

The Early Prophets - One Book, One Theme - class #50

From Eliyahu to Elisha - Between 'fire' & 'water'

The purpose of the Prophets in Sefer Melachim

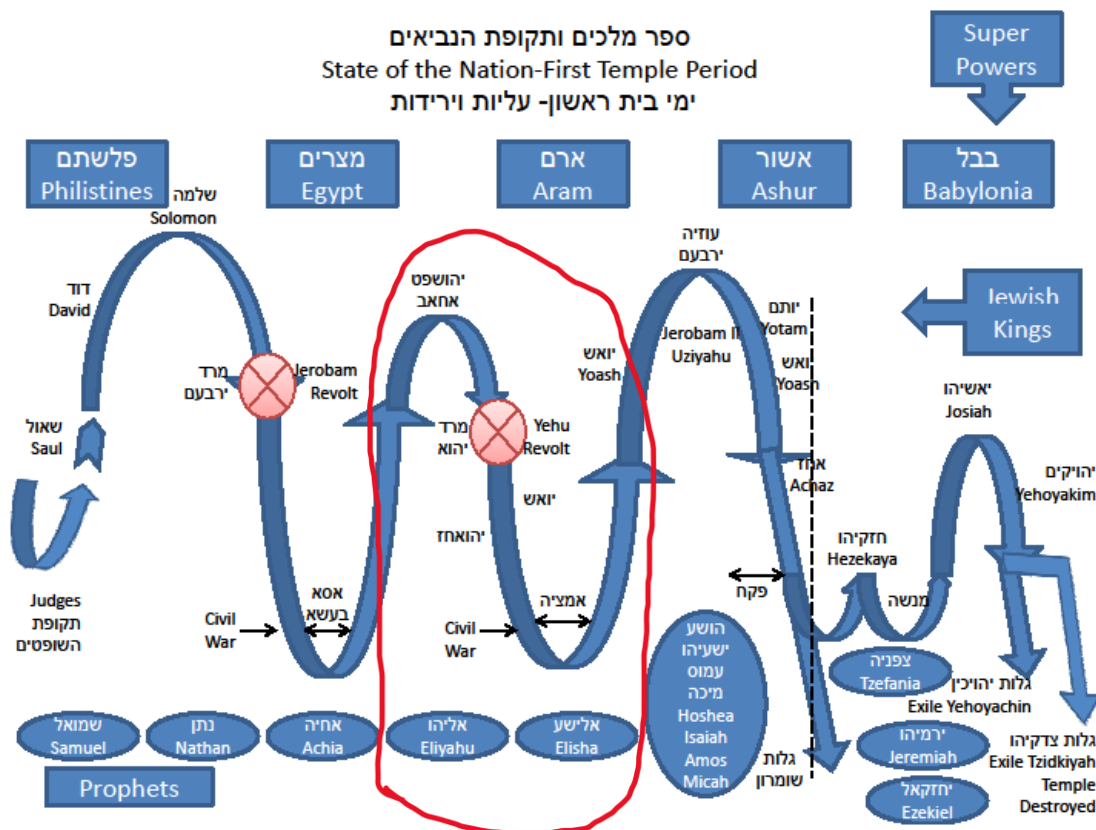
Source sheet for TIM shiur by Menachem Leibtag/

Introduction -

Over the last month, we have studied the opening and closing sections of Sefer Melachim. In today's class, we begin a short series on the middle section of Sefer Melachim to understand the centrality and purpose of the stories of Eliyahu and Elisha- and why the book changes its focus from Kings to Prophets.

I. Review of the time period of approx 400 years of Sefer Melachim

Noting where and when the stories of Eliyahu & Elisha take place:



II. Discussion re: types of Neviim

Miracle workers – proving God exists

Guidance re: how to serve God properly

How this relates to our study of Eliyahu / Elisha

Review: Topics of Sefer Melachim/ by chapter

Melachim Aleph

1-> 16 - about Kings

17-> 22 primarily Eliyahu [in relation to Achav]

Melachim bet

1 - Eliyahu & the death of Achav's sons

2 – Transfer from Eliyahu to Elisha

3->9 primarily stories that focus on Elisha

10 -> Yehu's revolt & return to focus on the Kings

Review topics in chapters 17 -> 22

17 – God sends Eliyahu to a place that needs water

And then to lady in Tzidon – where he needs food

Then story with reviving the her son who fell ill.

18 – After 3 years, the big showdown with Baal prophets

On Mt. Carmel & the rain returns, as Eliyahu predicted...

19 - Izevel is not impressed, orders Eliyahu's death

Eliyahu runs away to Har Chorev / and resigns.

God gives him 3 last commands:

1) Appoint Hazael King of Aram

2) Appoint Yehu King of Israel

3) Appoint Elisha as his successor

[these events will take quite a while till they all take place]

20 - War between Ben Haddad & Achav /

Anonymous Navi helps Achav in battle [not Eliyahu!]

Trying to show the People Hashem can help them!

- 21 - Achav's critical sin – taking the vineyard of Navot
This time, Eliyahu is involved !**
- 22 – The joint battle of Israel & Yehuda against Aram
Achav dies in battle
Yehoshafat King of Yehuda & his conquests!**

Melachim bet

- 1- Death of Achav's son Achazyahu
& Eliyahu's involvement – again against Baal worship**
- 2 – Elisha succeeds Eliyahu as head prophet**
- 3 – Elisha helps Israel & Yehuda in war against Moav**
- 4 - Elisha performs miracles helping need people
[An Anomaly in Tanach]**
- 5 – Elisha saves Naaman – general of Aram's army from tzarat**
- 6a - more miracle stories re: Elisha**
- 6b - The siege of Shomron & Elisha's prediction of salvation**
- 7 - The miracle – that saved Shomron**
- 8a - One final Elisha miracle story
Possibly the framework for the entire 'Elisha section'**
- 8b - Elisha saves Hazael from his illness
& 'predicts' how he will become next King of Aram**
- 8c - Yoram ben Achav's final years & Achazyahu King of Yehuda**
- 9 - Elisha instigates the military revolt of Yehu against Yoram**
- 10 - The 'bloodbath' in Shomron - & Yehu's rise to power
The execution of the Baal prophets**