

Elijah (Part III) - The Power of Legacy!

<u>Malachi 4:5-6</u>: (NASB77) ⁵Behold, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the LORD. ⁶And he will restore the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the land with a curse.



We are so shortsighted. Most of us can only see as far as the next phone, tablet or computer screen and we do not think much about what we are seeing - we just want to see it, to have our minds toyed with and occupied, never giving thought to what is beyond and what is lasting. In our obsession with the occupation of our moments we have completely lost one of the greatest things that we could ever personally bring to our world. We have lost the value of LEGACY. Legacy by one definition is "something transmitted by or received from an ancestor or predecessor or from the past." You see, we have the ability to leave a

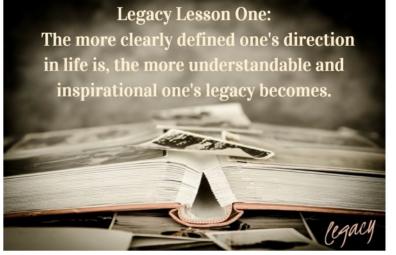
lasting and positive impression on our world, if we would only realize that potential and act on it. Elijah is a great example of legacy. In fact, Elijah left one of the most unique and powerful legacies of any Bible hero. What legacy did he leave? How did he do it?

Some people think of a legacy only as something material, like an estate property, gifts or money left after someone dies. Legacy is something left behind and is often monetary. Most of us are not in a position to leave a financial legacy, but it does not negate the power of the legacy we *can* leave. We will talk about the kind of legacy money cannot buy, but it has the power to change lives.

In the previous episode of our CQ Power Series, "Elijah (Part II) The Power of SUBMISSION!" we saw Elijah build impenetrable courage as he walked more and more effortlessly in precise accordance with God's will. This display of attitude and action on his part would serve as a powerful reminder of the purpose of his life. That purpose was simple - to speak and to execute the will of God.

The name Elijah means, "Jehovah is God," and Elijah *lived* his name. That is part of his legacy.

When we think of Elijah, remember what his name means.



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Do you ever think about your own legacy? Whether you plan it or think you are contributing to it or not, you are creating a legacy with the way you live your life. Your words, your thoughts, your actions, what you accomplish (or don't accomplish!) all contribute to your legacy. Sometimes we forget that bigger picture.

(I)) Part one, Leave Your Legacy, FellowshipStories

• Legacies are roads left paved for those that will follow. They leave trails filled with reflective ideals. They are monumental, they are minimal, but they are never forgotten. Children, grandchildren, neighborhoods, coworkers, friends, enemies, the lives of those around us inherit the story we leave behind. They make their way to everywhere through tale or virtue. Legacies stand tall in the face of trial. They prevail. They're found in risk that clings to the promise of hope.

Legacies last, whether they be good or bad. What does your legacy point people towards?

Here is where we last left off with Elijah's story:

<u>2 Kings 2:11-12</u>: (NASB) ¹¹Then it came about as they were going along and talking, that behold, there appeared a chariot of fire and horses of fire which separated the two of them. And Elijah went up by a whirlwind to heaven <8064>. ¹²And Elisha saw it and cried out, my father, my father, the chariots of Israel and its horsemen! And he saw him no more.





Did Elijah go to heaven? No! But doesn't it say he was taken up to heaven in a chariot? Yes!

Heaven: Strongs #8064, shaw-meh', to be lofty, the sky

The Hebrew word means "sky." There are two reasons we believe Elijah did *not* die and go to heaven (God's dwelling place) that day.

Reason #1: Elijah's influence continued even after he was taken off the scene. King Jehoram (also called "Joram") of Israel received a letter from the prophet Elijah several years after he was taken off the scene.

This letter indicated that the king would be punished severely for his sins:

<u>2 Chronicles 21:12-14</u>: (NRSV) ¹²A letter came to him from the prophet Elijah, saying: Thus says the LORD, the God of your father David: Because you have not walked in the ways of **your** father Jehoshaphat or in the ways of King Asa of Judah, ¹³but have walked in the way of the kings of Israel, and have led Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem into unfaithfulness, as the house of Ahab led Israel into unfaithfulness, and because you also have killed your brothers, members of your father's house, who were better than yourself, ¹⁴see, the LORD will bring a great plague on your people...

The letter from Elijah accused the king of wronging the house of Judah (the two tribes in the south called Judah and Benjamin), just like King Ahab had



wronged the house of Israel (the tribes in the north - Asher, Dan, Gad, Issachar, Ephraim, Manasseh, Naphtali, Reuben, Simeon and Zebulun).

The letter arrived years after Elijah disappeared into the sky. (Bible scholars disagree as to how long that was.) The king was warned something powerful would happen.

