

CHURCH HISTORY IN ELIJAH

SALEM BIBLE STUDENTS CONVENTION

JUNE 27, 2021

SECTIONS WE WILL COVER TODAY

1. Elias Shall First Come. (Malachi 4:5-6)
2. The 3-1/2 year period of drought. (1 Kings 17:1-24)
3. The contest on Mt. Carmel. (1 Kings 18:1-46)
4. Elijah's second wilderness experience. (1 Kings 19:1-12)
5. Elijah taken in the whirlwind. (2 Kings 2:1-11)

SECTION I

ELIAS SHALL FIRST COME

THE IMPORTANCE OF MALACHI'S PROPHECY

Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD: And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse. — Malachi 4:5-6 KJV

Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD: And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse. — Malachi 4:5-6 KJV

And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God. And he shall 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 a people prepared for the Lord. — Luke 1:16-17 KJV

... Why then say the scribes that Elias must first come?

And Jesus answered and said unto them, Elias truly shall first come, and restore all things. But I say unto you, That Elias is come already, and they knew him not, but have done unto him whatsoever they listed. Likewise shall also the Son of man suffer of them. Then the disciples understood that he spake unto them of John the Baptist.

— Matthew 17:10-13 KJV (see also Mark 9:11-13)

And *if ye will receive it*, this is Elias, which was for to come. He that hath ears to hear, let him hear. — Matthew 11:14-15 KJV

... Elias truly shall first come, and restore all things. — Matthew 17:11 KJV

ELIJAH	THE CHURCH
Elijah was persecuted for fidelity to truth and righteousness.	The Church was persecuted for fidelity to truth and righteousness.
His principal persecutor was Jezebel, the wicked Queen of Israel, who is mentioned by name as the type of the enemy of the saints. Rev. 2:20	Their principal persecutor was the apostate Church of Rome, which claims to be a "queen" and ruler over spiritual Israel. Revelation 18:7.
Jezebels persecuting power was exercised through her husband, Ahab, the king.	Papacy's persecuting power was the Roman Empire, to which she was joined.
Elijah fled from Jezebel and Ahab, into the wilderness, to a place prepared of God, where he was miraculously nourished. 1 Kings 17:5-9	The true Church fled into the symbolic wilderness—or condition of isolation—to her place, prepared of God, where she was sustained. Revelation 12:6,16
Elijah was "three years and six months" in the wilderness, and during that time there was no rain, and a great famine was in the land. James 5:17; 1 Kings 17:7; 18:2	The church was three and a half symbolic years (a day for a year—1260 literal years) in the wilderness condition, during which there was a spiritual famine because of the lack of truth—the living water. Compare Revelation 12:6; 11:3; Amos 8:11.
After the three and a half years, 1260 days, when Elijah returned from the wilderness, the errors of Jezebels priests were manifested, the true God honored, and copious rains followed. 1 Kings 18:41-45	At the end of the 1260 years the power of the truth and its witnesses was manifested (AD 1799); and since then the truth has flowed at the rate of millions of Bibles every year, refreshing the world and bringing forth fruit.
The king and the people at first rejoiced, and Elijah and his God were honored; but the spirit of Jezebel was unchanged. She still sought Elijah's life, and he was again compelled to flee into the wilderness. 1 Kings 18:40-46; 19:1-4	The Bible has brought such blessings that the empires of earth recognize the Lord's hand; yet the principles of Papacy—Jezebel—in so-called Protestant sects compel the saints again to flee into the wilderness condition.
Elijah's career ended by his being taken from the earth.	The saints will be changed from earthly to heavenly conditions.

... to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord. —
Luke 1:17 KJV

... to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord. — Luke 1:17 KJV

John answered them, saying, I baptize with water: but there standeth one among you, whom ye know not ... the next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world. — John 1:26,29 KJV

And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. — Mark 16:15 KJV

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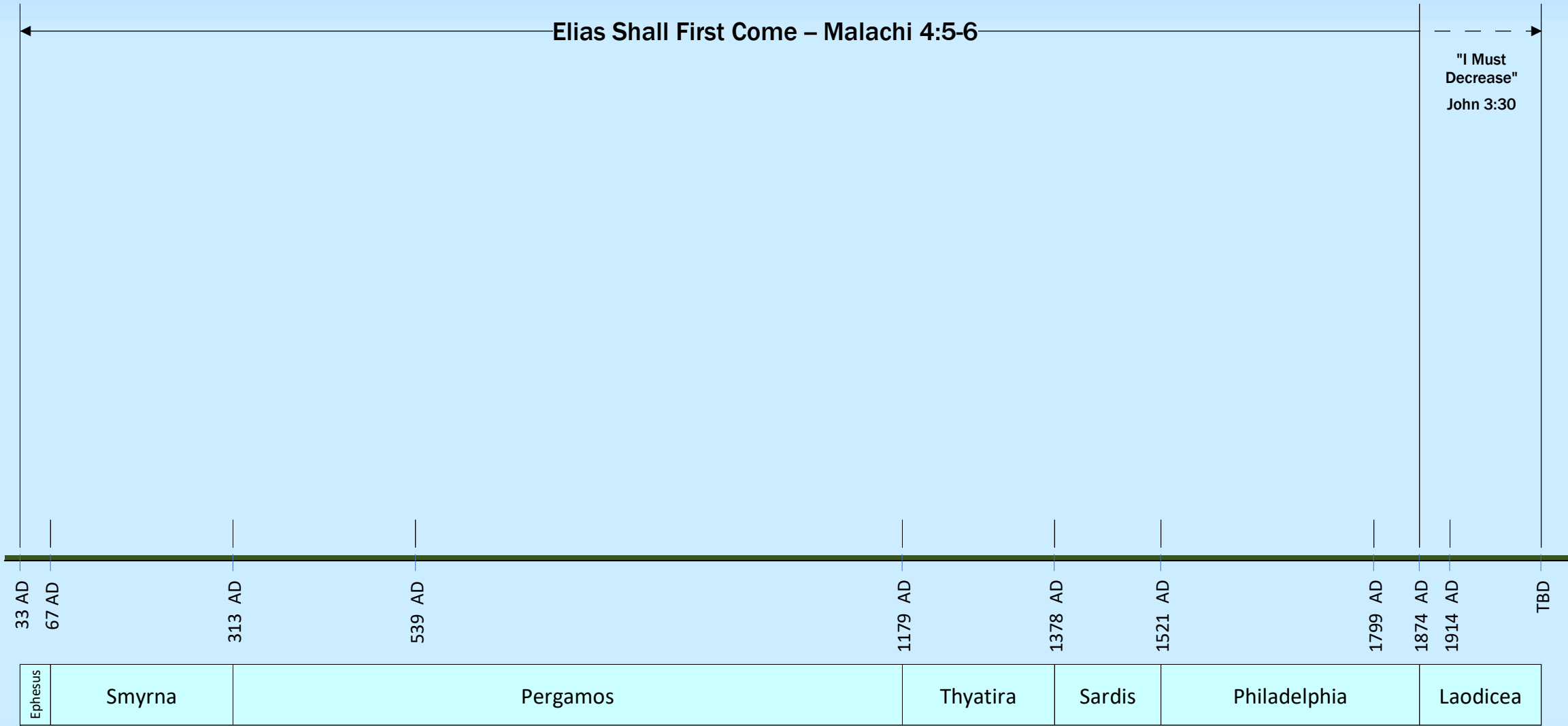
Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen. — Matthew 28:19-20 KJV

