

Digging Deeper 4 Elijah Part 1: Hope vs Expectation



**KINGDOM
DIVIDED**



Challenge Questions for week 4:

**KINGDOM
DIVIDED**

BSF question 14a asks about Elijah's faith and expectancy.
*What is the difference (if any) between hope and expectation
in the Bible and in your own thinking?*



Hope vs Expectation

**KINGDOM
DIVIDED**

Standard definitions:

HOPE: An anticipation of a future event.

EXPECTATION: Belief that a future event is going to happen.

The Greek word for hope is **ELPIS**. Although it can be translated also as expectation, it is always translated as hope in the NT. However, in Hebrew there are separate words for hope and expectation.

What is the difference (if any) between hope and expectation in the Bible?



Hope vs Expectation

**KINGDOM
DIVIDED**

These distinct Hebrew words appear together in Prov 10:28.

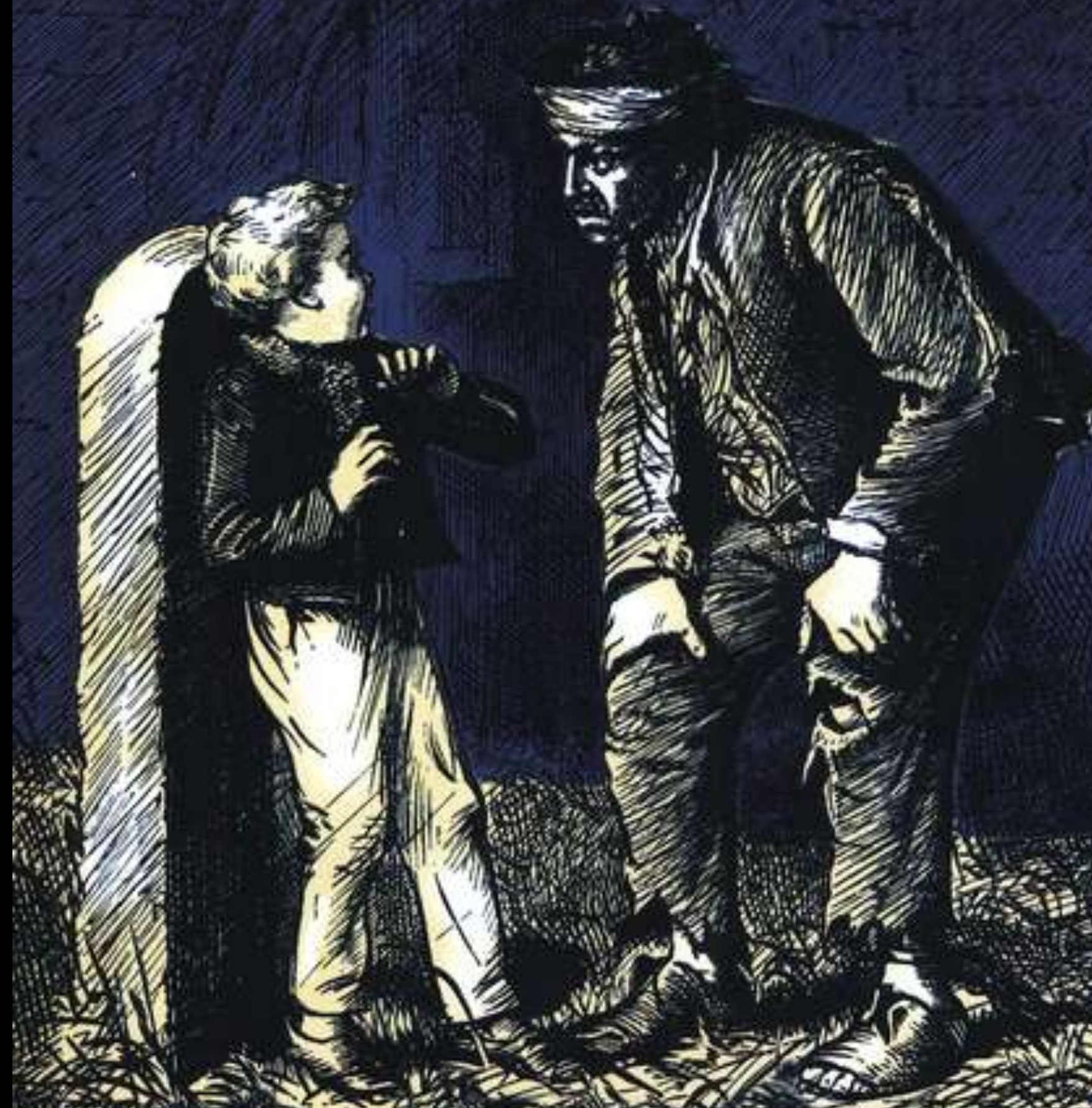
“The hope of the righteous brings joy, but the expectation of the wicked will perish.”