As usual, what Elijah predicted actually happened:

<u>2 Chronicles 21:20</u>: (NASB77) He was thirty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem eight years; and he departed with no one's regret, and they buried him in the city of David, but not in the tombs of the kings.

He departed with no one's regret - How sad! What kind of life statement did the king leave? Everyone leaves a legacy, whether we plan it or not and whether we want to or not.

The issue of the letter arriving years after his assumed ascension to heaven has been debated by Bible scholars. Was there another prophet named Elijah? Was it written by someone else who signed his name? Was the letter actually from Elisha? Was it written beforehand and held all that time to give to the king?

No, we believe this was God's way of taking him off the scene as his public work was done except for this writing.

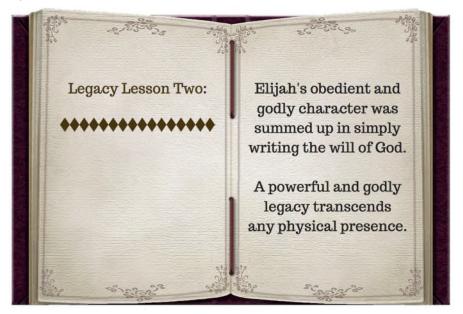
Reason #2: We do not believe he went to heaven because Jesus told us this was not possible:

John 3:13: (NASB77) And no one has ascended into heaven, but he who descended from heaven, even the Son of Man.

The heavenly opportunity did not come until Jesus' sacrifice, and only to those who were footstep followers of him and were proven faithful by God.

Elijah's legacy was clear, secure and firm, but he did not have to be in heaven to finish his legacy.

Another good man favored of God who is not in heaven is Abraham. For more on the parable about him (the story Jesus told about the rich man in Abraham's bosom), please see our program, *Do the Fires of Hell Come From God? (Part III)* August 30, 2015.





The written words transcended Elijah's physical presence. He proved himself to be such a worthy servant of God that mere words were able to show what would happen to those who had gone off the path of righteousness.

Have you thought about YOUR legacy?

What is the long-range legacy of Elijah?

(1) My pink shoes, The Importance of Leaving a Legacy, Minke Haveman TEDx

Today I'm going to tell you about my shoes. About five years ago my mother took me out shoe shopping. She was a shoe addict, I was not. So, she came up to me with these really pink high-heeled shoes and I told her, "No, they're not for me because shoes are for walking, right?" "No, my child," she said, "some shoes are for having and these are. So, I'm buying these for you whether you will wear them or not. They're yours." So, she did and why am I telling you this? Because I know this story and you don't. You just see pink shoes, and I see the last present my mother ever bought for me. I see the lights in her eyes when she paid for them and handed me over the box. So, this is not about my shoes; this is about a legacy, about leaving stories for when you are not around to tell them anymore.



Who is the last person ever spoken of in the Old Testament?

Elijah! That is a powerful legacy! But there is so much more...

THE PREMISE OF OUR NEXT DISCUSSION: The last chapter of the Old Testament is a prophecy fulfilled by both the First and Second Advents of Jesus. It specifically mentions Elijah, so we will look closely to understand how Elijah fits in.

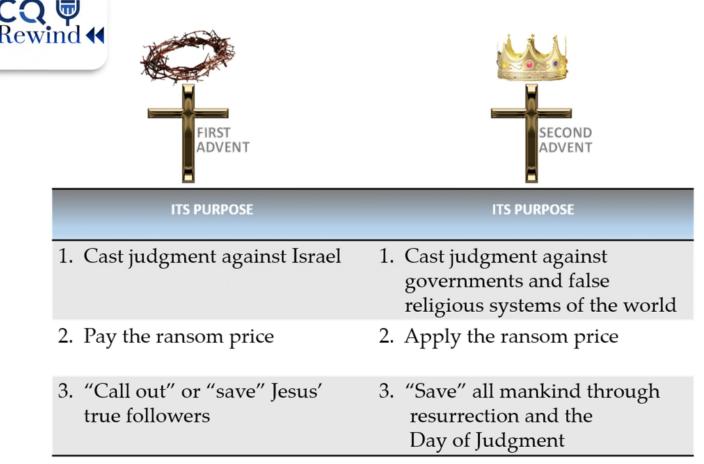
Our theme texts - the last verses of the Old Testament:

<u>Malachi 4:5-6</u>: (NASB77) ⁵Behold, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the LORD. ⁶And he will restore the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the land with a curse.

This is a prophecy about *the day of the Lord* which comes in two stages. The first was at the time of Jesus' First Advent. Its purpose was to cast judgment upon Israel, pay the ransom price and to "call out" or "save" his true followers.

