

# The Early Prophets - One Book, One Theme - class #51

## Fighting Idol worship - ["Hashem hu ha'Elokim"]

### from Eliyahu on Mt. Carmel to Yehu in the Jezreel valley

Source sheet for TIM shiur by Menachem Leibtag/

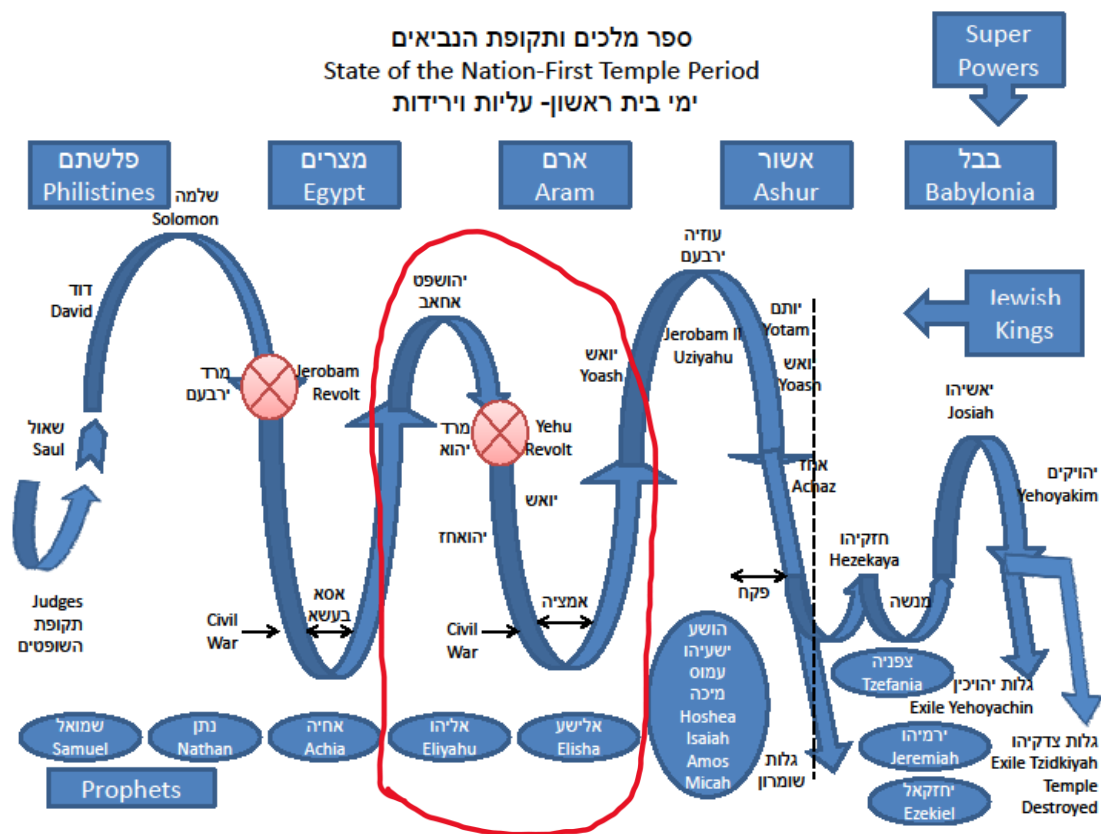
#### Introduction -

We conclude our summer study of Sefer Melachim with a topic that will also introduce our Elul topic, which relates to the topic of the Tanach's battle against idol worship, and the underlying Biblical concept of "malchiot" [Hashem's kingdom over His Creation].

We return to the 'showdown' between Eliyahu and the Baal Prophets on Mt. Carmel, and then we will trace the events thru the career of Elisha- leading to the revolt by Yehu.

#### 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. Review: 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!]**

- 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**

**III. The 'showdown' on Mt. Carmel – I Kings chapter 18**

<p><b>כט וַיְהִי, כַּעֲבַר הַצֶּהֳרַיִם, וַיִּתְנַבְּאוּ, עַד לַעֲלוֹת הַמִּנְחָה; וְאִין-קוֹל וְאִין-עֲנָה, וְאִין קָשָׁב.</b></p>	<p>29 And it was so, when midday was past, that they prophesied until the time of the offering of the evening offering; but their was neither voice, nor any to answer, nor any that regarded.</p>
<p><b>ל וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלֶיהֶוּ לְכָל-הָעָם גִּשׁוּ אֵלַי, וַיִּגָּשׁוּ כָל-הָעָם אֵלָיו; וַיִּרְפָּא אֶת-מִזְבֵּחַ יְהוָה, הַהָרוּס.</b></p>	<p>30 And Elijah said unto all the people: 'Come near unto me'; and all the people came near unto him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD that was thrown down.</p>

לא ויקח אליהו, שתים עשרה אבנים, כמספר, שבטי בני-יעקב--אשר היה דבר-יהוה אליו לאמר, ישראל יהיה שמה.

31 And Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, unto whom the word of the LORD came, saying: 'Israel shall be thy name.'