... As Elijah only found a few loyal to God in Israel, so Elijah the second found only a few ready to meet Jesus in the flesh, and similarly the great antitypical Elijah (the Church in the flesh) has found only a few, a little flock, to heed and to properly prepare for the Kingdom. Nevertheless it is the work designed, and, as foretold by the Prophet Malachi, the failure to accomplish larger results means that the Kingdom will be introduced not peaceably but forcefully; ... (R3326.8)

... there standeth one among you, whom ye know not; — John 1:26 KJV

... there standeth one among you, whom ye know not; — John 1:26 KJV

He must increase, but I must decrease. — John 3:30 KJV



SECTION II

A DROUGHT IN THE LAND

A FAMINE FOR THE WORD OF THE LORD

The reason for such a trouble, chastisement, coming upon King Ahab and the nation of Israel was that ***it was intended to be corrective, and additionally, as we shall see, it was prophetic or typical.*** The Israelites had gone into idolatry, and King Ahab had cooperated and had been a leader. The prophets of God had been persecuted, and the prophets of Baal had been honored. A great national chastisement might do them good. ... (R5741.4)

1 Kings 12:1-24:

- Rehoboam was made king after Solomon's death.
- He rejected the advice of his older advisors to ease the burden of the people.
- He accepted the advice of his younger advisors and threatened to increase the burden of the people.
- Ten tribes broke away and became "Israel" with Jeroboam as their king.
- Two tribes remain with Rehoboam and afterwards are called "Judah."

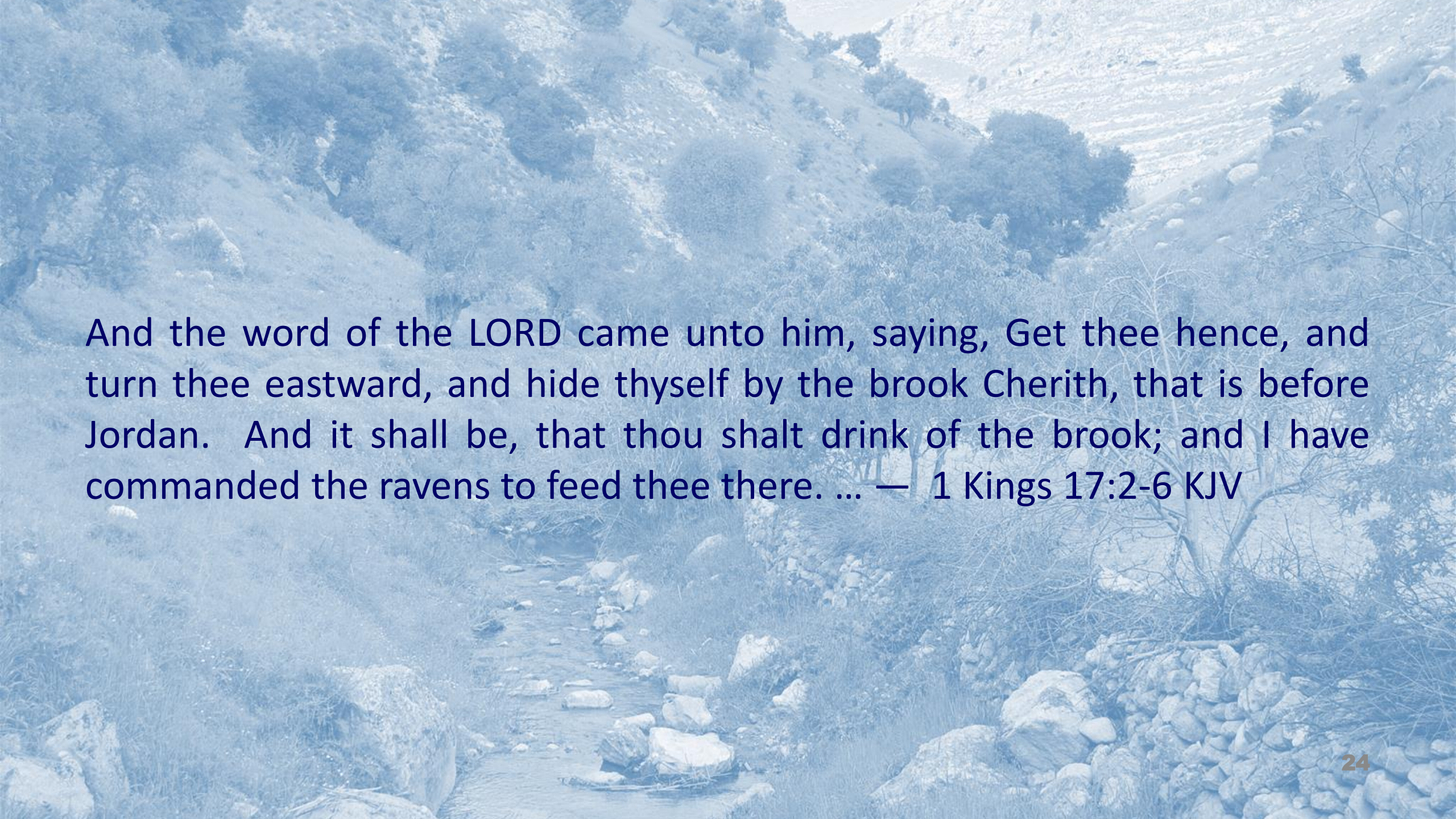
1 Kings 12:25-33:

- Jeroboam—as king of Israel—realized that the people would be drawn back to Jerusalem by the sacrifices and ceremonies of the Mosaic Law. (see R2325)
- This would lead to re-unification of the twelve tribes and his death.
- To prevent this, he established a counterfeit system of idols and ceremonies. He made priests out of those who were not of the tribe of Levi.
- 1 Kings 12:30 labels this as a sin.