The second stage is at the return of Jesus at this Second Advent. Its purpose is to cast judgment on the governments and false religious systems of the world, to *apply* the ransom price and to "save" all of mankind through resurrection and the judgment day.

Jesus explains these two stages for us in <u>Matthew 24</u> (and many other places). For more about the return of Jesus and many of our conclusions in this episode, please see our previous programs, "Is Jesus Really Returning? (Part I)" from January 19, 2014 and (Part II) February 2, 2014. "Elijah (Part III) – The Power of Legacy!" #958 - February 20, 2017



Our theme texts one more time:

<u>Malachi 4:5-6</u>: (NASB77) ⁵Behold, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the LORD. ⁶And he will restore the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the land with a curse.

I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the LORD - Apparently we can expect Elijah to show up before things start to go bad.

Now let's go through the whole prophecy in <u>Malachi 4</u> - the last chapter of the Old Testament, comprised of only six verses.

Malachi Prophecy <u>Malachi 4:1</u>: (NASB77) For behold, the day is coming, burning like a furnace; and all the arrogant and every evildoer will be chaff; and the day that is coming will set them ablaze, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch.

Elijah lived through conditions like this. He saw arrogance and evil-doers reduced to nothing when he challenged the prophets of Baal as discussed in our Elijah Part I episode. But this is a prophecy about the future. It had a fulfillment at the First Advent but had an even stronger fulfillment at the return of Jesus.

Burning like a furnace - a furnace is a controlled fire. The fire of God's wrath is always controlled.

CQ ♥ ≪ Rewind ∢



"Elijah (Part III) – The Power of Legacy!" #958 - February 20, 2017



Jesus prophesied Israel's destruction as a nation, which took place in <u>A.D. 70</u>

<u>Matthew 23:37-38</u>: (NASB77) ³⁷O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling. ³⁸Behold, your house is being left to you desolate!

Jesus gave the prophecy in A.D. 33 and it took several decades before Israel would lose their national identity. The fire of God's indignation against all unrighteousness, as all evil systems will end

<u>Matthew 24:3,21-22</u>: (NASB77)³The disciples came to him privately, saying, Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of your coming (presence) and of the end of the age? ²¹for then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever shall. ²²And unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days shall be cut short.

Jesus answered the questions in veiled language.

But what does this have to do with legacy? Remember the prophecy, *I am* going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the LORD. This tells us Elijah will "reappear." He actually reappears two different times, and we will show you how his legacy is a valuable part of Bible prophecy.



<u>Malachi 4:2</u>: (NASB77) But for you who fear My name the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings; and you will go forth and skip about like calves from the stall.

This happened to Elijah during his lifetime. After the victorious challenge with the prophets of Baal, Elijah found out there were 7,000 who had not bowed to Baal. Righteousness had sprung up in Israel and it re-energized Elijah to continue his work.

Sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings - This would happen at both the First and Second Advents, only now it would involve the "son" of righteousness...

"Elijah (Part III) – The Power of Legacy!" #958 - February 20, 2017





Healing from the son of righteousness

<u>Matthew 9:35</u>: (NASB77) And Jesus was going about all the cities and the villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness.

Jesus was a physical fulfillment of this Malachi prophecy. Through his miracles, he showed a glimpse of the healing that would take place in the kingdom to come. <u>Matthew 13:40-43</u>: (NASB77) ⁴⁰Therefore just as the tares are gathered up and burned with fire, so shall it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send forth his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all stumbling blocks, and those who commit lawlessness, ⁴²and will cast them into the furnace of fire; in that place, there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.

Jesus linked the "fire of destruction" with

"the sun and righteousness"

Sound familiar? We have a "furnace of fire" and "righteousness that will shine forth as the sun." Just like Malachi predicted. There is a prophetic fulfillment in the Prophecy of the Wheat and the Tares.

There are two types of plants "growing" side-by-side during the age of the Gospel message going forth:

Tares - false Christian systems Wheat - the true church of Christ



Immature wheat is barely distinguishable from tares (called "darnell seed"). Tares seemingly choke out the wheat, but they are allowed to grow anyway because to destroy the darnell would mean destroying much of the wheat.

The tares can be more easily detected once the wheat has matured.

Prophetically, the false systems will be rooted out and destroyed.

Tares - Darnell

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Elijah was sent to warn and save Israel, yet his mission was a major part in the warning and saving of all mankind.



Does Elijah come back as himself to fulfill his legacy?

(1) Last holiday, The Importance of Leaving a Legacy, Minke Haveman, TEDx

This is a picture of me and my mom. It's a "selfie" before they were called selfies, and we're sitting at the airport waiting for a plane to take us to our last outing we will ever take. It's taken two weeks after she bought me these shoes. And you might see smiling women in the camera, I see something different. I see myself three months pregnant with my first child, and I see my mother with a death sentence called "very aggressive tumor, not treatable." We knew this was going to be our last holiday, and we knew I was going to be a mom while losing my own mom. Two months after this picture was taken, I wore these shoes to her cremation with proud (pride.)



