



Elijah, a Bright Prophet, in a Dark World
I Kings 18
March 19, 2023

Today, in the land of Israel, an oversized statue of Elijah stands on a high pedestal at the peak of Mount Carmel. I've stopped to look at it on my two previous trips to the Holy Land. There stands the bearded prophet, Elijah, with a large knife held in his hand, raised high above his head. For somewhere near the summit of that very mountain, the prophet of God stood toe to toe with the prophets of Baal, calling down fire from heaven to consume them. It was one man against the world. Elijah was an exclamation point to every sentence, a shock treatment to his nation, and an iconic personality to contend with. He saw things as only right or wrong; there was Jehovah or Baal, but no one in between. He tolerated no evil. Therefore, with Spirit-led passion, he confronted people about their sin.

1 Kings 16:30 (NKJV) Now Ahab, the son of Omri, did evil in the sight of the Lord, more than all who were before him.

Bill Stafford:

"God still owns the ravens He owned when he fed Elijah, and He still knows how to dispatch them down to earth when His people need feeding."

Luke 4:24–26 (ESV) And Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, no prophet is acceptable in his hometown. But in truth, I tell you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heavens were shut up three years and six months, and a great famine came over all the land, and Elijah was sent to none of them but only to Zarephath, in the land of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow.

I. Elijah's Preparation

James 5:17–18 (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. Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit.

Francis Schaeffer:

"One of these days, we're going to wake up and discover that the America that we all once knew is gone."

II. Elijah's Personality

1 Kings 18:17–18 (ESV) When Ahab saw Elijah, Ahab said to him, "Is it you, you troubler of Israel?" And he answered, "I have not troubled Israel, but you have, and your father's house, because you have abandoned the commandments of the LORD and followed the Baals.

Takeaway:

I am of deep conviction that the reason we are seeing so much evil in America is that we have totally forsaken the One True God.

Takeaway:

Until we get ready to give God our full-time attention, we can forget about getting God's full-time attention.

III. Elijah's Prayer

1 Kings 18:36-37 (ESV) And at the time of the offering of the oblation, Elijah the prophet came near and 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. Answer me, O LORD, answer me, that this people may know that you, O LORD, are God, and that you have turned their hearts back.

Takeaway:

This is one powerful prayer. I counted 62 words in his prayer, and you can pray it in 25 seconds. The power of prayer doesn't reside in the prayer and the one praying but rather in the God we are praying to.