



1 Kings 17:1-6; James 5:16-18

17 And Elijah the Tishbite, of the inhabitants of Gilead, said to Ahab, “As the Lord God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, except at my word.” 2 Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, 3 “Get away from here and turn eastward, and hide by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan. 4 And it will be that 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, for he went and stayed by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan.



Elijah- appears suddenly and dramatically with little known about his lineage

1st miracle- no water for 3 1/2 years

Lonely seemed to not have many associates

Taken to heaven in a chariot of fire

Most miracles associated with death and destruction

Judgment

A protest against evil

Public

Elisha- get the name of his father and what his occupation was

1st miracle- healing of the springs of water and to produce an abundance of water

Many people in his life with the company of prophets

Got sick and died

Most miracles associated with healing and restoration

Grace

Continuous testimony to the readiness of God to relieve the distressed and respond to the call of need to those who sought after God

Private

The back to back nature of these two men show clearly God's mercy and kindness. It seems like the end was after Elijah's life, but then Elisha shows up giving hope for a better future.

Back to Elijah- “His sudden appearance out of complete obscurity, his dramatic intervention in the life of Israel, his miracles, his departure from earth in a chariot of fire, all serve to grip the imagination.”

New Testament talks about his presence on the mount of transfiguration as well as telling us that John the Baptist came in the spirit and power of Elijah.

Elijah" (Elias), whose name occurs thirty times in the New Testament

An important truth- James 5- 17 “**Elijah was a man with a nature like ours**”

¹⁷ Elijah was a human being with a nature such as we have [with feelings, affections, and a constitution like ours]; and he prayed earnestly for it not to rain, and no rain fell on the earth for three years and six months.- Amp

17 And Elijah the Tishbite, of the inhabitants of Gilead, said to Ahab, “As the Lord God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, except at my word.”

✓ The Culture in which he lived

58 years had passed since the kingdom had been rent in twain following the death of Solomon.

During that time seven kings had reigned over the ten tribes and everyone of them were evil, wicked men.

“He was the most eminent prophet reserved for the most corrupt age”

Jereboam- 1 Kings 12:28-32

Nadab- 15:26

Baasha the murderer- 15:27

Elah- 16:8, 9 a drunkard

Zimri (ZIMree)- 16:20 treason

Omri- 16:25-26

Ahab- 16:30-31, 33

Jehovah is out Baal is in!

The most illustrious prophet Elijah was raised up in the reign of the most wicked of the kings of Israel.

“Drastic diseases call for drastic remedies”

We live in a culture that both the law and the Gospel are despised or discounted.

My way tolerance

III. Hospice meeting, nursing home call to stop talking!

✓ The Character which he developed

1 Kings 19:10 and 14

And he said, I have been very jealous for the LORD God of hosts: because the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away.

Zechariah 8:2

Thus saith the LORD of hosts; I was jealous ^{H7065} for Zion with great jealousy, and I was jealous ^{H7065} for her with great fury.

He was motivated to action

He lived in the awareness of the presence of God

James 5

17 Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. 18 And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.

He prayed because he was assured that the Lord God lived and ruled over all. He prayed because he realized that God is almighty and that with him all things are possible. He prayed because he felt his own weakness and insufficiency and therefore turned to the One who is clothed with might and in infinitely self-sufficient. He prayed because he was jealous for God.

It has been said that today's church has many organizers, it has few agonizers; many who pay, but few who pray; many resters, but few wrestlers; many who are enterprising, but few who are interceding.

Elijah explodes on the scene, his name meaning "The Lord is God"

The Hebrew word for “God” in the Old Testament is Elohim, which is occasionally abbreviated El. The word jah is the word for “Jehovah.” Thus, in Elijah’s name we find the word for “God” and the word for “Jehovah.” Between them is the small letter I, which in Hebrew has reference to the personal pronoun “my” or “mine.” Putting the three together, then, we find that Elijah’s name means “My God is Jehovah” or “The Lord is my God.”