לב ויבנה את-האבנים מזבח, בשם יהוה; ויעש תעלה, כבית סאתים זרע, סביב, למזבח.

32 And with the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD; and he made a trench about the altar, as great as would contain two measures of seed.

לג ויערה, את-העצים; וינתח, את-הפך, וישם, על-העצים.

33 And he put the wood in order, and cut the bullock in pieces, and laid it on the wood.

לד ויאמר, מלאו ארבעה כדים מים, ויצקו על-העלה, ועל-העצים; ויאמר שנו וישנו, ויאמר שלשו וישלו.

34 And he said: 'Fill four jars with water, and pour it on the burnt-offering, and on the wood.' And he said: 'Do it the second time'; and they did it the second time. And he said: 'Do it the third time'; and they did it the third time.

לה וילכו המים, סביב למזבח; וגם את-התעלה, מלא-מים.

35 And the water ran round about the altar; and he filled the trench also with water.

לו ויהי בעלות המנחה, ויגש אליהו הנביא ויאמר, יהוה אלהי אברהם יצחק וישראל, היום יודע כי-אתה אלהים בישראל ואני עבדך; ובדברך עשיתי, את כל-הדברים האלה.

36 And it came to pass at the time of the offering of the evening offering, that Elijah the prophet came near, and said: 'O LORD, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that Thou art God in Israel, and that I am Thy servant, and that I have done all these things at Thy word.'

לז ענני יהוה, ענני, וידעו העם הזה, כי-אתה יהוה האלהים; ואתה הסבת את-לבם אחרנית.

37 Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that Thou, LORD, art God, for Thou didst turn their heart backward.'

לח ותפל אש-יהוה, ותאכל את-העלה ואת-העצים, ואת-האבנים, ואת-העפר; ואת-המים אשר-בתעלה, לחכה.

38 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.

לט וירא, כל-העם, ויפלו, על-פניהם; ויאמרו-- יהוה הוא האלהים, יהוה הוא האלהים.

39 And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces; and they said: 'The LORD, He is God; the LORD, He is God.'

מ ויאמר אליהו להם תפשו את-נביאי הבעל, איש אל-ימלט מהם--ויתפשו; ויורדם אליהו אל-נחל קישון, וישחטם שם.

40 And Elijah said unto them: 'Take the prophets of Baal; let not one of them escape.' And they took them; and Elijah brought them down to the brook Kishon, and slew them there.

## Discussion:

Why did the people agree to kill the Baal Prophets?

#### **IV. The Elisha 'miracles' – their unique nature**

##### **Chapter:**

**2 – Fixes the water supply of Yericho**

**3 – saves a thirsty Israel army**

**by providing a miracle with rain in the desert**

**4a – helps widow of fellow prophet – providing oil**

**To pay her debts to free her sons from slavery**

**4b – helps the barren Shunamite women**

**With birth of child and his recovery**

**4c – helps fellow prophets fixing their spoiled food**

**4d - helps the people with miraculous food supply**

**5 - heals the tzaraat of Naaman – general of Aram army**

**6a - helps his fellow prophets saving an axe from Jordan River**

**6b – helps provide military info to Israel army fighting Aram**

**7 - predicts victory over Aram during siege of Shomron**

**8a - Gaichazi [Elisha's servant] tells the King Elisha stories !**

**This ends the Elisha unit – first fulfilment of the 3 Eliyahu commands**

**8b – Elisha appoint general Chazael – King of Aram**

**Fulfills 2<sup>nd</sup> Eliyahu command**

**9 – Elisha sends his 'apprentice' to instigates Yehu's revolt**

**Leading to Yehu becoming King of Israel - 3<sup>rd</sup> Eliyahu command**

**10 – Eliyahu wipes out the house of Achav**

**& then wipes out the Baal Prophets**

**Everything Eliyahu wanted to accomplish, is finally accomplished**

**[but God's way – thanks to fulfilling the 3 commands from Mt. Carmel]**

**Baal worship is gone**

**Izevel is killed**

**The house of Achav is punished**

**V. Discussion: what are the political ramifications of Yehu's revolt**  
**Ties for Yehuda are cut – he killed the Judean king**  
**Ties with Tzidon [Lebanon] are cut – he killed Izevel**  
**He abandoned the 'Syrian front' – Aram takes over Ramot Gilad**

**The economic prosperity of Achav's kingdom is lost!**  
**How will the people 'blame' - Yehu or Elisha, or themselves?**

**II Kings chapter 10**

**כג** וַיָּבֹא יְהוּא וַיהוֹנָדָב בֶּן-רֵכָב, בֵּית הַבַּעַל; וַיֹּאמֶר לְעַבְדֵי הַבַּעַל, חֲפְשׁוּ וּרְאוּ פֶן-יֵשׁ-פָּה עִמָּכֶם מֵעַבְדֵי יְהוָה--כִּי אִם-עַבְדֵי הַבַּעַל, לְבַדָּם.

23 And Jehu went, and Jehonadab the son of Rechab, into the house of Baal; and he said unto the worshippers of Baal: 'Search, and look that there be here with you none of the servants of the LORD, but the worshippers of Baal only.'

