

Matthew 11:7 As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John:

“What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind?

Matthew 11:8 What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses.

Matthew 11:9 What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet.

Matthew 11:10 This is he of whom it is written, “Behold, I send my messenger before your face, **who will prepare your way before you.**’

Matthew 11:11 Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. **Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.**

Matthew 11:12 From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force.

Matthew 11:13 For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John,

Matthew 11:14 and if you are willing to accept it, **he is Elijah who is to come.**

Matthew 11:15 He who has ears to hear, let him hear.

Matthew 17:10 And the disciples asked him, “Then why do the scribes say that **first Elijah must come?**”

Matthew 17:11 He answered, “**Elijah does come, and he will restore all things.**

Matthew 17:12 But I tell you that **Elijah has already come, and they did not recognize him, but did to him whatever they pleased. So also the Son of Man will certainly suffer at their hands.**”

Matthew 17:13 Then **the disciples understood that he was speaking to them of John the Baptist.**

Mark 9:2 And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them,

Mark 9:3 and his clothes became radiant, intensely white, as no one on earth could bleach them.

Mark 9:4 And **there appeared to them Elijah with Moses**, and they were talking with Jesus.

Mark 9:5 And Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah.”

Mark 9:6 For he did not know what to say, for they were terrified.

Mark 9:7 And a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice came out of the cloud, “This is my beloved Son; listen to him.”

Mark 9:8 And suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone with them but Jesus only.

Mark 9:9 And as they were coming down the mountain, he charged them to tell no one what they had seen, until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

Mark 9:10 So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what this rising from the dead might mean.

Mark 9:11 And they asked him, “Why do the scribes say that **first Elijah must come?**”

Mark 9:12 And he said to them, “**Elijah does come first to restore all things. And how is it written of the Son of Man that he should suffer many things and be treated with contempt?**”

Mark 9:13 But **I tell you that Elijah has come, and they did to him whatever they pleased, as it is written of him.**”

Luke 1:13 But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John.

Luke 1:14 And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth,

Luke 1:15 for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb.

Luke 1:16 And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God,

Luke 1:17 and **he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared.”**

Malachi 4:1 “For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch.

Malachi 4:2 But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall.

Malachi 4:3 And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the LORD of hosts.

Malachi 4:4 “Remember **the law of my servant Moses**, the statutes and rules that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel.

Malachi 4:5 “Behold, **I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes.**

Malachi 4:6 And **he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers**, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.”

Rev 11:1 Then I was given a measuring rod like a staff, and I was told, “Rise and measure the temple of God and the altar and those who worship there,  
Rev 11:2 but do not measure the court outside the temple; leave that out, for it is given over to the nations, and they will trample the holy city for forty-two months.  
Rev 11:3 And **I will grant authority to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth.**”  
Rev 11:4 These are the **two olive trees** and the **two lampstands** that stand before the Lord of the earth.  
Rev 11:5 And if anyone would harm them, fire pours from their mouth and consumes their foes. If anyone would harm them, this is how he is doomed to be killed.  
Rev 11:6 **They have the power to shut the sky, that no rain may fall during the days of their prophesying, and they have power over the waters to turn them into blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague,** as often as they desire.  
Rev 11:7 And when they have finished their testimony, the beast that rises from the bottomless pit will make war on them and conquer them and kill them,  
Rev 11:8 and their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city that symbolically is called Sodom and Egypt, where their Lord was crucified.  
Rev 11:9 For **three and a half days** some from the peoples and tribes and languages and nations will gaze at their dead bodies and refuse to let them be placed in a tomb,  
Rev 11:10 and those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them and make merry and exchange presents, because these two prophets had been a torment to those who dwell on the earth.  
Rev 11:11 But after the three and a half days a breath of life from God entered them, and they stood up on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them.  
Rev 11:12 Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, “Come up here!” And they went up to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies watched them.

Exo 7:19 And the LORD said to Moses, “Say to Aaron, ‘Take your staff and stretch out your hand over the waters of Egypt, over their rivers, their canals, and their ponds, and all their pools of water, **so that they may become blood, and there shall be blood throughout all the land of Egypt**, even in vessels of wood and in vessels of stone.’”

Exo 7:20 Moses and Aaron did as the LORD commanded. In the sight of Pharaoh and in the sight of his servants he lifted up the staff and struck the water in the Nile, and **all the water in the Nile turned into blood**.

Exo 7:21 And the fish in the Nile died, and the Nile stank, so that the Egyptians could not drink water from the Nile. There was blood throughout all the land of Egypt.

