

	<p align="center"> “Elijah: Called to Be a Bright Light in a Dark Time” Pastor Robert Reid Calvary Monument Bible Church July 10, 2022 </p>	
<p>INTRODUCTION</p> <p>The Gallup Poll headline (news.gallup.com – 06.17.22) read, “Belief in God in U.S. Dips to 81%, a New Low.” Since the time Gallup first asked this question in 1944, consistently 98% said they believed in God. When Gallup asked the question nearly five decades later, in 2011, 92% of Americans said they believed in God.” The current decline is significant. In 2017, the belief stood at 87% -- belief is now at 81% -- a 6% decline in five years. Equally disturbing was the finding that, “About half of those who believe in God -- equal to 42% of all Americans -- say God hears prayers and can intervene on a person's behalf. Meanwhile, 28% of all Americans say God hears prayers but cannot intervene, while 11% think God does neither.” We are becoming a nation of doubters. What is required in this growing darkness? Living in a dark world requires that we represent God as bright lights. The prophet Elijah was living in a nation that was living in even darker times. His actions portray a model for us as we live in our day.</p> <p>FIRST ACTION</p> <p><i>I. Declare God’s message (1 Kings 17:1)</i></p> <p><i>FOUR THINGS that stand out about Elijah</i></p> <p><i>A. Servant was unique</i></p> <p><i>B. Servant was an ordinary person God chose</i></p> <p><i>C. Servant’s message</i></p> <p><i>D. Servant faced evil</i></p> <p>SECOND ACTION</p> <p><i>II. Discover God’s Power (1 Kings 17:2-24)</i></p> <p><i>A. To supply needs (2-7) at Cherith</i></p> <p><i>B. To supply abundantly (8-16) at Zarephath</i></p>	<p>Deut. 6:4, 5</p> <p>Ex. 20:3-5</p> <p>Deut. 11:13-17</p> <p>1 Kg. 18:4, 13</p>	

C. To supply miraculously (17-24)

THIRD ACTION

III. Display God's Presence (1 Kings 18:17-19:3)

A. Announced the nation's problem (17-19)

B. Proposed a vivid demonstration (20-38)

1. Declaration (20-21)

2. Demonstration (22-24)

3. Display of God's power (25-46)

*C. Resulted in God's light being manifested in a dark nation
(18:39—19:3)*

2 Kg 16:3

FURTHER REFLECTION OR ACTION

1. Jesus has called us to be lights in a dark world (Matthew 5:14—15). What does that mean? What specific actions should you take so that you can turn up the lights in the darkness around you? What specific places has God possibly called you to be lights for His glory?
2. What makes you think that being a light in a dark world is a calling for someone else but not you? Maybe you are willing to show up in a dark world and be a "silent witness." Perhaps we should consider adding words to that witness and not fear declaring an unpopular message. Remember to speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15) and with wisdom and innocence (Matthew 10:16).
3. Perhaps before you are to be used by God you need to be refined by God to remove impurities that would distort the light you are to bear. Take some time this week to ask the Lord to uncover things that need to be conformed to the image of Christ (Romans 8:29). Simply ask, "What needs to change in my words and actions so that I am more like Christ?"