

Days of Elijah

Part 1

7-19-20

1 Kings 17:1 (ESV)

Now Elijah the Tishbite, of Tishbe in Gilead, said to Ahab, “As the LORD, the God of Israel, lives, before whom I stand, there shall be neither dew nor rain these years, except by my word.”

We are experiencing attacks on Christianity in an unprecedented way in this country. Therefore, for the next few weeks we are going to look at the “Days of Elijah” where the same things were experienced. We will look at the situations and the principles in which God did HIS mighty work! Elijah is the most famous prophet of the Scriptures. Through him God performs some of the most incredible miracles in the Bible. **Elijah is first “abruptly” introduced to us in the Bible in 1 Kings 17:1. Interestingly, he is “unknown” to us until this time, when God brings him from obscurity and thrust him into the limelight by confronting the most notorious husband and wife team in all of Scripture; Ahab and Jezebel.** Ahab was the most evil of Israel’s kings. Ahab’s wife was Jezebel the Baal worshiping daughter of the pagan Sidonian king whose name was, *Ethbaal*, which means ‘Baal is alive’. Imagine your son introduces you to his girlfriend’s father. Meet, “Jesus is alive!” You would take notice. Also, you have another son and he introduces you to his girlfriend’s father. Meet, “Baal is alive!” You had also better take notice! Likewise, Jezebel was a terrible influence on Ahab.

1 Kings 21:25 (ESV)

There was none who sold himself to do what was evil in the sight of the LORD like Ahab, whom Jezebel his wife incited.

Elijah Lesson: #1 An Ahab needs an Elijah, and an Elijah needs an Ahab. What I am saying is that one doesn't need to call down fire unless there is an Ahab requiring that kind of action. **God gives HIS power proportionate to the need. Greater the opposition the greater the miracle! God is always bigger than the Ahab confronting us.** I love what Elijah's disciple the prophet Elisha said:

2 Kings 3:18 (ESV)

This is a light thing in the sight of the LORD.

We will acknowledge that there are plenty of Ahabs in the world, and we will acknowledge that God has the power to do mighty works. But most of us will bemoan the fact that there are not any Elijahs. **But God sees something else!**

James 5:17 (ESV)

Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth.

God sees HIS church full of Elijahs! The God of Elijah is our God today! This truth leads us to the next much neglected lesson and key Scriptural truth!

Elijah Lesson: #2 God still speaks! Notice how Elijah was introduced to us.

1 Kings 17:1 (ESV)

Now Elijah the Tishbite, of Tishbe in Gilead, said to Ahab, "As the LORD, the God of Israel, lives, before whom I stand, there shall be neither dew nor rain these years, except by my word."

We have great insight into Elijah and his power in 1Kings 18:36 where he confronts the false prophets.

1 Kings 18:36 (ESV)

Elijah the prophet said, “O LORD, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that you are God in Israel, and that I am your servant, and that I have done all these things at your word.”

This is a lesson we must grasp to move in the power of Elijah. Elijah did what God told him to do. Grasp this statement, “Let it be known this day that you are God, and that I am your servant, and that I have done all these things at YOUR WORD.” REPEAT! Elijahs listen to God and do what God says.

I firmly believe we need to experience the presence of God and hear God in order to live in the power demonstrated by Elijah. This comes from spending time with Jesus, but also this is a discipline we can learn and develop. I have material and have given classes on hearing from God. The key point is that in all circumstances of our life, God still speaks! God speaks through the Bible, the Holy Spirit, and Godly counsel just like HE did for Elijah. Remember Elijah is just like us. Until we grasp and practice this, our Christian life will be powerless.

Once we grasp this truth, “Beware!” God may “abruptly” bring us from obscurity and thrust us into the limelight confronting the most notorious Ahab of our day! Hearing God’s truth leads us into another powerful truth of Scripture!

Elijah Lesson #3 Obedience to what God says brings provision!

1 Kings 17:2–6 (ESV)

² And the word of the LORD came to him: ³ “Depart from here!”

⁴ “You shall drink from the brook, and I have commanded the ravens to feed you there.” ⁵ **So he went and did according to the word of the LORD.** ⁶ And the ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning, and bread and meat in the evening, and he drank from the brook.

This miraculous provision came after Elijah did what God told him to do! This principle of God’s provision is repeated a multitude of times throughout the Bible! We may not be camped out by a stream and the birds bringing us food, but God will still miraculously provide.

We must understand this next Biblical truth, or we will become very discouraged and possibly quit before God performs HIS mighty miraculous work in our lives. **If we grasp this, we can persevere in faith through anything.**

Elijah Lesson #4 Don’t be surprised when things get worse!

1 Kings 17:7 (ESV)

And after a while the brook dried up, because there was no rain in the land.

Once we hear God, we must persevere. We are not totally exempt from the devastation around us. However, God has not forsaken us. When the stream dries up, God has other things in store. Trusting God and keeping our eyes on HIM leads to the understanding of the next Biblical truth which also is repeated a multitude of times throughout Scripture.

Elijah Lesson #5 When things get worse, God speaks again!

1 Kings 17:8–9 (ESV)

⁸Then the word of the LORD came to him, ⁹“Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. **Behold, I have commanded a widow there to feed you.**”

This account is worth reading:

1 Kings 17:10–14 (ESV)

¹⁰So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, a widow was there gathering sticks. And he called to her and said, “Bring me a little water in a vessel, that I may drink.” ¹¹And as she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, “Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand.” ¹²And she said, “As the LORD your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. And now I am gathering a couple of sticks that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it and die.” ¹³And Elijah said to her, “Do not fear; go and do as you have said. But first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterward make something for yourself and your son. ¹⁴For thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, ‘The jar of flour shall not be spent, and the jug of oil shall not be empty, until the day that the LORD sends rain upon the earth.’”

God is continuing to work with us and the people HE puts around us. Never overlook or discount the poor and humble among us, because God will use them in powerful ways! [This leads to the next Biblical truth!](#)

Elijah Lesson #6 From the little that is in the jar, flows the abundance and power of God!

1 Kings 17:15–16 (ESV)

¹⁵ And she went and did as Elijah said. And she and he and her household ate for many days. ¹⁶ The jar of flour was not spent, neither did the jug of oil become empty, according to the word of the LORD that he spoke by Elijah.

“Speak the Word God spoke to you!” The “Days of Elijah” means we are the avenue of God. What have we learned:

#1 Every Ahab has an Elijah and every Elijah has an Ahab.

#2 God still speaks through the Bible, the Holy Spirit, and Godly counsel.

#3 Obedience to what God tells us brings provision.

#4 Don’t be surprised when things get worse; persevere!

#5 When things get worse, God speaks again!

#6 From the little that is in the jar, flows the abundance and power of God!

Like Elijah, in these dark times, God has called us out from obscurity into the limelight. We as God’s people are the lights in the darkness. If we will seek, listen, and obey, God will provide the miracles that only God can do.

Jesus said:

John 14:12 (ESV)

Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.