✓ The Courage that he demonstrated

As the LORD, the God of Israel lives before Whom I stand - (Note similar description "As the LORD of hosts lives" by Elisha – 2 Kings 3:14, 5:16)
Note Elijah's opening salvo is God lives! The fact that Yahweh still lives would assure everything Elijah said would transpire. Elijah affirms faith in a God Who is ever living not in a dead god like Baal.

He is essentially saying I am God's man with God's Word. Before Whom I stand should have made Ahab uneasy for Elijah spoke with confidence knowing what it was like to be in the Lord’s presence and to commune with Him, something that wicked Ahab had never experienced.

The fear of God had driven out Elijah’s fear of man, and thus he had the kind of spiritual boldness that is given only to those who linger in the presence of the living God.

-- Philip Ryken

III. Bus incident- roller rally

True ministry is initiated by God.

Isaiah 40: ²⁸ Have you not known?
Have you not heard?
The everlasting God, the Lord,
The Creator of the ends of the earth,
Neither faints nor is weary.
His understanding is unsearchable.
²⁹ He gives power to the weak,

And to *those who have* no might He increases strength.

³⁰ Even the youths shall faint and be weary,

And the young men shall utterly fall,

³¹ But those who wait on the Lord

Shall renew *their* strength;

They shall mount up with wings like eagles,

They shall run and not be weary,

They shall walk and not faint.

Example- David and Goliath- 1 Samuel 17 ⁴⁵ Then David said to the Philistine, “You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. ⁴⁶ This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you. And this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. ⁴⁷ Then all this assembly shall know that the Lord does not save with sword and spear; for the battle is the Lord’s, and He will give you into our hands.”

How scary was that to meet with King Ahab with a devastating truth.

Whitfield - Our boldness for God before the world must always be the result of individual dealing with God in secret. Our victories over self, and sin, and the world, are always first fought where no eye sees but God’s.... If there be the daily work going on within us, unseen and unnoticed by any but God Himself, then we may depend upon certain victory in our conflicts before the world—then may we stand before an Ahab, and realize a living God at our side.... And if we have not these secret conflicts, well may we not have any open ones. The outward absence of conflict betrays the inward sleep of the soul.

[Deuteronomy 11:13-17+](#) (GOD'S WARNING OF DROUGHT FOR DISOBEDIENCE)

This consciousness of the presence of God, gives hope and courage in darkness or danger;

✓ The Call that he obeyed

“Can your horse run fast?” was a question addressed to a boy by a gentleman as the former was holding the horse’s head in a busy London street. He replied, “No, sir; he cannot run fast, but he can stand fast”; a great quality to be admired and commended

in a horse. Yes, and in men and women. For these are difficult days, and there are many temptations to turn us from the paths that are right and good.

What are we living for? Sports, entertainment, possessions?

It must be deeper than that!

It's hard but who will be the voice for truth?

Who's going to reach this generation?

Who's going to reach future generations?

Ezekiel 22:30- 30 So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one.

2 Chronicles 16:9- 9 For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of *those* whose heart is loyal to Him

Dr. Warren W. Wiersbe writes, "Some may ask, 'Where is the LORD God of Elijah?'. Perhaps the better question is, where are the Elijahs?" Where are the Elijahs of God?

James Gilmour (1843-1891) of Mongolia writes, "Do not we rest in our day too much on the arm of flesh? Cannot the same wonders be done now as of old? Do not the eyes of the Lord still run to and fro throughout the whole earth to show Himself strong on behalf of those who put their trust in Him? Oh, that God would give me more practical faith in Him! Where is now the Lord God of Elijah? He is waiting for Elijah to call on Him."

Since Elijah was a man like us, we are called to become men and women like him. Elijah's strategy for living for God in an evil day can be summarized in three simple words: pray, obey, stay.

