

THE IN-BETWEEN

Angels, Demons, the Devil, Heavenly Powers, Dark Powers, Human Beings Between Death and Resurrection

Section 5

The Spiritual Realm During Israel's Divided Kingdom

(about 930-722 BC)

1 Kings 13:1-32 — *Food for thought:* Clearly the old prophet lied to the man of God about the angel whom he said had spoken to him. This put the man of God in a difficult position: How was he to know whether an angel really had spoken to the old prophet? This is still an important question for God's people today. If someone were to say an angel had spoken to them, how would you know whether or not their story was true?

1 Kings 19:1-9 — How did the angel help Elijah?

- What did this communicate to Elijah about God's concern and plans for him?

1 Kings 22:1-28 / 2 Chronicles 18:1-27 — Notice verses 19-23. Micaiah reported experiencing a vision of God's throne in heaven. What did God ask for, and who volunteered to do it? What plan did this being propose?

- Why might God have worked through this spirit instead of simply striking Ahab down with lightning from heaven or some such divine punishment? For that matter, why did the Lord even make this heavenly conversation known to Micaiah and, through him, to King Ahab? What do you think?

2 Kings 1 — What did the angel of the Lord do for Elijah here?

- Does this story give us any information about how angels spoke to prophets like Elijah?

2 Kings 2:1-18 — After Elisha had refused three times to leave Elijah, what finally separated them?

- What phenomenon took Elijah up to heaven?
- verse 12 — Elisha cried out, "The chariots and horsemen of Israel!" What do you think was the significance, if any, of these chariot and horses of fire? Why did God not simply send an angel?

2 Kings 6:8-23 — When the Lord opened the servant’s eyes, what did the servant see in the hills around the city?

- *Bonus:* One other time in Scripture, God opened a man’s eyes so that he could see an angelic being nearby. Who was this man? (Find the answer in Numbers 22.)

Focal Point — ISAIAH’S VISION OF SERAPHIM

Isaiah 6

- “Seraphim” means “fiery ones” (*singular = “seraph”*). What does Isaiah tell us about how these beings looked in this vision?

- What do these seraphim do for God in this vision?

- What do these seraphim do for Isaiah in this vision?

- Do you think we’re supposed to think of six-winged seraphim literally—as genuine, physical, six-winged beings in heaven—or in some other way? How do you understand them?

- What does this vision tell us...
 - ...about God’s status in heaven?

 - ...about how God’s heavenly attendants think of him?

 - ...about how God feels about Isaiah?

 - ...about how God feels about his people at this time (verses 9-13)?

Isaiah 8:19-22 — What argument does Isaiah give here for why a person should not consult mediums and spiritists?