CHAPTER 15
God's Messengers
I KINGS 17-19 & II KINGS 2, 4, 6

THE STORY

Introduction
God is trying to reach his people with a message. Will we listen and obey or will we ignore him and go our own way? The Bible is arranged topically and not chronologically.

THE STORY

There are four main divisions in the Old Testament.

- **Law** – the first 5 books of the Bible.
- **History** – the next 12 books from Joshua to Esther.
- **Poetry** – the next 5 books from Job to Song of Songs
- **Prophets** – the last 17 books from Isaiah to Malachi.

The Prophets are found throughout the OT, but they are clustered around times of crises.

In the last message, we saw that the kingdom of Israel was divided into two parts.

V. God divided the nation because his people were sending the wrong message.

THE STORY

God chose Israel to be a light to the nations. Israel rebelled against God. Their heart was divided. They disobeyed God’s commands. They worshipped other gods.

God’s people, by their disobedience, were sending a wrong message to themselves and to the world.

During the 208 years the northern kingdom lasted, there were 38 kings in both kingdoms and only 5 were good. In the northern kingdom, they were all bad.

THE STORY

Yet even as Israel was moving away from the Lord, they were experiencing amazing prosperity. “The problem then, as it still is today, is that many people would rather have their feelings stroked and their selfish comforts satisfied than their souls saved.” Adam Barr

THE STORY
II. God sent prophets to call his people back to obedience.

God sent 9 prophets to the 19 kings in Israel over a 208 year period. Only one was heard, Jonah, and it wasn’t by Israel. It was by pagan Nineveh who repented of their sin.

Two of the prophets we read about in this chapter were Elijah and Hosea.

Elijah:
- “He was a man just like us.” James 5:17
- Elijah lived in a time of political, economic and spiritual uncertainty, 1 Kings 17
- Elijah felt outnumbered by the enemies of God, 1 Kings 18:16-46
- Elijah also felt exhausted and discouraged, 1 Kings 19:1-18

Elijah was a man just like us. He needed to trust God when life was uncertain, when he felt outnumbered and when he was discouraged. We need to trust him too.

III. God demonstrated how much he loved Israel (and us) through the prophet Hosea.

Hosea is told by God to marry a prostitute. Her name is Gomer.

God tells Hosea to find his wife and show her that he still loves her.

Can you imagine? Such love and forgiveness is hard to believe. That’s how much God loves you and me.
Conclusion
God wants us to be a light to the world around us. God wants us to trust him when life is uncertain, when we feel outnumbered and when we feel discouraged. God wants us to know how much he loves us. And he wants us to love him in return – with all our heart. God is calling. Will we answer?