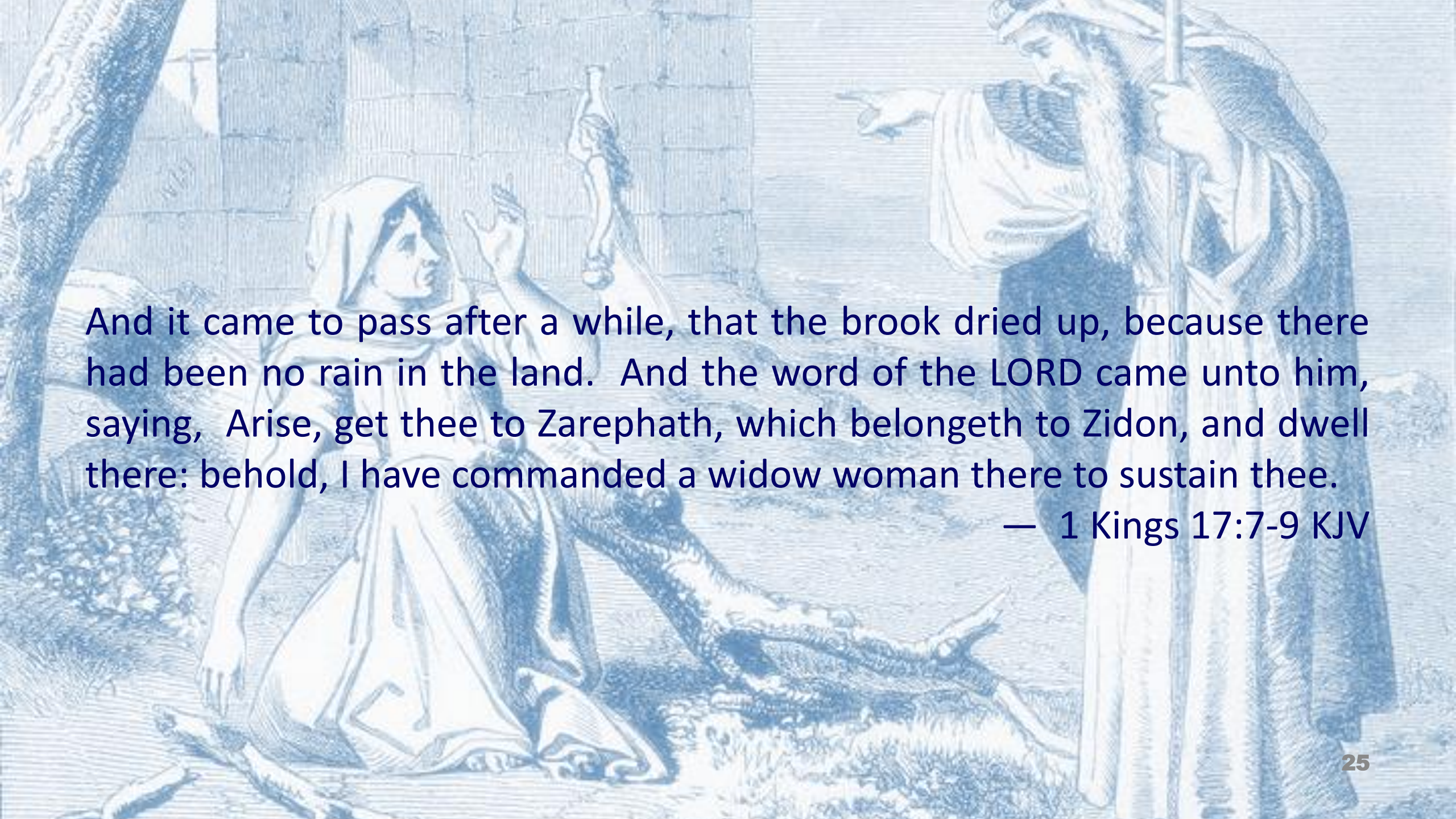
Lineage of the Kings of the Ten Tribes of Israel

1. Jeroboam—reigned 22 years (1 Kings 14:20).
2. Nadab—reigned 2 years (1 Kings 15:25).
3. Baasha—reigned 24 years (1 Kings 15:33).
4. Elah—reigned 2 years (1 Kings 16:6,8).
5. Zimri—reigned 7 days (1 Kings 16:15,18).
6. Omri—reigned 12 years (1 Kings 16:17-24).
7. Ahab—reigned 22 years (1 Kings 16:29).

And Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the LORD above all that *were* before him. And it came to pass, as if it had been a light thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he took to wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Zidonians, and went and served Baal, and worshipped him. And he reared up an altar for Baal in the house of Baal, which he had built in Samaria. And Ahab made a grove; and Ahab did more to provoke the LORD God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel that were before him. — 1 Kings 16:30-33 KJV