A CQ App user from Dearborn, Michigan asks: Okay, Jesus says that John the Baptist is the greatest prophet yet those in the kingdom of heaven are greater than him. Why? And where does that leave Elijah?

Just like the Old Testament prophets, John the Baptist came before the Holy Spirit (the power and influence of God) was directly given to individuals at Pentecost. He died before the sacrifice of Jesus, so he did not have a heavenly calling. He will have a wonderful reward, but it will be different from those who followed Jesus after his death.



A listener sends this live chat: Moses is the second to last person! And then Elijah. Malachi 4:4-6. And both Moses and Elijah are mentioned in the vision on the Mount of Transfiguration...Matthew 17:1-3. Hmmm.

Yes, this is all undeniably connected and we will address further as we go on.





<u>Malachi 4:3</u>: (NASB77) And you will tread down the wicked, for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day which I am preparing, says the LORD of hosts.

Elijah lived this. He stood against, battled and beat the wicked. But this would have additional fulfillment at the First and Second Advents.





Spiritual victory over the wicked during the time of the early church

<u>Matthew 10:26,28</u>: (NASB77) ²⁶Therefore do not fear them, for there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known.... ²⁸And do not fear those who kill the body, but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. ("Gehenna," meaning utter destruction) Victory over the wicked will be permanent

<u>Daniel 7:27</u>: (NASB77) Then the sovereignty, the dominion, and the greatness of all the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be given to the people of the saints of the Highest One; His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all the dominions will serve and obey Him.

Jesus set up his church through his Apostles. The Holy Spirit came at Pentecost and the heavenly call was established. Jesus and his saints from heaven will rule over a resurrected mankind on earth.

Malachi Prophecy

<u>Malachi 4:4</u>: (NASB77) Remember the law of Moses My servant, even the statutes and ordinances which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel.

Elijah brought people back to the Law of Moses with limited success.

Malachi has just told of the coming day of the Lord and now he gives encouragement to remember what the Law of Moses stands for. He says this because there will be no more prophets on the scene for the next 400 years not until the time of the arrival of Jesus.



Malachi ends his prophecy with the last two verses:



<u>Malachi 4:5-6</u>: (NASB77) ⁵Behold, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the LORD. ⁶And he will restore the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the land with a curse.



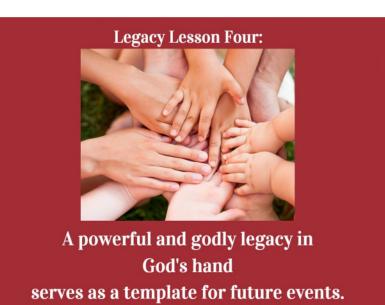


Prophecy of the birth	
of John the Baptist	

Jesus himself proclaims John the Baptist as being "in the spirit of Elijah," but he hinted Elijah's work was not completed with John...

Luke 1:15-17: (NASB77) ¹⁵ For he will be great in the sight of the Lord ¹⁶ And he will turn back many of the sons of Israel to the Lord their God. ¹⁷ And it is he who will go as a forerunner before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers back to the children, and the disobedient to the attitude of the righteous; so as to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.	Matthew 17:10-13: (NASB77) ¹⁰ And his disciples asked him, saying, Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must come first? ¹¹ And he answered and said, Elijah is coming and will restore all things; ¹² 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. ¹³ Then the disciples understood that he had spoken to them about John the Baptist.
The angel is speaking to Zacharias (John's father) in the Temple describing the son he and Elizabeth will have. John the Baptist is described as coming in "the spirit and power of Elijah." The angel quotes the last verse of the Old Testament!	1. The real Elijah did a work of restoring that met with measured success. 2. John the Baptist, the next "Elijah," came to pave the road for Jesus with a work of restoration and met with measured success. 3. Jesus said the next "Elijah" IS coming and WILL restore all things. This is the church class, those faithful Christians who are the "ministers of reconciliation" in <u>2 Corinthians 5:18</u> . That is complete success!
<u>Matthew 11:10,13-14</u> : (NASB77) ¹⁰ This is the one about whom it is written, (quoting from Malachi 3:1) Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you ¹³ For all the prophets and the Law prophesied until John. ¹⁴ And if you care to accept it, he himself is Elijah, who was to come.	
John fulfilled Old Testament prophecies and here is likened to Elijah. He would come with the spirit, power and message of Elijah.	





We should be striving to be remembered as one who really loved God and tried to do everything to further His plan. Elijah had that through and through in his character.