**כד** וַיָּבֹאוּ, לַעֲשׂוֹת זְבָחִים וְעֹלוֹת; וַיְהִי שָׁם-לוֹ בַחוּץ, שְׁמֹנִים אִישׁ, וַיֹּאמֶר הָאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר-יִמְלֹט מִן-הָאֲנָשִׁים אֲשֶׁר אָנֹכִי מְבִיא עֲלֵי-יְדֵיכֶם, נִפְשׁוּ תַחַת נַפְשׁוֹ.

24 And they went in to offer sacrifices and burnt-offerings. Now Jehu had appointed him fourscore men without, and said: 'If any of the men whom I bring into your hands escape, his life shall be for the life of him.'

**כה** כֹּה וַיְהִי כִכְלֹתוֹ לַעֲשׂוֹת הָעֹלָה, וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוּא לְרָצִים וּלְשֹׁלְשִׁים בָּאוּ הַכּוֹס אִישׁ אֶל-יָצָא, וַיִּכּוּם, לְפִי-חֶרֶב; וַיִּשְׁלְכוּ, הָרָצִים וְהַשֹּׁלְשִׁים, וַיִּלְכוּ, עַד-עִיר בֵּית-הַבַּעַל.

25 And it came to pass, as soon as he had made an end of offering the burnt-offering, that Jehu said to the guard and to the captains: 'Go in, and slay them; let none come forth.' And they smote them with the edge of the sword; and the guard and the captains cast them out, and went to the city of the house of Baal.

**כו** וַיֵּצְאוּ אֶת-מִצְבֹּת בֵּית-הַבַּעַל, וַיִּשְׂרְפוּהָ.

26 And they brought forth the pillars that were in the house of Baal, and burned them.

**כז** וַיִּתְּצוּ, אֶת מִצְבַּת הַבַּעַל; וַיִּתְּצוּ אֶת-בֵּית הַבַּעַל, וַיִּשְׁמְהוּ לַמַּחְרָאוֹת (לְמוֹצָאוֹת) עַד-הַיּוֹם.

27 And they broke down the pillar of Baal, and broke down the house of Baal, and made it a draught-house, unto this day.

**כח** וַיִּשְׁמַד יְהוּא אֶת-הַבַּעַל, מִיִּשְׂרָאֵל.

28 Thus Jehu destroyed Baal out of Israel.

**כט** רַק חֲטָאֵי יִרְבְּעָם בֶּן-נֶבֶט, אֲשֶׁר הֲחִטִּיא אֶת-יִשְׂרָאֵל--לֹא-סָר יְהוּא, מֵאַחֲרֵיהֶם: עֲגָלִי, הַזֶּהָב, אֲשֶׁר בֵּית-אֵל, וְאֲשֶׁר בְּדָן. {פ}

29 Howbeit from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, wherewith he made Israel to sin, Jehu departed not from after them, the golden calves that were in Beth-el, and that were in Dan. {P}

**ל** וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל-יְהוּא, יַעַן אֲשֶׁר-הִטִּיבְתָ לַעֲשׂוֹת הַיָּשָׁר בְּעֵינַי--כָּל אֲשֶׁר בִּלְבָבִי, עָשִׂיתָ לְבֵית אַחָב: בְּנֵי רְבַעִים, יֵשְׁבוּ לָךְ עַל-כִּסֵּא יִשְׂרָאֵל.

30 And the LORD said unto Jehu: 'Because thou hast done well in executing that which is right in Mine eyes, and hast done unto the house of Ahab according to all that was in My heart, thy sons of the fourth generation shall sit on the throne of Israel.'

**לא** וַיְהִי, לֹא שָׁמַר לְלֶכֶת בְּתוֹרַת-יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי-יִשְׂרָאֵל--בְּכָל-לְבָבוֹ: לֹא סָר, מֵעַל חַטָּאוֹת יִרְבְּעָם, אֲשֶׁר הֲחִטִּיא, אֶת-יִשְׂרָאֵל.

31 But Jehu took no heed to walk in the law of the LORD, the God of Israel, with all his heart; he departed not from the sins of Jeroboam, wherewith he made Israel to sin.

**לב** בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם--הִחַל יְהוָה, לַקְצוֹת בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל; וַיִּכּוּ חֲזָאֵל, בְּכָל-גְּבוּל יִשְׂרָאֵל.

32 In those days the LORD began to cut Israel short; and Hazael smote them in all the borders of Israel:

**לג** מִן-הַיַּרְדֵּן, מִזְרַח הַשְּׁמֶשׁ, אֶת כָּל-אֶרֶץ הַגְּלָעַד, הַגְּדִי וְהַרְאוּבֵי וְהַמְנַשִּׁי--מֵעַרְעַר אֲשֶׁר עַל-נַחַל אַרְנוֹן, וְהַגְּלָעַד וְהַבָּשָׁן.

33 from the Jordan eastward, all the land of Gilead, the Gadites, and the Reubenites, and the Manassites, from Aroer, which is by the valley of Arnon, even Gilead and Bashan.