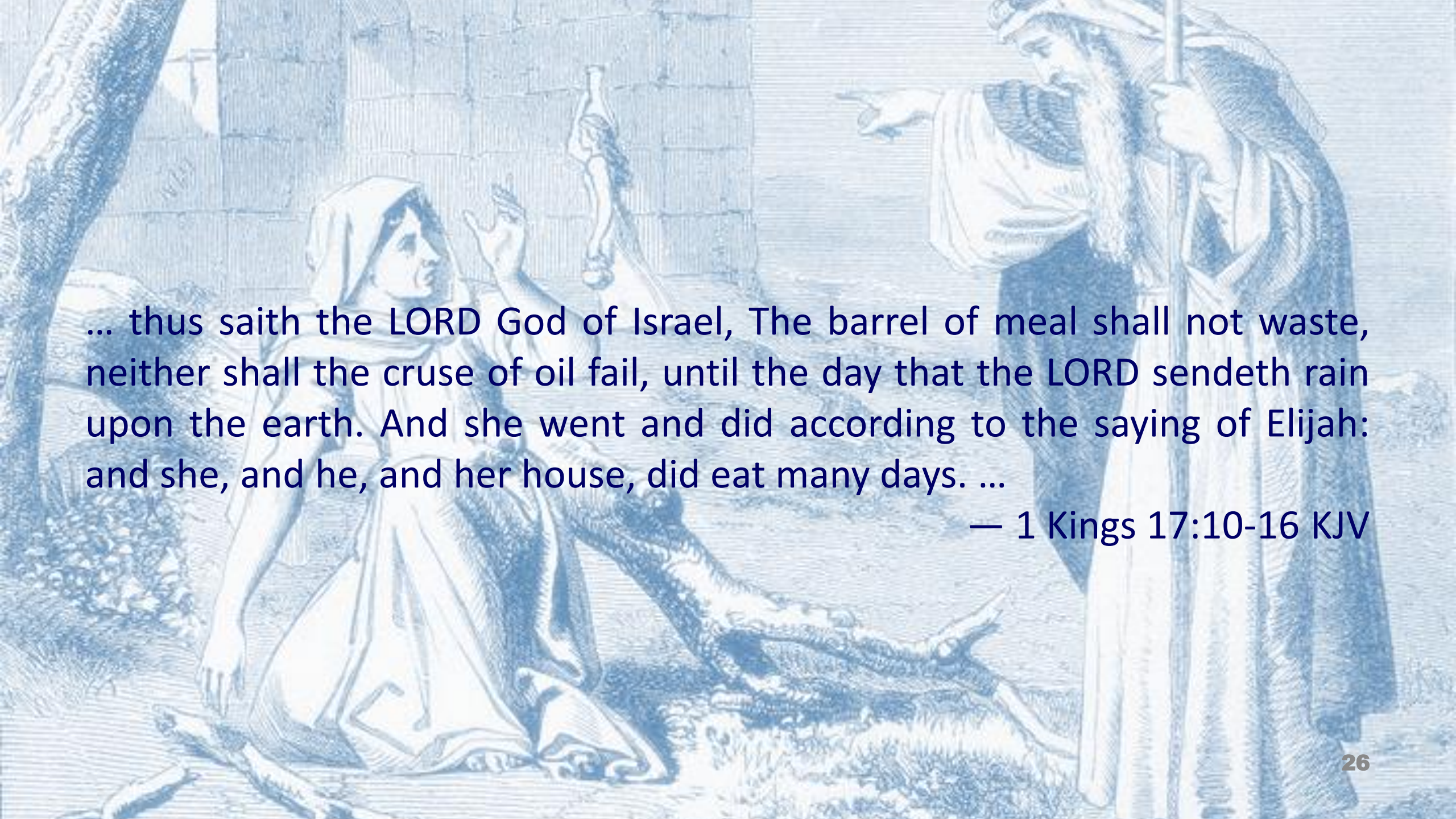


And the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, Get thee hence, and turn thee eastward, and hide thyself by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan. And it shall be, that thou shalt drink of the brook; and I have commanded the ravens to feed thee there. ... — 1 Kings 17:2-6 KJV



And it came to pass after a while, that the brook dried up, because there had been no rain in the land. And the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, Arise, get thee to Zarephath, which belongeth to Zidon, and dwell there: behold, I have commanded a widow woman there to sustain thee.

— 1 Kings 17:7-9 KJV



... thus saith the LORD God of Israel, The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that the LORD sendeth rain upon the earth. And she went and did according to the saying of Elijah: and she, and he, and her house, did eat many days. ...

— 1 Kings 17:10-16 KJV

But I tell you of a truth, many widows were in Israel in the days of Elias, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, when great famine was throughout all the land; — Luke 4:25 KJV

Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. — James 5:17 KJV

Different Ways the Length of the Drought is Stated

“Three years and six months” — Luke 4:25; James 5:17

“Time and times and the dividing of time” — Daniel 7:25

“Time, times, and an half” — Daniel 12:7

“Time, times, and half a time” — Revelation 12:14

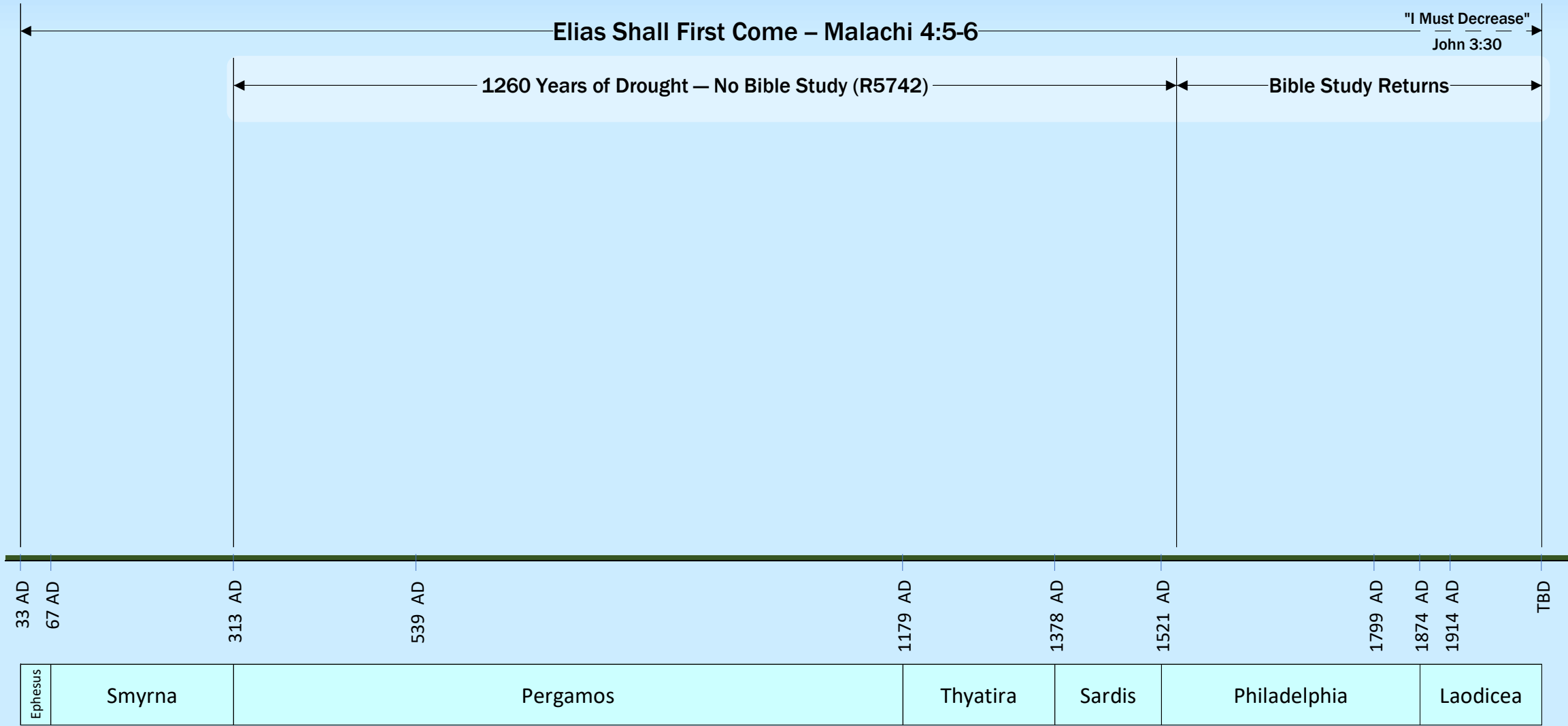
“Three days and an half” — Revelation 11:9,11

