

# Is ELIJAH history?

## מלכים Melakhim

Known in English as the books of 1 and 2 Kings, this source compiles together earlier sources describing the decline of the Israelite monarchy over 3 centuries until its destruction in 586 BC. The author/editor of Melakhim was specifically interested in the theological implications of this history over and above other details that would fascinate modern historians. Our storytelling of ELIJAH is taken word-for-word from this account - which scholars deduce must derive from a source no later than 8th Century BC due to its distinctive pure classical Hebrew writing style.

## מיכה Mikhah

Mikhah (or Micah) was written during the reigns of Jotham, Ahaz or Hezekiah (742 - 687 BC) by the prophet Micah from the Southern Kingdom Judah. He compares the evil and the social injustice of the Kingdoms in his day to that of the days of Omri and Ahab more than a century earlier and also possibly refers to the incident with Naboth the Jezreelite. Thus Micah provides an independent witness to the existence and the character of King Ahab.



Far from being a mythical book of fiction, the Bible is actually a collection of ancient Hebrew documents written by a variety of authors with many of the details corroborated by other non-biblical sources. The sources of information on the story surrounding ELIJAH are as follows:

## Books of the Annals of the Kings of Israel

Though there are no extant copies of this work in existence today, it was accessible during the days of the compilation of Melakhim - deduced from the frequent refrain: "is it not written in the books of the annals of the Kings of Israel". It described details about King Ahab's reign including his extensive building projects. Such projects may well be alluded to in Amos 3:15. Archeological excavations of Samaria have uncovered carvings matching these descriptions.

## Mesha Stele (Moabite Stone)

This is a basalt stone (see left) with an inscription by Mesha King of Moab - a contemporary of King Ahab. Discovered in Jordan in 1868, it was reconstructed and now resides in the Louvre Museum, Paris. It contains a record of how Omri conquered Moab, the subjugation of Moab under Omri's son, the name of the God of Israel and how Moab defeated Israel to regain independence - details which correspond to those found in 'Melakhim'.