

Alone

Elijah: Character, Ministry, and Exhaustion

Elijah's Character: Focused on God.

- 1st Kings views genealogies with great importance, it is the recording of the royal lines. Elijah is introduced with no family, no tribe, and no call to serve as prophet.
- Elijah means The LORD, He is God (Yahweh is my God).
 - This is not just Elijah's name but his declaration and his desire for God's people.

1 Kings 18:37 *ESV*

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."

- One of the famous moments in Elijah's life is found in this pronouncement (and it's in the very first mention of Elijah in Scripture.)

1 Kings 17:1 *ESV* Now Elijah the Tishbite, of Tishbe in Gilead, said to Ahab, "As the Lord, the God of Israel, lives, before whom I stand, there shall be neither dew nor rain these years, except by my word."

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.

Deuteronomy 11:16–17 *ESV* Take care lest your heart be deceived, and you turn aside and serve other gods and worship them; then the anger of the Lord will be kindled against you, and he will shut up the heavens, so that there will be no rain, and the land will yield no fruit, and you will perish quickly off the good land that the Lord is giving you.

- Elijah humbly serves God.
 - In [1 Kings 17:1](#) and 18:15 he refers to his service before God like this "before whom I stand". This is language that speaks of a servant standing in the presence of his King.
- Elijah's Obedience

1 Kings 17:3–4 *ESV* "Depart from here and turn eastward and hide yourself by the brook Cherith, which is east of the Jordan. You shall drink from the brook, and I have commanded the ravens to feed you there."

- This is a problematic command. Hide. Alone. Eat what the unclean birds bring you to eat.

1 Kings 17:5 *ESV* So he went and did according to the word of the Lord.

1 Kings 17:9 *ESV* "Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. Behold, I have commanded a widow there to feed you."

1 Kings 17:10 *ESV* So he arose and went to Zarephath.

Elijah's Ministry: Constant, Powerful Faithfulness

- Baal is the god of storms, rain, and fertility. Elijah opposes him with spiritual warfare against the very identity of this "god".

- He obeys God. He trusts God (sustained by ravens, a widow, and very little flour and oil) and is literally hiding in the home country of his great enemy Jezebel.
- The first resurrection in Scripture comes through prayer in [1 Kings 17](#).
- He defeats 450 prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel. He prays and rain comes. He wins a chariot race, without a chariot, of 17 miles.

Elijah's Exhaustion

1 Kings 19:1–2 ESV Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, “So may the gods do to me and more also, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by this time tomorrow.”

1 Kings 19:3–4 ESV Then he was afraid, and he arose and ran for his life and came to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and left his servant there. But he himself went a day’s journey into the wilderness and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he asked that he might die, saying, “It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life, for I am no better than my fathers.”

1 Kings 19:10 ESV He said, “I have been very jealous for the Lord, the God of hosts. For the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away.”

- I have worked so hard and nothing changed. The people don’t listen. There’s nobody left who follows you. They want to kill me.

We need to see our struggle clearly.

Until we realize our brokenness we will not see the refreshment, restoration, and renewal from God.

- The reason is simple: I don’t need it. I can handle it. I can do it myself.

1 Kings 18:21 ESV And Elijah came near to all the people and said, “How long will you go limping between two different opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him.” And the people did not answer him a word.

God’s Faithfulness

God has provided and will provide!

- Bread from ravens, safety and provision in Jezebel’s home territory. God has answered prayer and has raised the dead! (see 1 Kings 19:5-8)

God shows Elijah that he is not as alone as he thinks he is!

1 Kings 18:3–4 ESV And Ahab called Obadiah, who was over the household. (Now Obadiah feared the Lord greatly, and when Jezebel cut off the prophets of the Lord, Obadiah took a hundred prophets and hid them by fifties in a cave and fed them with bread and water.)

1 Kings 18:13 ESV Has it not been told my lord what I did when Jezebel killed the prophets of the Lord, how I hid a hundred men of the Lord’s prophets by fifties in a cave and fed them with bread and water?

God has brought him through the wilderness to reveal his presence.