

See, I Will Send You the Prophet Elijah Before That Great and Dreadful day of the LORD Comes Malachi 4: 4-6

DIG: Was John the Baptist really Elijah? What would have happened if Isra'el had accepted John's message? What will Elijah's ministry be when he returns?

Another event that is clearly predicted to happen before the Great Tribulation is the return of **Elijah**. This is **the second of five such events** that will occur throughout the first half of the Great Tribulation. So the ministry of **Elijah** will start before the Tribulation and continue on through the first half. The prophet **Malachi** said: **Remember the Torah of my servant Moses, the decrees and laws I gave him at Horeb for all Isra'el. See, I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of ADONAI comes. He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers. Or else I will come and strike the Land with a curse.** The Jewish family unit, strong for so many centuries, had begun to break down, and, according to **Malachi's** prophecy, would continue to break down. However, **Elijah's** coming ministry will restore that unity in preparation for the Second Coming of **Christ**.

Therefore, sometime before the Great Tribulation, **the prophet Elijah** will return to do **his** ministry of restoration. Thus, **Elijah** will serve as a forerunner of **Messiah's** Second Coming. John the Baptist was a type of **Elijah** in that he came in the spirit and power of **Elijah**. If **Isra'el** had accepted **Jesus'** message of **His** First Coming, then John would have accomplished the function of **Elijah**, which was the ministry of restoration. However, John the Baptist and the **Messiah** were both rejected. So **Elijah** is yet to come to perform **his** ministry of restoration before the Great Tribulation. As with the first **blackout**, it is not possible to pinpoint the exact time when **Elijah** will return in the sequence of pre-tribulational events, but when **he** does return, it will be considered **the seventh birth pain**.