

## **ELIJAH'S PRAYER**

God shares this historical event from Elijah's life to show us the mind-set & lifestyle of a mature believer who is intimate with God. Because Elijah has surrendered his mind & heart to focus on the Lord, he became aware of what the Lord wants, likes, desires; he came to know the Lord in a personal way, was totally surrendered to Him so that when a prayer for drought was appropriate, he knew it and asked for it. He knew what to ask for because he knew the Lord's heart.

1 Kgs.16:29-34	Perversion	Ahab - Foreign wife & false gods
1 Kgs.:1	Prophetic Prayer	Prayer of a sp. mature Patriot
1 Kgs.17:2-16	Provision	Miracles – airlifted steak & special flower/oil

### **16:29-34 – Perversion – Ahab, Jezebel & Baal**

**Ahab** – 7<sup>th</sup> king of the Northern Kingdom, reigned 28 years from 919-897 BC. Humanly speaking, a good king, especially in foreign policy: re-established trade with the Phoenicians, made peace with Judea, made an alliance with king of Damascus. Spiritually he was a weak and evil leader. Led the nation into idolatry.

30 - did evil in the sight of the Lord more than all before him

31 – Ahab considered it trivial to follow sins of Jeroboam – establish idolatrous religion; **Jezebel** – princess of Sidon, worshipper & promoter of Baal, woman who brought idolatry to the land (Rev 2:20), 1King 18:4 – killed the prophets of Yaweh, 18:19 450 prophets of Baal ate at her table. **Baal** – Sun god who controlled the skies and giver of rain; worship included human sacrifice of children and sexual immorality

32 – Ahab built an altar to Baal

33 – Asherah – female counterpart to Baal; did more to provoke the Lord

34 – Heil – rebuilt Jericho; lost his oldest & youngest sons as promised by the Lord (Josh 6:26) to anyone who would rebuild that city – example of the Lord keeping His promises

- Ahab was an evil king who disobeyed God by marrying a foreign woman Dt 7:3
- Ahab was an evil king who led the nation into religious perversion – idolatry
- Jezebel was a murderer: prophets of Yaweh & Naboth for his vineyard
- The royal couple brought corruption into the land – Baal

### **17:1 – Elijah the Patriot – Prophetic prayer**

1 – As the Lord God of Israel lives – in cp to Baal who is nothing more than a dead piece of wood & stone artfully crafted to “represent” a significant presence, but doesn't.

1 – before whom I stand – intimacy image; ready to serve in any capacity

1 – neither dew nor rain these years until I speak it – not even dew

- The Hebrew does not tell how or why Elijah ends up before Ahab – he does
- Dt 11:16-17 – God warns that idolatry results in drought
- Elijah prays according to God's promise – prayed for no rain

**Jam 5:17-18** – prayed earnestly it would not rain – did not rain 3 yrs., 6 Mo's; prayed again and it rained.

- When Elijah recognized the degenerate influence of Ahab's idolatry, he decided to appeal to the Lord to turn his nation around and back to the Lord.
- Note that Ahab's leadership had brought economic prosperity and a measure of peace with neighboring nations.
- Elijah's priority was spiritual, not economic; He wanted his nation to be at peace with God even if it meant war with neighbors.
- Note what he didn't pray: prosperity, military victory, peace on earth, etc.
- The content of Elijah's prayer was aimed at bringing his people back to the Lord
- He believed that relationship with Yahweh was so important that he was willing for those he loved to suffer and even die if it would awaken them to God.
- What do you pray for your loved ones who are at odds with the Lord????!!!

### **17:2-16 – Provision for the Drought – ravens & the widow of Zarephath**

2-4 word/Lord – go away, hide yourself by a brook – he was not popular with Ahab;

I have commanded the ravens to provide for you there – incredible

5-7 – ravens airlifted bread/meat & he drank from the brook of Cherith until the brook dried up because of the drought

8-9 – word/Lord – go to Zarephath – city of Sidon, the home of Jezebel; widow

- Widows were most helpless of all & first to die in a famine He uses the helpless
- Sidon was the nation where the idolatry had originated

10-12 – only enough for 1 meal – then my son and I will die – fish & loaves

13-14 – Do not fear, God has promised your little bit will be enough

15-16 – she obeyed, and the flour and oil did not run out – according to the word/Lord

- Mt 6:25-34 – do not be anxious about food, clothing & shelter
- God's provision for bel's is guaranteed – not dependent on circumstances
- God provides in most unusual ways through the most unlikely people

**John 6:9** – young boy had 5 loaves and 2 fishes – fed 5 thousand

### **Jam 5:17-18**

17 – a man like us – Elijah was no super hero – he was subject to weakness like all of us

17 – prayed earnestly – **proseuche** + **proseuchomai** – intensity

17 – no rain – it did not rain – 3 yrs. 6 mo.

1. What do you want for your loved ones? Pleasure/prosperity; Peace/intimacy Lord
2. Having learned how God uses adversity for our growth, do you have the faith & courage to pray adversity on your loved ones that they might seek the Lord?
3. Idolatry: dependence upon anything/one but the Lord for +H & provision
4. Elijah prayed max adversity to break the idolatry of his nation – many died
5. Do we trust God to ask Him rain adversity on USA turn our people back to God?
6. All proper prayer is a prophetic pronouncement – ask Him to make it so!!
7. Mind-set of the mature believer is absolute confidence that He honors His promises
8. Will of God = eternal plan of God – pray for anything compatible with the plan
9. Praying God's will is praying for spiritual goals and outcomes – add or subtract material things for spiritual results – drought = adversity to break free from idolatry.
10. God's plan is focused on & fulfilled in the eternal state – our prayers are best focused on that which has eternal impact in a person's life.