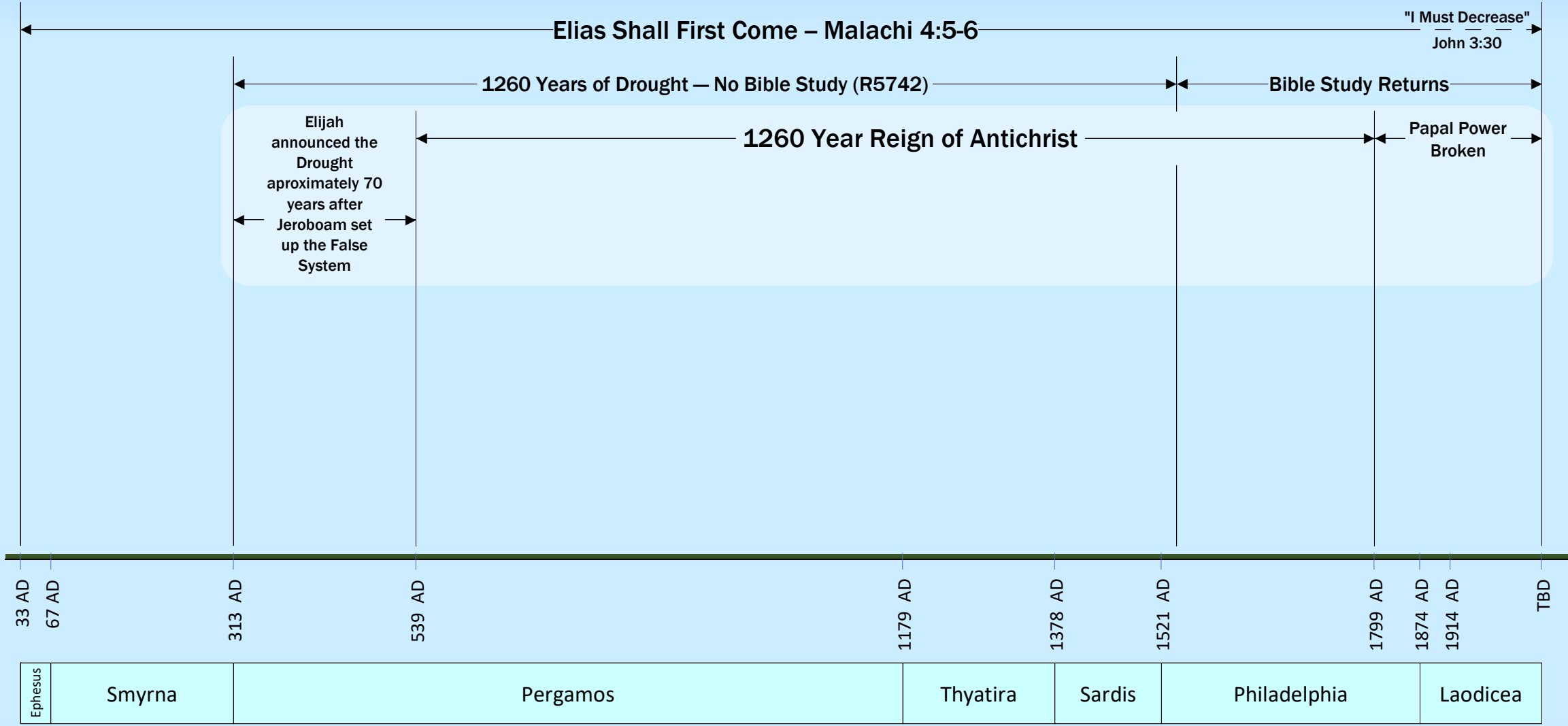
“Forty two months — Revelation 11:2; 13:5

“Thousand two hundred and threescore days” — Revelation 11:3; 12:6

... the 1260 years would very properly extend from the year 325 AD to the year 1585 AD. It was in the year 325 AD that the self-styled apostolic bishops convened under the patronage of Emperor Constantine, constituted themselves the Ecumenical Council of Nice, and formulated the first of the great creeds, the Nicene Creed. From that time onward for 1260 years the Bible was neglected; for the creeds made by these so-called apostolic bishops were accepted as instead of the Bible, ... anyone thereafter studying the Bible was esteemed to be finding fault with the creeds, and was correspondingly condemned. ***The creeds were studied, and the Bible thereafter was neglected.*** (R5742.2)

Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD: And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the LORD, and shall not find it. — Amos 8:11-12 KJV

