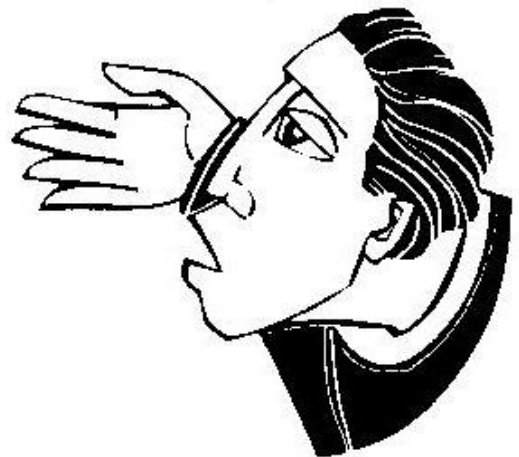


- I. The reemergence of the prophetic tradition amidst a Divided Kingdom (Judah and Israel); kingly corruption and wars unending
  - Ahijah, the prophet who had designated Jeroboam king over Israel (10 tribes)
- A. Immediate prophetic reversal in the face of Jeroboam corrupting the calling of God—*1 Kings 12*—and the prophet Ahijah condemns Jeroboam, even amidst his own son’s illness—*1 Kings 14:1-6*
- B. Because of Jeroboam’s corruption, the nation (Israel) will experience judgment
- C. Remember Ahijah’s prophetic warning to keep the statutes of God and the commandments, the principal among them: “You shall worship the Lord your God and Him only”—*1 Kings 11:38*
- D. To disobey the calling and responsibilities of kingship is to experience judgment and punishment, unending war and strife
- E. The prophet Ahijah announce the Word of the Lord into the historical and political realities—Jeroboam’s construction of the temples of Bethel and Dan, with elements of pagan worship, led to the prophet’s Word of the Lord, word of judgment



## II. The prophet Elijah and the reign of Ahab

A. Ahab, son of Omri, reigned twenty-two years, a corrupt king doing more to provoke the anger of Yahweh than all the kings before—Ahab introduced an alien ideal of kingship—

*1 Kings 16:33*

1. Married to Jezebel—a Phoenician worshiper of Baal, she loved to have prophets killed
2. Ahab constructed a temple to Baal in Samaria, intended to be the official sanctuary of the kingdom
3. In comes Elijah, “the troubler of Israel,” who *is* the true troubler of Israel—*1 Kings 18:17*

B. Elijah’s word to King Ahab is a challenge to the syncretistic religion

1. Then the fire of the Lord reigned down—the Lord indeed is God—*1 Kings 18:19-40*
2. Here we see the vividly austere Yahwistic alternative to Ahab’s and Jezebel’s syncretistic religions and foreign alliances

C. Elijah’s prophetic ministry is filled with the miraculous, the prophetic declaration, and the kingly designation

1. The unemptied jar—*1 Kings 17:8-16*
2. The solitary broom tree and the provisions of God—*1 Kings 19:4-9*
3. Elijah awaits Hazael to be king of Syria, Jehu to be king of Israel, and Elisha to be his successor as prophet—*1 Kings 19:15-18*
4. Elijah’s ascension into heaven, Elisha receives a double share of Elijah’s prophetic spirit, and Elisha picks up the mantle of Elijah—*2 Kings 2:1-14*