(I)) Part two, Leave Your Legacy, FellowshipStories

• Legacies can be found in tattered souls, in wrinkles aged with wisdom. They make their way to empty rooms and trailing heartbeats. They find their way in the back of our minds...sit with us, lingering, waiting to be remembered. Found in humbled homes, inherited mansions and tin-roofed rooms. Legacies extend past the lended hours of your life and mine. Where have you seen them? Where have you taken them in?

Back to our earlier question about Elijah restoring all things:

<u>Matthew 17:10-11</u>: (NASB77) ¹⁰And his disciples asked him, saying, Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must come first? ¹¹And he answered and said, Elijah is coming and will restore all things;

Elijah is shown as appearing three times, (as himself, as John the Baptist and as God's true church - faithful Christians) pointing to Messiah and the work of restoration. The number three generally represents a complete experience.

When does Elijah represent faithful Christians? At the second presence of Jesus:

<u>Acts 3:19-21</u>: (ASV 1901) ¹⁹Repent ye therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out, that so there may come seasons of refreshing from the presence of the Lord; ²⁰ and that he may send the Christ who hath been appointed for you, even Jesus: ²¹ whom the heaven must receive **until the times of restoration of all things**, whereof God spake by the mouth of His holy prophets that have been from of old.

Jesus was to be retained in heaven *until the time of restoration for all things*. What will be restored? What mankind lost in the Garden of Eden - an earthly paradise and a harmonious relationship with God.





Jesus' true and faithful followers will administer this reconciliation:

<u>2 Corinthians 5:17-18</u>: (NRSV) ¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation...

This is the role of true Christians at the time of the Second Advent - the application of restoration for all mankind. BUT not before they fulfill the legacy role of Elijah as John the Baptist did - on the scene BEFORE the judgment of the systems of the world (governments and false religions) - showing the way to their returned Lord Jesus.



A caller from Connecticut suggests <u>Hebrews 11:4</u>: (KJV) By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.

Jesus returns long before most of us think; his return is revealed by a process, not a moment. In <u>Matthew 24</u> Jesus described the time of trouble and assured his questioners when all these events happen, "I am already here; I am present." He returns as a *thief in the night*. Knowledge of his return grows as part of a process. The true Christian church watched and proclaimed the good news of the kingdom at his return, doing the work of Elijah, trying to bring people back to God.

For more about the return of Jesus and many of our conclusions in this episode, please see our previous programs, "Is Jesus Really Returning? (Part I)" from January 19, 2014 and (Part II) February 2, 2014.



<u>Malachi 4:5-6</u>: (NASB77) ⁵Behold, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the LORD. ⁶And he will restore the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the land with a curse.

Stand up, speak out for godly principles. Do not follow any false systems to their demise!







My mother-in-law was a wonderful Christian example who lived with us for several years before she died. She was a pillar of hospitality, generosity and helping people in any way she could. I was in awe of her life. She was inspirational to so many, even in hospice. The nurses came to her funeral because of the impact of her faith and trust in the Lord.

This is a wonderful legacy. What does your life amount to at this moment? Are you an example of someone trying to be faithful?



A CQ App user from San Francisco, California writes: It seems that we should not do anything because we want a good legacy. We should serve God simply because it's the right thing to do. Let God worry about our legacy.

We agree! But do not lose sight of the fact that your actions, thoughts and words create a legacy. Use that as motivation.

What other ways can Elijah's legacy be followed? He was a powerful example of prayer:

James 5:16-20: (NASB77) ¹⁶Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much. ¹⁷Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain; and it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months. ¹⁸And he prayed again, and the sky poured rain, and the earth produced its fruit. ¹⁹My brethren, if any among you strays from the truth, and one turns him back, ²⁰let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death, and will cover a multitude of sins.



How easy would it be to misapply Elijah's legacy?

When my eyes close for the last time, I want to be remembered as someone who loved God with his whole heart, mind, soul and strength. I want my legacy to be Jesus Christ the Righteous and the ransom for all to be testified in good time.

Elijah is mentioned several times in the New Testament usually as a powerful example to follow - usually...

Luke 9:51-56: (NRSV) ⁵¹When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. ⁵²And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way, they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; ⁵³but they did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. ⁵⁴When his disciples James and John saw it, they said, Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them? ⁵⁵But he turned and rebuked them. ⁵⁶Then they went on to another village.

There was a rivalry between the Jews and the Samaritans, and the Samaritans did not want Jesus and his disciples to pass through. The disciples were upset and wanted them to die in the manner of the groups of 50 soldiers sent out after Elijah commanded fire from heaven! This would have been a misapplication of great power and Jesus set them back on track.