Proverbs 10:28



Charles Dickens
**GREAT
EXPECTATIONS**

Unabridged



**KINGDOM
DIVIDED**



Hope vs Expectation

KINGDOM
DIVIDED

Having hope means that you are trusting the **process**. The Hebrew word for hope is sometimes translated as **prospect**. Having an expectation means that you are trusting the **results**.

God offered Jeroboam a covenant nearly equivalent to that given to David IF he would trust the **process of relationship** with the Lord through obedience and trust but Jeroboam chose to put his trust in his own political manipulations of his people ... **expecting good results**.



Process vs Results

**KINGDOM
DIVIDED**

God wants us to trust in the process of dwelling in Him. He does not want us to so focus on immediate results on earth but on God's promise of eternal life with Him.

When we focus on results, life is more about us and less about God. This was true of the Pharisees.

When Stephen was being stoned, he was comforted by looking up and seeing Jesus standing at the right hand of God. *What do you focus on when you feel like you are being stoned?*



Hope vs Expectation

KINGDOM
DIVIDED

How often do we abandon our hope in God in order to rely on ourselves? How often does this result in despair because our **expectations** are not fulfilled?

We will see this phenomenon later in Israel's history when despite their apostasy the people of Judah had the **expectation** that God would never allow his temple to be destroyed.

Later during the rule of King Herod the religious leaders of Israel fell into despair when the Romans took control of appointing their high priest because the "scepter had been removed from Judah."



Hope vs Expectation

KINGDOM
DIVIDED

Having **hope** in the Lord requires humility and giving up control.
Having **expectations** is the result of pride in our human power.

Having **hope** in the Lord results in a life of faith.

Having **expectations** in ourselves results in a life of shame and disappointment.



And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

Romans 5:5

DailyVerses.net



When has focus on your expectations brought shame upon you?



