

Today I would like to speak to you on this subject: Did Elijah Disobey God? or Must we Look beyond the bare words of Scripture? to see what it really means.

Elijah lived about a century before Isaiah. In 1 Ki. 19:15,16 we read a command that the Lord gave to Elijah. "And the Lord said, Go return on thy way to the wilderness of Damascus; and when thou comest, anoint Hazael to be king over Syria; and Jehu the son of Nimshi shalt thou anoint to be king over Israel: and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah shalt thou anoint to be prophet in thy room." (KJV says "in thy room" which of course means in your place.) Here we have a command the Lord gave Elijah. Did Elijah obey this command? He was told to anoint three men.

I have here a volume of the ZPEB. It is the latest large Encyclopedia of the Bible, published last year a book of 5 vols. which has articles of almost every subject related to the Bible. The attempt was made by the editors to select men who would be thoroughly true to the Bible in their viewpoints. You can't guarantee they will be because there were great numbers of translators. But it was the intention they should all be men of that type. I myself wrote three long articles in the series and about a dozen short ones. I did not write the article on ANOINT. But if you look at the article on ANOINT it== you find that persons were anointed to get relief from the sun, as part of their cosmetics; as part of the care of newly born infants. Shields were sometimes anointed before a battle. Anoint means to put a little oil on ~~something~~ something. It was done ordinarily to the High Priest. Kings were anointed. There is more mention of kings being anointed in Scripture than of any other sort of person being anointed.

Now Elijah was commanded to anoint Hazael king over Syria, and