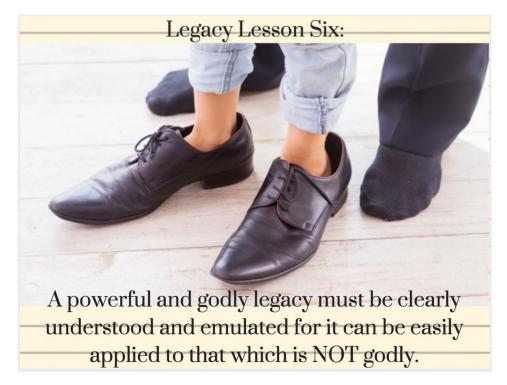
Sometimes we can get caught up in the drama of life and forget our mission. Nominal Christianity (those who are Christians in name only) who focus on showy and powerful things - including money - are doing what the disciples did here. They try to portray themselves as great miracle workers, when in fact a



true follower of Christ is not "great" at all. They are humble and the greatness comes from the grace of God in their lives.

(1) My legacy, The Importance of Leaving a Legacy, Minke Haveman TEDx

• With this experience, I tried to collect my legacy of my life for my daughter. She's four years old now. And this may sound like I'm living with death in the back of my head, but I'm not. I'm living a pretty happy life and I get caught up in everyday stuff like all of you. I just sit down and every once in a while try to collect my memories and my experiences and put them in words, in little stories. So, she will know why she should never, ever throw these shoes away and why this picture of me and my mom at the airport is so important to me. So, she will know how proud I am of her and that she is the love of my life, because she is entitled to that. She's entitled to a rich legacy and everyone is.





A caller asks: Will the legacy of the true followers of Christ be used to help others in the future?

Absolutely yes! That is the point of this. The Apostle Paul said *follow me as I follow Christ*. The ministry of reconciliation will be for the whole world because of a group of faithful individuals who will be able to say to a resurrected mankind, "I went through this thing and that thing just like you. Look at the example of how I overcame it."

<u>Revelation 3:5</u> describes the Book of Life. It will be a testament to the world of the faithful followers of Jesus in seeing their sacrifice, love and dedication to the Lord. It will be obvious why they were chosen to be special in helping Jesus.



That is why we need to think about what our legacy looks like, from the standpoint of saying, "Am I, in my daily words, actions, thoughts and example, bringing glory to God or am I just hanging out?" Either one is a legacy. Which is yours?

Observation: We see Elijah (personally and symbolically) as a very important figure in the Scriptures:

- A voice of God's will.
- A wielder of God's great power. He was able to manage the responsibility of the power of God and use it the way it was supposed to be used.
- An example of courage and submission.
- The preparer of the way of the Lord at Jesus' First Advent (as John the Baptist). The example of Elijah was one who prepared the way of the Lord at his First Advent, as told to us specifically by the angel Gabriel.
- The preparer of the way of the Lord at Jesus' Second Advent (as the true church). The true church of Jesus' followers are given the ministry of reconciliation for the world of mankind. This will be at the time of restoration of all things.
- An example of the prayers of the righteous. Elijah in his physical life was a great example of this.
- A builder of a powerful legacy. The legacy Elijah built was the meaning of his name, "Jehovah is God." He proclaimed to the world that Jehovah is God.



Back to the CQ App comment from earlier: ...And where does that leave Elijah?

He is part of the representation of John the Baptist and the true church at the Second Advent of Jesus. He will be in a position of incredible honor and power in the carrying out of the will of God. In the kingdom when all are resurrected and Elijah and John the Baptist are having a conversation, do you think Elijah is going to say, "So...Jesus called YOU the greatest prophet among men and not ME?" Of course not! There will be an understanding between the two of them that each played an important role in the bringing about of God's plan.

There is one more stunning example of the Legacy of Elijah. The three accounts of the Transfiguration combined to get the full thought: <u>Matthew 17:1-13</u>: (NASB77) - <u>Mark 9:2-13</u>: (NASB77) - <u>Luke 9:28-36</u>: (NASB77)

Luke 9:28-36: (NASB77) ²⁸And some eight days after these sayings, it came about that he took along Peter and John and James, and went up to the mountain to pray. ²⁹And while he was praying, he was transfigured <3339> before them; the appearance of his face became different, and his face shone like the sun, and his garments became radiant and exceedingly white, as no launderer on earth can whiten them.

Transfigured: Strongs #3339 metamorphoo; to transform, metamorphis



The word is used twice more in the New Testament, referring to an earthly-tospiritual transformation. See <u>2 Corinthians 3:18</u>, as one of the examples.

Here is the other one:

<u>Romans 12:2</u>: (KJV) And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed <3339> by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Based on the usage of this word, we see that Jesus was transfigured, transformed, different from what he was.

