

Elijah and the Church – Type and Antitype *Time is at Hand* pg. 256

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. <u>Rev. 2:20</u>	The principal persecutor was the apostate Church of Rome, which claims to be a "queen" and ruler over spiritual Israel. <u>Rev. 18:7</u>
Jezebel's persecuting power was exercised through her husband, Ahab, the king.	Papacy's persecuting power was exercised through 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. <u>1 Kings 17:5-9</u>	The true Church fled into the symbolic wilderness – or condition of isolation – to her place, prepared of God, where she was sustained. <u>Rev. 12:6,16</u>
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. <u>James 5:17; 1 Kings 17:7; 18:2</u>	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. <u>Comp. Rev. 12:6; 11:3; Amos 8:11.</u>
After the three and a half years, 1260 days, when Elijah returned from the wilderness, the errors of Jezebel's priests were manifested, the true God was honored, and copious rains followed. <u>1 Kings 18:41-45</u>	At the end of 1260 years the power of the truth and its witnesses was manifested (A.D. 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. <u>1 Kings 18:40,45,46; 19:1-4</u>	The Bible has brought such blessings that the empires of earth recognize the Lord's hand; yet the <i>principles</i> 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.