Hope vs Expectation

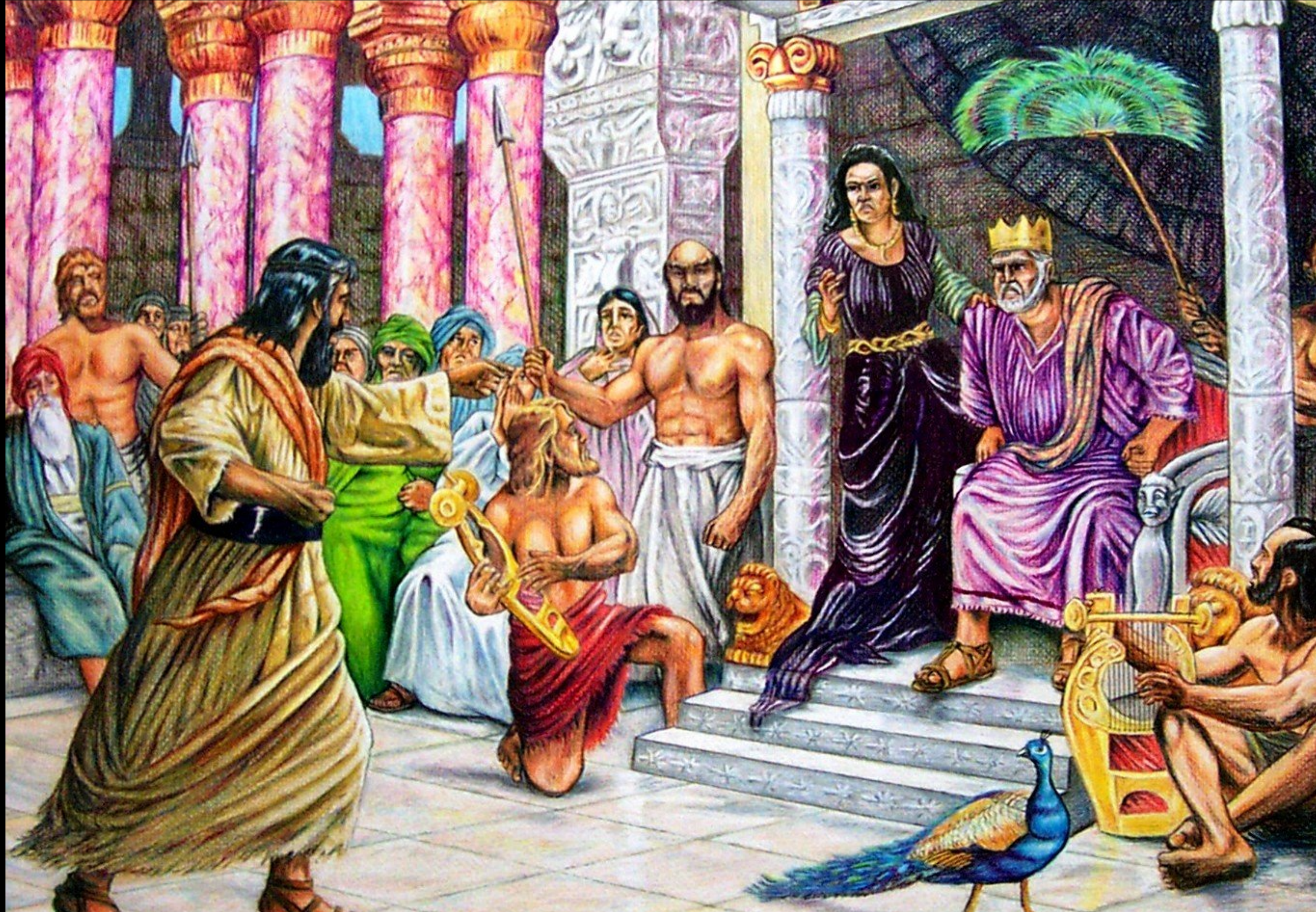


Faith in the Lord is having **hope** in what we cannot see (Hebrews 11:1).
Faith in ourselves is having **expectation** in what we can achieve.

Which will you choose? The way of Jeroboam or that of David?

Elijah prophesies to Ahab: What did he hope for? What did he expect?

**KINGDOM
DIVIDED**





**Unexpectedly living alone in a wilderness.
Unexpectedly fed by unclean birds!**

**KINGDOM
DIVIDED**



**Elijah had hope that the Lord would provide but he could not have
expected the means!**



**Bread and meat from the sky in the wilderness:
Symbolic of Manna and quail.**

**KINGDOM
DIVIDED**





**Unexpectedly sent to feed and be fed by an unclean woman.
Unexpectedly cohabitating with an unmarried foreign woman.**



Quarantined in a foreign land.



Basic needs met: Daily bread.
How often do we expect more?





I am the bread of life; whoever comes
to me shall not hunger, and whoever
believes in me shall never thirst.

JOHN 6:35





Dealing with unexpected death.



Literally, Elijah “measured himself out over the body”, an unclean act.



Unexpected encounter with Obadiah.

**KINGDOM
DIVIDED**



What future OT figure is Obadiah a "type" for?



Daniel like Obadiah served an evil king but they both saw God as their judge.

**KINGDOM
DIVIDED**



Obadiah: *Servant* of **YaĥWeĥ**.

Daniel: My *judge* is God (**Elohim**).

Why do some names and other words use the suffix "**Aĥ**" for God and some use "**EL**?"

Nouns and verbs with "**Aĥ**" are often used when the Lord is carrying out personal acts of grace and mercy. **YaĥWeĥ** is the personal name of God.

"**EL**" is used in less personal acts like creation and judgment.



ELIJAH and ELISHA co-occupy the high point of God's interaction with the Northern Kingdom of Israel and together are the center of the story of the Divided Kingdom. For a character study of Elijah: See PDF on our blog at azbsf.org.

**KINGDOM
DIVIDED**





Challenge Question for week 5:

**KINGDOM
DIVIDED**

What did Elijah **look** for after God's triumphal display on Mt Carmel?

Was this a **hope** as I defined it earlier or an **expectation**?



**KINGDOM
DIVIDED**