Back to our multi-book account:

⁴And Elijah appeared to them along with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. ³¹who, appearing in glory, were speaking of his departure which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. ³²Now Peter and his companions had been overcome with sleep; but when they were fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him. ³³And it came about, as these were parting from him, Peter said to Jesus, Master, it is good for us to be here; and let us make three tabernacles: one for you, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah.



"The Transfiguration" by Raphael oil on panel 1516–1520 Located at the Pinacoteca Apostolica Vatican City

This is thought to be the last work of Raphael before he died. It was completed by his student.

While the three Apostles were waking out of sleepiness, the legacy of Elijah shouts out praise to God and His plan!





A CQ App user from Hamden, Connecticut suggests: Legacy comes from your family, right? We take Jesus' name. We are children of God, his Father and ours. If we take Jesus' name, we should make sure we leave a legacy worthy of him as an ambassador of Christ.

Our legacy is not to say, "I did so good;" rather, "I tried so hard to represent he who is so good."

If you perceived such an incredible vision, how would you react?

Back to our multi-book account:

⁶For he did not know what to answer; for they became terrified. ³⁴And while he was saying this, a cloud formed and began to overshadow them; and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. ³⁵And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, This is My son, My chosen one; listen to him! ⁶And when the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces and were much afraid.

The heavenly proclamation seems to have been the primary audible testimony here and unequivocally focuses all attention on Jesus as THE centerpiece of God's glorious plan.

For they became terrified - they fell on their faces and were much afraid - sometimes witnessing such glory can be too much for mere mortals.

⁷And Jesus came to them and touched them and said, Arise, and do not be afraid. ⁸And lifting up their eyes, they saw no one, except Jesus himself alone. ⁹And as they were coming down from the mountain, he gave them orders not to relate to anyone what they had seen, until the Son of Man should rise from the dead. ¹⁰And they seized upon that statement, discussing with one another what rising from the dead might mean.

This vision was for the purpose of showing the disciples a snapshot of the glory of God's kingdom. Here is perhaps what was meant by the vision:

- **MOSES** representing the design of deliverance of God and His Law -Moses delivered the people and then the Law that Jesus would later fulfill to pay the ransom.
- ELIJAH representing the support and voice of deliverance those who stood for and spoke for God's way the prophets of old (Elijah himself) and next, those who paved the road for the Messiah (John the Baptist and the true church).
- JESUS was deliverance the centerpiece of God's plan, the ransom for all.

It is all about deliverance.

Perhaps you have proclaimed in your church that you are a Christian, and you want to follow the will of God. This is wonderful. But our legacy is not built upon what happens in the safety of a closed environment; our legacy is built by what we do in our every day - where we go, what we think and act upon, contribute to, what we ignore, what we stand up for and against, the words we use and phrases we will not and so on. To whatever degree we take our Christlikeness with us everywhere we go, to that degree our Christlikeness will create our legacy for us.



It is great to stand for something that is right, but it is different and more important to stand for something that is godly. Righteousness in this world is not always godliness. We have to make that distinction because our Christian legacy depends on it. We have a responsibility to have a legacy that brings praise to God.

After the vision passed, notice what the Apostles ask Jesus about:

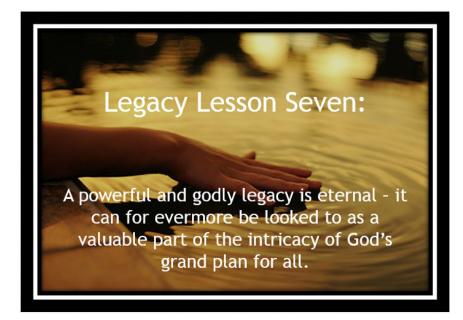
¹⁰And his disciples asked him, saying, Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must come first? ¹¹And he answered and said, Elijah is coming and will restore all things; ¹²but I say to you, that Elijah already came, and they did not recognize him, but did to him whatever they wished. So also, the Son of Man is going to suffer at their hands. ¹³Then the disciples understood that he had spoken to them about John the Baptist. ³⁶And they kept silent, and reported to no one in those days any of the things which they had seen.



Of ALL the questions they could have asked after this miraculous vision, the one thing that apparently was so important was about Elijah! We have mentioned this verse several times throughout the podcast without putting it in context. Now that we have, it helps to show us how powerful the legacy of Elijah is.

Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must come first - Jesus tells them about Elijah reappearing twice to restore all things. Remember, when Elijah was here originally, he did a work of restoration with limited success. When the spirit and power of Elijah appeared as John the Baptist, it was with limited success. But "Elijah" will restore all things, meaning the true church as a result of following Jesus.

What a legacy and privilege to have your name associated with the work you did, the work of Jesus the Messiah at both his First and Second Advents.