1 Kings 17:1 Now Elijah the Tishbite, of Tishbe in Gilead, said to Ahab, “As the LORD, the God of Israel, lives, before whom I stand, there shall be neither dew nor rain these years, except by my word.”

James 5:17 **Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth.**

Deuteronomy 34:5 So Moses the servant of the LORD died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the LORD,

Deuteronomy 34:6 and **he buried him in the valley in the land of Moab opposite Beth-peor; but no one knows the place of his burial to this day.**

2 Kings 2:1 Now when **the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind**, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal.

2 Kings 2:11 And as they still went on and talked, behold, chariots of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them. **And Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.**

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James 5:17 **Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth.**

Malachi 4:5 “Behold, **I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes.**

Rev 11:3 And **I will grant authority to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth.”**

**Question: How can John the Baptist be Elijah? Why is the name “Elijah” used?**

**Elijah was an Old Testament prophet who represents all the Old Testament prophets, just as Moses represents the law. That is why both Moses and Elijah were present on the Mount of Transfiguration. Elijah’s operation was according to the principle of God’s power, authority and judgment. He prayed and there was no rain for three and a half years. He killed the prophets of Baal (1 Kings 18). He called down fire from heaven to consume the soldiers who had come to arrest him (2 Kings 1). His ministry was a ministry of repentance.**

**Malachi 4:15, written about 400 years after Elijah, prophesies that God will send Elijah before the great and awesome day of the Lord. This verse has a double meaning. In Revelation 11:3, the two witnesses, according to certain Bible scholars, refer to Moses and Elijah, who will prophesy during the three and a half year period of the Great Tribulation, in much the same way they did in the Old Testament, with power, signs and wonders, to testify for God, testify against Antichrist, and turn hearts back to God. This is when both Elijah and Moses will physically return to the earth. Moses physically died, but God buried him. Elijah did not die. God raptured him. Thus, God has preserved both of them for their return in the end time.**

Mark 9:12 And he said to them, **“Elijah does come first to restore all things. And how is it written of the Son of Man that he should suffer many things and be treated with contempt?”**

Mark 9:13 But I tell you that **Elijah has come, and they did to him whatever they pleased, as it is written of him.”**

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Luke 1:17 and **he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared.”**

**Question: Why then does Jesus say that Elijah has already come?**

**When John the Baptist was conceived, it was prophesied that he would go before the Lord in the spirit and power of Elijah. Jesus refers to him, in this sense, as Elijah, in that he carried out a ministry similar to that of Elijah. Like Elijah, he lived in the wilderness, and dressed contrary to the standard priestly norm of attire. His diet was unconventional. Most importantly, he was a precursor to and forerunner of Jesus, preparing the way for Jesus. His ministry was a ministry of repentance and termination, paving the way for Jesus' ministry of life. He Himself was rejected, unrecognized and martyred, and so Jesus draws a comparison with Himself, pointing out that He also will suffer death.**

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**This does not contradict the literal meaning of the prophecy that the real Elijah will return later, but this is Jesus’ spiritual interpretation and application of the prophecy to speak to the hearts of the people at that time, and to our hearts also now. The readers of the Old Testament at the time were expecting a triumphant Messiah who would outwardly restore the physical nation of Israel, overthrow the Roman empire, and bring peace and harmony to a suffering people. Jesus, as the Messiah, came, not to victoriously overthrow the existing system of government and restore the nation, but to suffer and die.**

**Jesus’ expounding of the verses concerning Elijah and John the Baptist show us the way to read the Bible. How can the Bible speak to us? Do we touch the spirit and the life in the verses?**

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**Eventually, Moses, Elijah and even John the Baptist must disappear. The religious people were still waiting for Elijah to come, and even are still waiting for the Messiah to come. Indeed, both will return one day. But both have already come! And so on the Mount of Transfiguration, everyone disappears, except Jesus. The law and the prophets disappear and are fulfilled by Jesus. Before Jesus could return, He had to suffer death. Before we can experience the outward restoration of all things, we also have to go through death, deny ourselves. Many times, we anticipate the outward glory, but we are not willing to die. We want the power and authority (the ministry of Elijah and John the Baptist), but we are reluctant to die. There can be no outward return without the inward work of Christ in our person. That is why Jesus, in speaking of Elijah and John the Baptist, refers to His own suffering. Even John the Baptist and his ministry have to go, to give way to Jesus. He is indeed the greatest born of women, but even the least in the kingdom of the heavens (us) is greater than he.**