

Lesson 7

ELIJAH: A MAN OF PRAYER

1. King Ahab, the king of Israel, married Jezebel, who was a very wicked woman. She led the people of Israel to worship Baal and King Ahab followed his wife's ways. The two of them caused many men and women to worship Baal, and because of this God was very angry with Ahab and the people of Israel (**1 Kings 16:31-33**).
2. God sent the prophet Elijah to King Ahab. Elijah was a man of God and he was not afraid of anyone. Elijah said to Ahab, "In the name of the Lord, the living God of Israel, whom I serve, I tell you that there will be no dew or rain for the next two or three years, until I say so" **1 Kings 17:1**. God did this to King Ahab and the people of Israel because they had rejected him and were worshipping idols.
3. After Elijah had spoken to the king, God told him to leave and go to a place called Cherith Creek to hide. Elijah obeyed the Lord, and went to this place where a stream supplied him with water. God also sent the ravens with food twice a day (**1 Kings 17:2-7**). It did not rain in the whole country of Israel for three years. The gardens dried up and everyone was very hungry.
4. Then God told Elijah to go and see King Ahab again. Elijah said to Ahab, "You and your family have refused to obey God. It is your fault that this trouble has come to Israel. Now you must call for all the people and all the prophets of Baal to come to Mt. Carmel" (**1 Kings 18:18-19**).
When all the people had gathered, Elijah told them to build an altar and kill two bulls. The prophets of Baal took one and Elijah prepared the other one. They put the bulls on the altars but did not light the firewood. Now Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, "You pray to your god and ask him to send fire to burn the firewood." They obeyed Elijah and prayed to Baal until the middle of the afternoon, but no fire came. Elijah laughed at them and made fun of them (**1 Kings 18:20-29**).
5. Then Elijah rebuilt the altar of the Lord. He dug a trench around it to hold water, and he put the firewood on the altar with the bull. He told some people to pour twelve buckets of water over the offering and the wood (**1 Kings 18:30-35**).
6. Elijah prayed, "O Lord, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, prove now that you are the God of Israel and that I am your servant and have done all this at your command. Answer me, Lord, answer me, so that this people will know that you, the Lord, are God and that you are bringing them back to yourself." When he finished praying the Lord sent fire down and it burned up the sacrifice, the wood, and the stones, scorched the earth and dried up the water in the trench. All the people saw this and threw themselves on the ground and said, "The Lord is God; the Lord alone is God!" **1 Kings 18:36-39**.
7. Elijah told the people of Israel, "Seize the prophets of Baal; don't let any of them get away!" **1 Kings 18:40**. The people seized them all, and Elijah led them down to Kishon Brook and killed them.
8. Then Elijah said to King Ahab, "I hear the roar of rain approaching" **1 Kings 18:41**. Ahab left and Elijah climbed to the top of Mt. Carmel. where he knelt down on the ground to pray. He said to his servant, "Go and look and see if there is a cloud?" The servant came back and said, "I didn't see anything." Seven times in all Elijah told him to go and look. The seventh time he returned and said, "I saw a little cloud no bigger than a man's hand coming up from the sea" **1 Kings 18:42-44**.
9. In a little while the sky was full of dark clouds and heavy rain began to fall (**1 Kings 18:44**). James 5:16 says, "The prayer of a good person has a powerful effect." Elijah was a man of faith so God answered his prayers **James 1:6-8** says, "But when you pray, you must believe and not doubt at all. Whoever doubts is like a wave in the sea that is driven and blown about by the wind. If you are like that, unable to make up your mind and undecided in all you do, you must not think that you will receive anything from the Lord."

Elijah, shows us how to pray and believe. He prayed six times and it didn't rain but he kept on believing and did not give up. When he prayed the seventh time "the sky poured out its rain and the earth produced its crops" **James 5:18**. Jesus told his disciples that they should always pray and not become discouraged (**Luke 18:1**). **Colossians 4:2** says, "Be persistent in prayer, and keep alert as you pray, giving thanks to God."

1 I KGS 16.31-33



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I KGS 17:1

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I KGS 17.2-7

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I KGS 18:18-29

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I KGS 18.30-35

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I KGS 18.36-39

7



I KGS 18.40

8



I KGS 18.42-44

7



9



I KGS 18:45
JAS 5:16,18, JAS 1:6-8