(I)) Part three, Leave Your Legacy, FellowshipStories

• What will your name leave behind? Legacies test all boundaries. Legacies find no limits. Legacies light the way. Legacies lead. The choice is yours. What will be your legacy?

Here is where Elijah's legacy leads us to - deliverance from death because of the ransom price!

<u>Revelation 21:4</u>: (NASB77) and he shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there shall no longer be any death; there shall no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.

When we think of Elijah, we naturally think of the powerful example of how he articulated God's words, acted in accordance with God's will and acquiesced to God's way. He was the picture of <u>The Power of Courage</u>, godly courage, and learned to develop that godly courage through <u>The Power of Submission</u>. In the final analysis, his life produced an ages-long testimony to <u>The Power of Legacy</u>. What will we do with this Courage, Submission and Legacy? How can we leave our own legacy of courage and submission for others to follow?

Honor the Lord with your whole heart, mind, soul and strength!

Elijah (Part III) - The Power of Legacy! For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions... Think about it...!

And now <u>even more</u> to think about... only in the Full Edition of CQ Rewind!

Other references to Elijah in the New Testament that we did not cover:

Luke 4:22-28: (NRSV) ²²All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, Is not this Joseph's son? ²³He said to them, Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, Doctor, cure yourself! And you will say, Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum. ²⁴And he said, Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's hometown. ²⁵But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; ²⁶yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. ²⁷There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian. ²⁸When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage.

<u>Romans 11:1-5</u>: (NRSV) ¹I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ²God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. Do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel? ³Lord, they have killed your prophets, they have demolished your altars; I alone am left, and they are seeking my life. ⁴But what is the divine reply to him? I have kept for myself seven thousand who have not bowed the knee to Baal. ⁵So too at the present time there is a remnant, chosen by grace.



The three accounts of the Transfiguration:

Matthew 17:1-13: (NASB77) ¹And six days later Jesus took with him Peter and James and John his brother, and brought them up to a high mountain by themselves. ²And he was transfigured before them; and his face shone like the sun, and his garments became as white as light. ³And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with him. ⁴And Peter answered and said to Jesus, Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tabernacles here, one for you, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah. ⁵While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and behold, a voice out of the cloud, saying, This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to him! ⁶And when the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces and were much afraid. ⁷And Jesus came to them and touched them and said, Arise, and do not be afraid. ⁸And lifting up their eyes, they saw no one, except Jesus himself alone. ⁹And as they were coming down from the mountain. Jesus commanded them, saying, Tell the vision to no one until the Son of Man has risen from the dead. ¹⁰And his disciples asked him, saying, Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must come first? ¹¹And he answered and said, Elijah is coming and will restore all things; ¹²but 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. ¹³Then the disciples understood that he had spoken to them about John the Baptist.

Mark 9:2-13: (NASB77) ²And six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and brought them up to a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them; ³and his garments became radiant and exceedingly white, as no launderer on earth can whiten them. ⁴And Elijah appeared to them along with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. ⁵And Peter answered and said to Jesus, Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; and let us make three tabernacles, one for you, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah. ⁶For he did not know what to answer; for they became terrified. ⁷Then a cloud formed, overshadowing them, and a voice came out of the cloud, This is My beloved Son, listen to him! ⁸And all at once they looked around and saw no one with them anymore, except Jesus alone. ⁹And as they were coming down from the mountain, he gave them orders not to relate to anyone what they had seen, until the Son of Man should rise from the dead. ¹⁰And they seized upon that statement, discussing with one another what rising from the dead might mean. ¹¹And they asked him, saying, Why is it that the scribes say that Elijah must come first? ¹²And he said to them, Elijah does first come and restore all things. And yet how is it written of the Son of Man that he should suffer many things and be treated with contempt? ¹³But I say to you, that Elijah has indeed come, and they did to him whatever they wished, just as it is written of him.

Luke 9:28-36: (NASB77) ²⁸And some eight days after these sayings, it came about that he took along Peter and John and James, and went up to the mountain to pray. ²⁹And while he was praying, the appearance of his face became different, and his clothing became white and gleaming. ³⁰And behold, two men were talking with him; and they were Moses and Elijah, ³¹who, appearing in glory, were speaking of his departure which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. ³²Now Peter and his companions had been overcome with sleep; but when they were fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him. ³³And it came about, as these were parting from him, Peter said to Jesus, Master, it is good for us to be here; and let us make three tabernacles: one for you, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah -- not realizing what he was saying. ³⁴And while he was saying this, a cloud formed and began to overshadow them; and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. ³⁵And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, This is My son, My chosen one; listen to him! ³⁶And when the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent, and reported to no one in those days any of the things which they had seen.