

## ELIJAH

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There are always people who want to challenge and /or ridicule the Bible and create new interpretations to confuse or put Biblical truth into doubt so as to declare it as untrustworthy.

In 1970, J J Gray brought out a book about I and II Kings and it was suggested that Elijah was not fed by ravens, those birds that are members of the crow family. Others have augmented this by saying that the ravens that fed Elijah were Arabs.

Elijah being fed by ravens is in 1 Kings 17. Later, Elijah is fed and comforted by an angel (1 Kings 19.4)

The word for raven is the Hebrew word Oreb which is similar as the Hebrew word for Arab. It can sound the same. But the words are different.

Oreb IS the word for raven. But this Hebrew word for raven has been transcribed and said by some to be oh-rabe. This creates problems for there are no vowels in Hebrew and so oh-rabe is an English rendering, which is wrong since the correct English would be ho-rabe. Ho is the definite article, hence the raven. The word Oreb and ho-rabe means raven and does not mean Arab, although the two words, Oreb and Arab are often pronounced the same.

The Hebrew words for Arab are:

Yarab  
GhArab  
Aray  
Aravah

The English version, oh-rabe, or rather ho-rabe means a raven. From this noun, raven, we get the adjective ravenous which, among its meanings, has the meanings of war-like, fierce and bellicose. This fits the character of the two war-like Midianite princes, Oreb and Zeeb.

Isaiah uses the word ravenous in Isaiah 35.9

There is no way that Oreb or ho-rabe could mean Arab.

It must also be remembered that there are no vowels in Hebrew and that every Hebrew letter can have four meanings.

Originally, the Midianites were friendly to the Israelites. After all, Midian was a son of Abraham by his concubine Keturah. But then the Midianites joined up with the enemies of the Israelites, the Moabites and the Amalekites.

In the time of Gideon, the Midianites were led by two princes, Oreb and Zeeb who were fierce warriors and Gideon defeated them at a place called The Rock of Oreb (Judges 7. 24 ff), the Rock of the Raven or Ravens. Prince Oreb was presumably named after the raven. It has been said that these two princes had hearts that were as black as ravens indicating their evil characters. They were like ravens in that they were ravenous warriors.

God showed Elijah where there was a water supply, the brook Cherith. That word means hidden and one can take it that the Arabs did not know of it. It was hidden. God revealed it to Elijah.

Another piece of nonsense is the suggestion that Elijah went up into Heaven in a spaceship! The Bible refers to a fiery chariot drawn by fiery horses. Fiery may mean bright, glowing and glorious.

The writers of this event would have known what horses looked like.

This event appears in II Kings 2.

The idea of a spaceship gives credence to spiritualists, psychics, occultists, mediums, ufologists, mediums and others who are anti-Bible and anti-Christian. It gives raise to the subject of aliens who, it is said can live inside a human and change peoples DNA.

We must maintain the Bible as the Word of God and not as science fiction!

*(See [articles on psychics, spiritualists etc.](#))*

Some people say that Elijah went up to Heaven in the chariot. He did not. The chariot came between Elijah and the people hence it was referred to as the chariot and horsemen of Israel. Elijah went into Heaven by a whirlwind.

Elisha witnessed the ' translation ' of Elijah into Heaven and he received a 'double portion ' of the Spirit. Some honoured Elisha (2 Kings 2. 15) but, in verse 23 of the same chapter, some 'little children ' escaped the safety of the city and mocked him with the words, "Go up, thou bald head, go up".

As a result, two she-bears came out of the trees and killed 42 children/young people.

People have complained that this is Divine cruelty.

But the hill country, with its dense woods, was known for its inhabitants of bears. The children, or rather young people, knew the dangers and risks that they were taking and had no care, or inadequate care for their own safety. Their priority and consuming passion was to ridicule the man of God and, therefore, God Himself.

Today, there are people who ridicule God as a sort of sport or hobby and sometimes as one of life's priorities. We live in days such as those mentioned in Judges 21.25... everyone does that which is right in their own eyes.

God, the man of God and Christians are not mocked in the sense that the mockers will not get away with it (Galatians 6. 7). The day is coming when every knee of all the ages will bow to the Lord Jesus and admit who He is (Philippians 2. 10)

Today, very many are turning against God including some who profess to be Christians.

The question is posed in Luke 18.8, "When the Son of man returns will He find faith on the earth?".

The verse given to me at my baptism is worth recalling here. It is in Revelation 2. 10, "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life".

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