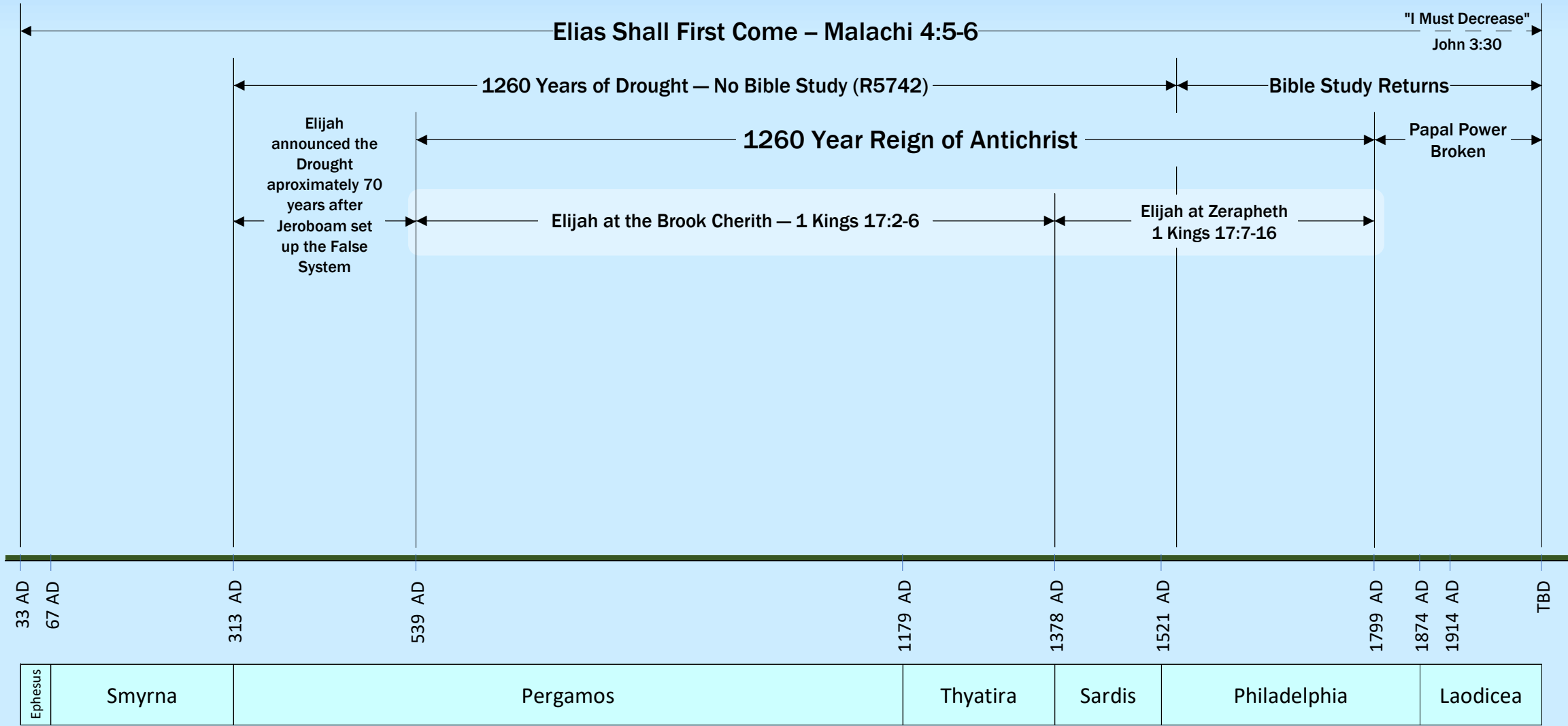




... behold, I am gathering two sticks, that I may go in and dress it for me and my son, that we may eat it, and die. — 1 Kings 17:12 KJV

... What be these two olive branches which through the two golden pipes empty the golden oil out of themselves? ... These are the two anointed ones, that stand by the Lord of the whole earth. — Zechariah 4:11-14 KJV

And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth. These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth. — Revelation 11:3-4 KJV

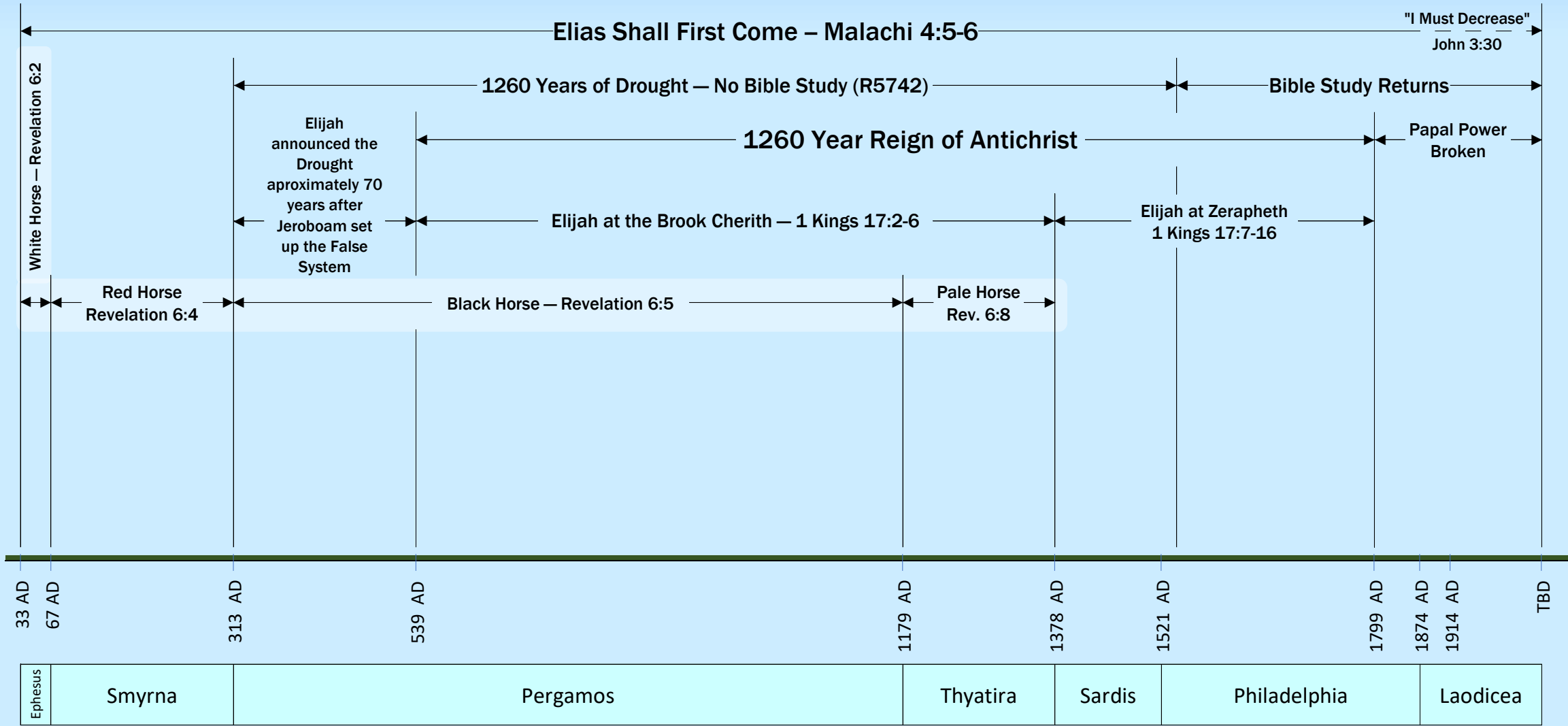


SECTION III

THE CONTEST ON MT. CARMEL

THE CHURCH'S RETURN FROM THE WILDERNESS

And Ahab called Obadiah, which was the governor of his house. (Now Obadiah feared the LORD greatly: For it was so, when Jezebel cut off the prophets of the LORD, that Obadiah took an hundred prophets, and hid them by fifty in a cave, and fed them with bread and water.) And Ahab said unto Obadiah, Go into the land, unto all fountains of water, and unto all brooks: peradventure we may find grass to save the horses and mules alive, that we lose not all the beasts. So they divided the land between them to pass throughout it: Ahab went one way by himself, and Obadiah went another way by himself. — 1 Kings 18:3-6 KJV



