

The Message of Elijah and Elisha for Today

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As I was thinking of the fact that many of you are finishing your education, either have within the last year or two or will within the next few years, as I thought of that I thought, What is the need today? What work needs to be done? What sort of people do we need? And my thoughts turned to a Jew, 1900 years ago, nearly 2000 years ago who went into the temple to do his service there as a priest and an angel appeared to him and this angel said to him, in Lk. 1:13, The angel said to him, Fear not Zechariah for thy prayer is heard and thy wife Elizabeth shall bear thee a son and thou shalt call his name John, and thou shalt have joy and gladness and many shall rejoice at his birth, for he shall be great in the sight of the Lord and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink and shall be filled with the Holy Ghost even from his mother's womb. And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God, and he shall go shall-go before him in the spirit and power of Elias. Of course you all know Elias in the NT is the same as Elijah in the OT. I really wish they'd use the same form in the English. Those who do not know the Greek and Hebrew may think they are different people of course. I prefer then of course to say, in the spirit and power of Elijah. "To turn the hearts of the fathers to the children," -- you see the generation gap is not new in our days "to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." Now these words it seems to me are very important -- "to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." God wants a people prepared, a people prepared to have fellowship with Him through all eternity. A people prepared to be His, as long as anything shall last. A people prepared for the Lord. And he wants us to go in the ^{spirit} spirit and power of Elijah to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.

And so I turned back to the OT to find something of the spirit and power of Elijah. And we notice that Elijah served God in times very similar to our times today. We live in a time today, a time of great prosperity, and when there is prosperity people forget