

ELIJAH AND JESUS**Matthew 16:13–17:8; Mark 15:33-39; Revelation 11:1-13**

Memory Verse: “*This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him*” (Matt. 17:5b ESV).

Background Helps:

Our final lesson on “The Gospel According to Elijah and Elisha”: how fitting that we conclude with a lesson on Jesus Christ! Several times in the Gospels, Elijah is directly linked to Christ: (1) Some people believed that Jesus was the “Elijah who was to come” (Matt. 16:13-14; Mark 6:14-15; 8:27-28; Luke 9:7-8; 18-19); (2) Elijah himself appeared with Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration (Matt. 17:3-4; Mark 9:4-5; Luke 30-31, 33); (3) at his crucifixion, some bystanders thought that Jesus was calling out for Elijah (Matt. 27:46-49; Mark 15:34-36). Interestingly, in each of these settings, Jesus is revealed as one who is far greater than Elijah: (1) Peter confesses Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God (Matt. 16:15-16; Mark 8:29; Luke 9:20); (2) at the Transfiguration, God the Father identifies him as “My beloved Son, my Chosen One, with whom I am well pleased—listen to him!” (Matt. 17:5; Mark 9:8; Luke 9:35); (3) and at his crucifixion, the centurion confesses Jesus as “the Son of God” (Matt. 27:54; Mark 15:39).

Read *Faith in the Face of Apostasy*¹, pages 9-13, where the author draws a number of parallels between Elisha and Jesus. There is no explicit comparison made in the New Testament (like there is in the parallelism between Elijah and John the Baptist), but see what you think!

The final reading is in Revelation 11:1-13, where there seems to be a distinct parallelism drawn between the two witnesses and Elijah and Elisha (see vv. 4-6). Some commentators interpret these two prophets as the literal return of Elijah and Moses in the end times; others see them as prophets who are like these two men (just as John Baptist was like Elijah).

Lesson Helps:

Possible lesson aim: My students will learn about the relationship in the Gospels between Elijah and Jesus, so that they will recognize the unique greatness of Jesus Christ and listen to him! Use the material in the Background Helps above to study the link between Elijah and Jesus. Emphasize the point that, as great as Elijah is—as we have seen from our study this past quarter—Jesus is far greater! In fact, he is the Messiah (Christ), the beloved Son of God, his Chosen one, whose mission was to suffer and die on the cross for our sins and then rise again. Encourage your students, like Peter and like the centurion at the cross, to confess Jesus as “the Son of God” and to give heed to the Father’s command on the Mount of Transfiguration: “Listen to him!”

Home Assignment:

 TBD.

 TBD.

¹ Raymond B. Dillard, *Faith in the Face of Apostasy* (Phillipsburg, NJ: P & R Publishing Company, 1999).