... the true Church, in 1799, manifested itself before the kings of the world, and stood up for God and the Bible. Elijah represented the true Church; Jezebel represented the Papal System and other systems closely related to her; Ahab represented the government; and the people of Israel represented the world. The Bible was forced upon Jezebel and Ahab, and everybody. The two witnesses were exalted because the people took notice of them. (R5629.1)

As just before the time of drought in Israel ended, there was a great contest (related in today's lesson), with the victory on the side of the Lord, so in the history of the Church a great contest took place between Catholicism and Protestantism in the period styled the Reformation. ... (R5751.10)

... Let them therefore give us two bullocks; and let them choose one bullock for themselves, and cut it in pieces, and lay it on wood, and put no fire under: and I will dress the other bullock, and lay it on wood, and put no fire under: And call ye on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the LORD: and the God that answereth by fire, let him be God. And all the people answered and said, It is well spoken.

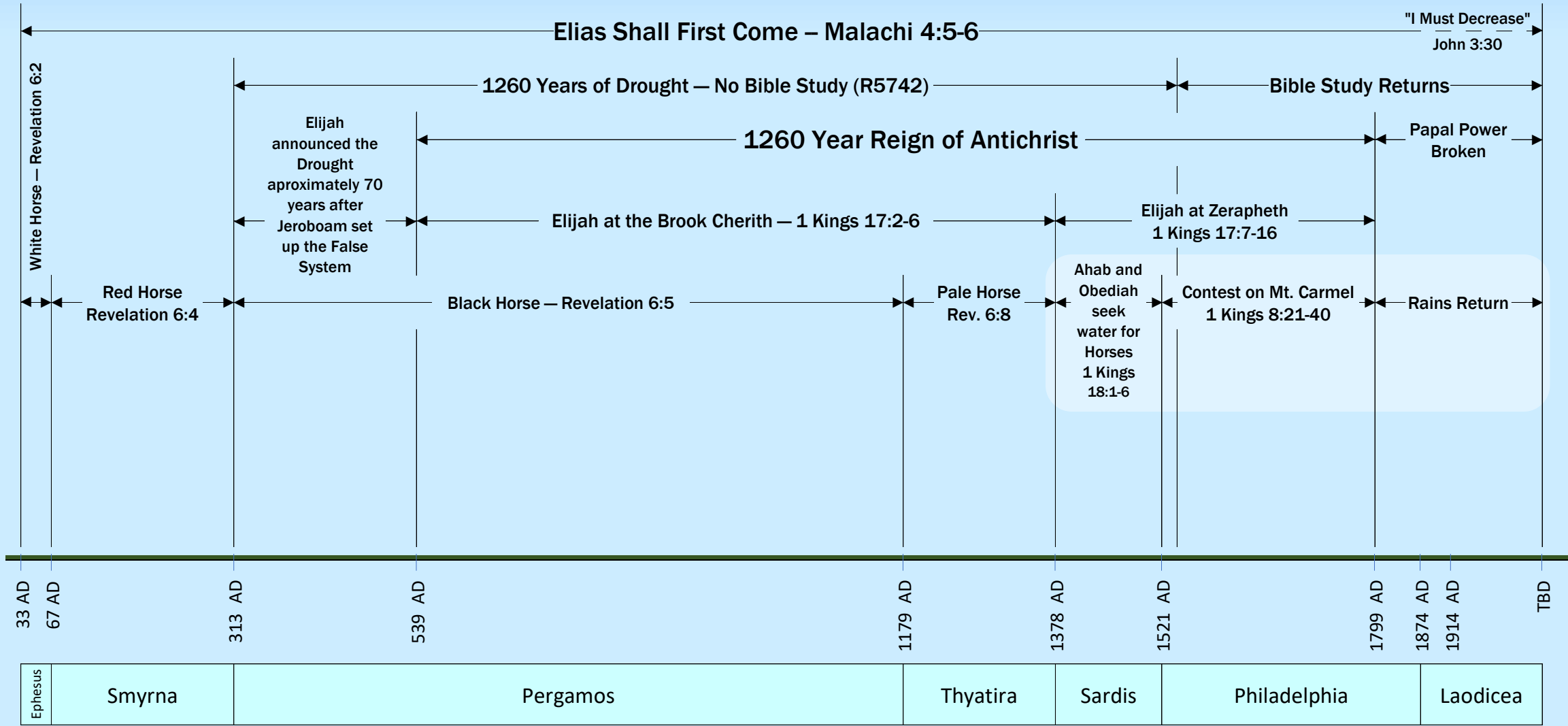
— 1 Kings 18:21-24 KJV

Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

— 2 Thessalonians 2:4 KJV

And Elijah said unto all the people, Come near unto me. And all the people came near unto him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD that was broken down. — 1 Kings 18:30 KJV

Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the LORD God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again. Then the fire of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench. And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces: and they said, The LORD, he is the God; the LORD, he is the God. — 1 Kings 18:37-39 KJV



