6-12;NASB196; SP1220)

B. Note the characteristics of Elijah

1. He called people to a specific “either. . . or decision”
2. He called people on the basis of the Word of God
3. He called people in the context of the presence of the LORD
4. He called people in the context of the commandments of God
5. He called people in the context of the “faith of Jesus” or the Spirit of Prophecy

“Here is the perseverance of the saints who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus.”  
(Revelation 14:12; NASB196; SP1220)

“Then I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, “Do not do that; I am a fellow servant of yours and your brethren who hold the testimony of Jesus; worship God. For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”  
(Revelation 19:10; NASB199; SP1224)

1. Dreams and prophecy were part of the New Testament experience

“But when he (Joseph) had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, `Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.”  
(Matthew 1:20; NASB1; SP931)

“About the ninth hour of the day he clearly saw in a vision an angel of God who had *just* come in and said to him, “Cornelius!”  
<sup>4</sup> And fixing his gaze on him and being much alarmed, he said, “What is it, Lord?” And he said to him, “Your prayers and alms have ascended as a memorial before God.”  
(Acts 10:3-4; NASB100; SP1078)

“In my dream I also saw a large meeting with a multitude of people. The old man radiated great authority before the crowd. He told me, `You shall be my witness to them.’ I felt inadequate. . . .”

The next day

“Right now I was on my way to see you. I was given the job to come share the gospel.”

Christian Brother Yun, *The Heavenly Man*, pp. 35-36

2. The role of dreams, visions, and prophecy is to guide in times of newness of experience

V. Seventh-day Adventists have agreed to proclaim the Elijah Message of this time (The Three Angels' Message). 18 million people have joined this movement with over 22 million attending its churches each Sabbath. We have experienced within our movement the spirit of prophecy through the ministry of Ellen White. Her writings were never intended to replace the Bible, but primarily to guide our movement while it was being established