

Why MUST Eliyahu come before Messiah Comes?

By Rabbi Edward “Levi” Nydle-Revised 7-1-03

As you attend the Passover Seder you will notice there is an extra place setting for the prophet Eliyahu. There is also a time in the Seder where a child goes to the door and opens it to see if Eliyahu is ready to enter. Why is this practice significant and how does it fit into the prophecies Scripture concerning the “coming” of Messiah? Let us examine the Scriptures by the Ruach in order to gain better understand this “tradition” in the Seder service, and what it means to us today.

ELIYAHU in Hebrew means “Yahweh is my strength or Yahweh is my EL”. Eliyahu came upon the scene in the Northern Kingdom of Yisrael after King Achab (Ahab) had taken Izebel (Jezebel), a Canaanite for his wife. Ahab allowed Izebel to establish the Phoenician worship of *Baal* (the Lord). She ordered the true prophets of Yahweh to be slain or persecuted. The prophets fled, hid, and lived in caves. The prophet Eliyahu comes suddenly and challenges Achab (**1 Melakim –Kings 17**). This takes place around 870 BCE .After three years of without rain (the prophet shut up the heavens –**Ya’akov-James 5:17**) Eliyahu again challenges Achab.King Achab calls Eliyahu the “troubler of Yisrael (**1 Kings 18: 17**) but Eliyahu replies that Achab had “forsaken the commandments of Yahweh, and you have followed the Baals” (**1 Kings 18:18**). The classic confrontation on Mt.Karmel between Eliyahu and the false prophets of Baal takes place at this time. Eliyahu slays the 450 prophets of Baal that Izabel had brought to Yisrael to pollute the worship of YHWH.From Scripture we observe that the mission of Eliyahu was to confront the false prophets of Baal and to RESTORE the worship of Yahweh to Yisrael (Ephraim).

Another prophet then prophecies around 400BCE. It is Mal’aki (Malachi).He says,” See, I AM sending you Eliyahu the *navi* (prophet) before the coming of the great and awesome day of Yahweh.” **Mal’aki 4:5**. What does this mean? It has a double fulfillment, as we will find out as we study.

In your *Brit Chadasha* in **Luke 1:17** the messenger of Elohim tells Zekaryah that his son shall be called Yochanan, and that he will go before the Messiah in the ruach AND power of Eliyahu.He will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the insight of the righteous, TO MAKE READY A PEOPLE prepared for Yahweh. Since we do not have any record of Yochanan doing any miracles as Eliyahu did, we must conclude that the spirit and power of Eliyahu means to be anointed to confront the religious leaders of Yisrael of his day, and to call all Yisrael to repentance and prepare them to receive the Messiah. There is a parallel here with the mission of Eliyahu *HaNavi*. Yochanan came to proclaim REPENTENCE and preparation for the coming of Yahweh (Matt.3: **3; Isaiah - Yeshayahu 40:3**).

Yahshua declares in **Mattithyahu 11:14** that Yochanan is Eliyahu who was about to come. Then in **Mattithyahu 17:10-12** Yahshua teaches His *talmidim* about Eliyahu coming before the Messiah. Yahshua says, “Why do the scribes (the Torah teachers) teach that Eliyahu must come FIRST?” Yahshua continues His lesson by saying that Eliyahu is indeed COMING FIRST, and shall RESTORE ALL matters (**Acts 3: 21**). Yahshua is explaining that there will come another time in the future that Eliyahu will come to restore all things so Messiah can return as Kepha declares in **Acts 3:21!**

These Scriptures tell us that we can see that Eliyahu had to come the first time in Yochanan the Immersor to prepare the people to receive the Messiah, by calling as a voice in the wilderness for Yisrael to repent and return to Yahweh. We can also confidently say that according to Yahshua and Kepha Eliyahu MUST COME AGAIN to restore ALL things before Messiah returns! This is the same message that the original Eliyahu *HaNavi* proclaimed to Yisrael.He said to repent and abandon Baal worship and return to Yahweh. This is the same message of Yochanan the Immersor, and the message that MUST be proclaimed again in the last days in order to bring about the restoration.

In **Romans chapter 11** Rav Shaul says that Yahweh still has a remnant of Yisrael that the *Ruach* is calling to the Messiah. This remnant is the Yisrael that has received the Moshiach! They have been grafted back into the Olive Tree of Yisrael by belief. Both the wild branches (Ephraim) and the natural branches (Judah) need grafted back into the Tree. It interesting how Rav Shaul mentions Eliyahu in this chapter. This remnant must abandon the Baal worship and all its pagan ways to be included like the 7,000 who had not bowed their knees to Baal.

In **Revelation chapter 2 verse 20** Yahshua says the assembly at Thyatira was allowing the false prophetess whom He calls Izebel (Jezebel) to teach and lead Yisrael astray. He says ANYONE who commits whoredom (spiritual adultery) with this teaching of BAAL WORSHIP will face great affliction UNLESS they REPENT. This is why Yisrael needs the Eliyahu message to be proclaimed in our congregations today.

When you attend the Seder, when the child goes to the door to see if Eliyahu is there, hope that **HE WILL BE AT THE DOOR BECAUSE WE NEED HIM!**