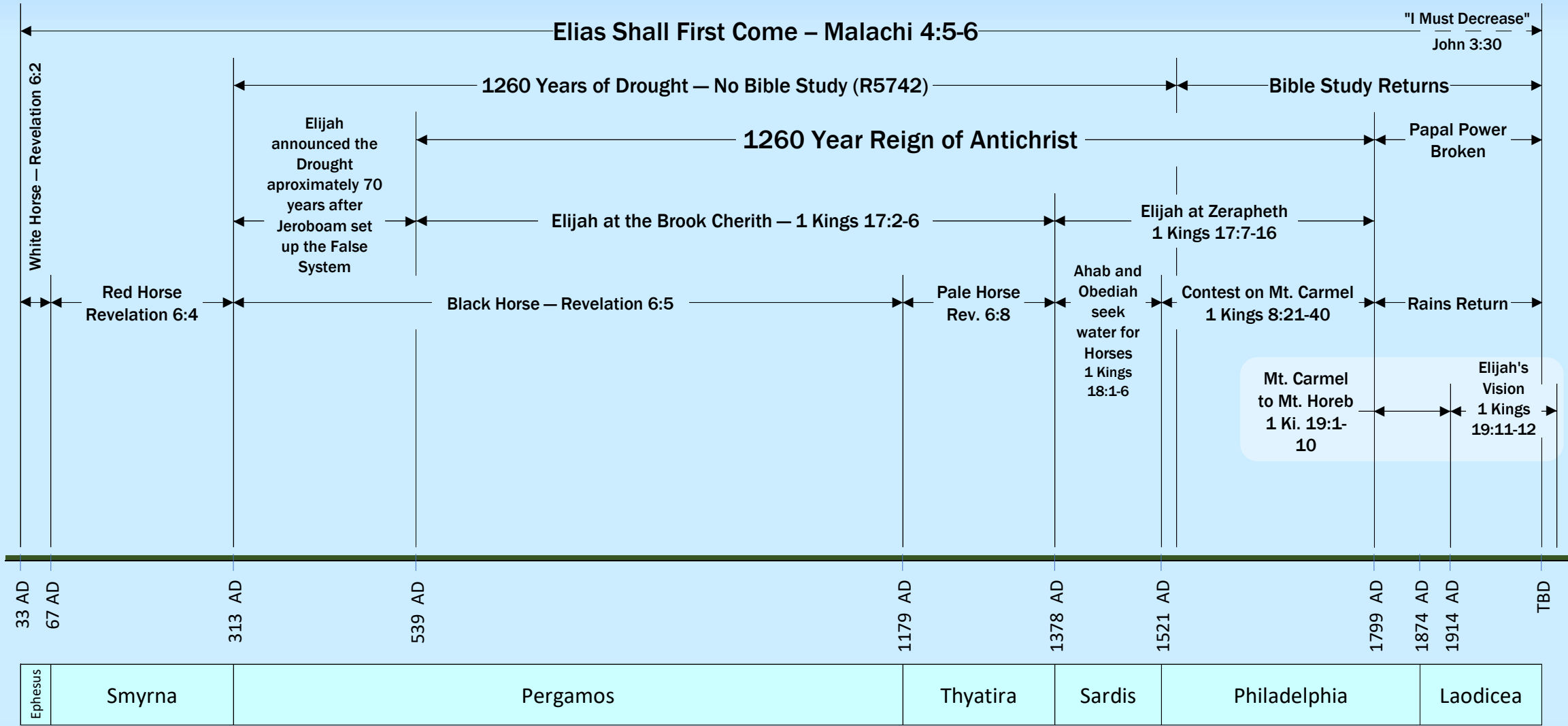
SECTION IV

THE SECOND WILDERNESS EXPERIENCE

FROM MOUNT CARMEL To MOUNT HOREB

1 Kings 19:1-8:

- After the contest on Mt. Carmel, Jezebel was angry that Elijah had slain all the priests of Baal. She sent Elijah a message threatening his life.
- Elijah fled to Beersheba in Judah and then “a day’s journey” into the wilderness beyond where he sat under a juniper tree and requested of the Lord that he might die.
- Elijah slept under that tree until awakened by an angel who told him to eat. He found bread baking on coals and a cruse of water by his head. He ate and drank and then fell asleep again.
- The angel woke him a second time and told him to eat and drink again, then travel “forty days and forty nights unto Horeb, the mount of God.”



And he came thither unto a cave, and lodged there; and, behold, the word of the LORD came to him, and he said unto him, What doest thou here, Elijah? ...

And he said, Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the LORD. And, behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong **wind** rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the LORD; but the LORD was not in the wind: and after the wind an **earthquake**; but the LORD was not in the earthquake: And after the earthquake a **fire**; but the LORD was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice. — 1 Kings 19:9-12 KJV

SECTION V

ELIJAH TAKEN IN A WHIRLWIND

THE FINAL EXPERIENCE OF THE CHURCH

There has been considerable speculation respecting this account of the three times and places at which Elijah invited Elisha to part company with him: ... (R3416.4)

In harmony with this illustration or type we shall expect that, as the present age draws to its close and the Elijah class passes away entirely, there will come various siftings or testings to this class of inferior consecration to separate them from the company and fellowship of the Elijah class. ... (R3416.5)

Subtitle: GILGAL, BETHEL, JERICHO, JORDAN —September 15, 1915

... Gilgal would seem to represent the beginning of the Harvest time—October, 1874. ... (R5772.9)

... The Spring of 1878 corresponded to Bethel. ... (R5772.10)

... the next date, which corresponded to Jericho; namely, 1881. ... (R5772.11)

The next point of time Scripturally marked was October, 1914—the close of the Times of the Gentiles, corresponding to Jordan. ... (R5772.12)

The Lord did not say that the Church would be glorified before the conclusion of the Gentile Times; yet such a thought was not an unreasonable one, in view of many Scriptures. Not disconcerted, Bible students are going on, even as Elijah and Elisha went on after crossing the Jordan. They are not, however, headed for any particular date, even as Elijah was not directed to go to any other place. Simply they went on, waiting for the Lord to fulfil His promise of taking Elijah in His own time and in His own way. (R5772.13)

And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.

— Revelation 11:15 KJV

... Of late we have been thinking considerably of what took place when Elijah and Elisha came to the river Jordan. They stopped there and stood talking. Something must be done before they could go further. So the Lord's people have been standing for a time since we came to October, 1914. Then Elijah took his mantle, wrapped it together and smote the waters of Jordan. The waters divided to right and left, and the Prophets went over dry shod. After they had crossed, they went on, talking together. They had received no further instructions from the Lord. They simply walked on. Suddenly the chariot of fire appeared and separated them, and Elijah was taken away in the chariot by a whirlwind. (R5845.4)

... we believe that the peoples of earth, the public in general, are to be judged by the Truth. The peoples are represented by waters. It would seem that in some way the people are to be judged and tested; and that a division of public sentiment is to be caused, in connection with the Truth. Waters are to be separated from waters, people from people, the Truth being received by some and rejected by others. Elijah wrapped his mantle together and smote the waters; and they were divided. ... (R5846.3)

And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.

– 2 Kings 2:11 KJV

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– 2 Kings 2:11 KJV

For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

– Matthew 24:24 KJV

