



Elijah's Zeal

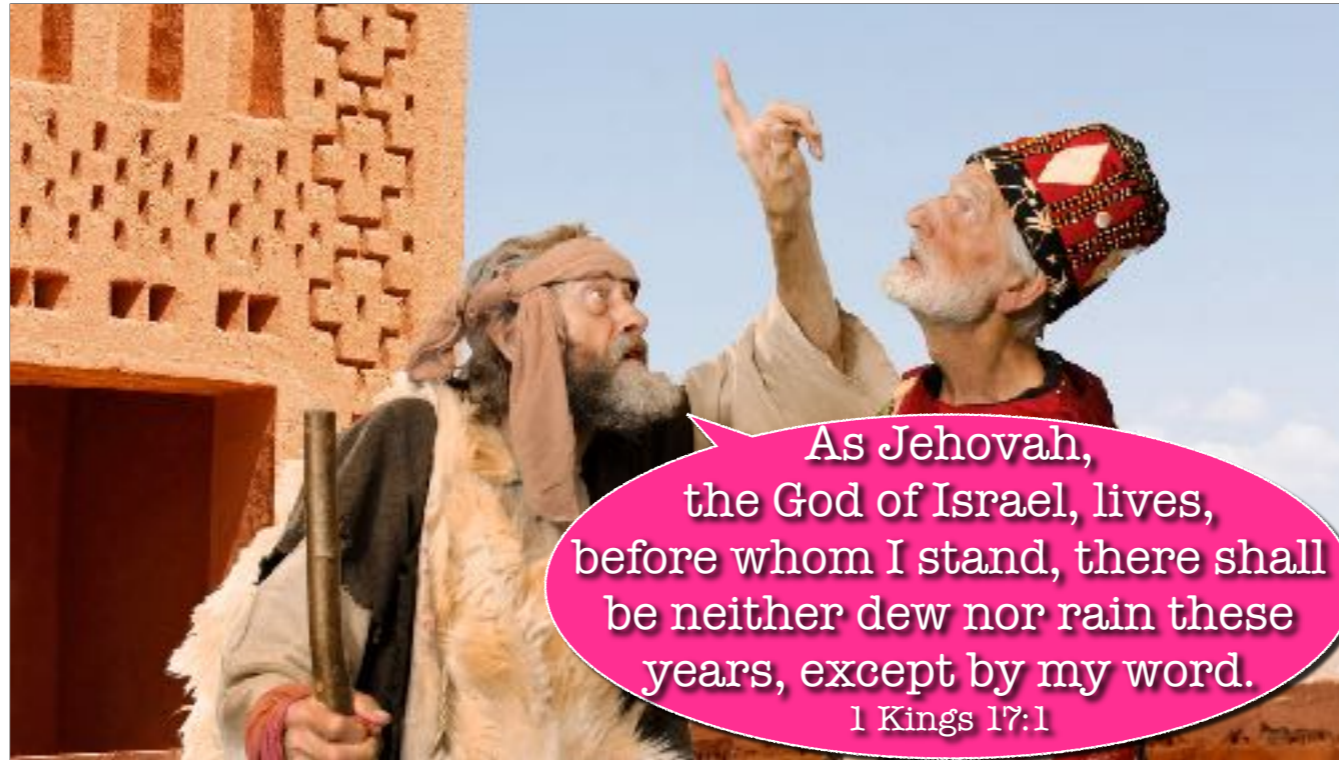
2 Kings 17-18



- 1 Kings 19:14: 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.”
- Is this a statement you would be bold enough to declare to Jehovah?
 - Many of us find things we are passionate about in our lives: work, study, hobby, family
 - Are you zealous for Jehovah? Very zealous?



- Elijah's spirit
 - 2 Kings 2:9 (ESV) 9 When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Ask what I shall do for you, before I am taken from you." And Elisha said, "**Please let there be a double portion of your spirit on me.**"
- What does it mean to be very zealous?
 - Let's look at what is revealed in God's Word...
 - 1 Kings 17



- 1 Kings 17:1: Now Elijah the Tishbite, of Tishbe in Gilead, said to Ahab, “As Jehovah, the God of Israel, lives, before whom I stand, there shall be neither dew nor rain these years, except by my word.”
- We know that this will last 3.5 years.
- As Jehovah, the God of Israel lives!
 - Elijah left no room for doubt about the reality of the existence of Jehovah.
 - Jehovah lives, but Baal does not.
 - Here is the great test ... proof that God is real.



Pray Fervently

As Jehovah,
the God of Israel, lives,
before whom I stand, there shall
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1 Kings 17:1

- James 5:16-18 (ESV) The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. 17 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. 18 Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit.
- Those who are zealous pray fervently!



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1 Kings 17:1

- So often we fail to remember the power and working of prayer.
- Prayer is something we do when all else fails, and often seen as weak.
 - “Thoughts and prayers” recently mocked nationally as being ineffective, and meaningless.
 - They wanted us to actually do something
 - Implying that prayer doesn’t really do anything.



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- Our Father, tells us that prayer has a great power as it is working!
 - James 5:16: The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.
 - The key here is not about prayer, but the one to whom we pray.
 - The power of prayer is Jehovah!



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1 Kings 17:1

- Elijah was in a spiritual warfare!
 - 1 Kings 19:14: 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
 - How did he fight? Prayer



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- 2 Corinthians 10:3-6 (ESV) 3 For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. 4 For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. 5 We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ, 6 being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete.



- Our warfare: world, society
 - We need to be praying.
 - Too often we turn to the wrong ways of fighting (worldly), and neglect prayer
 - We join in the fight politically, actively (protests),
 - Pray.



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- 1 Thessalonians 5:17: pray without ceasing
- Romans 12:12: be constant in prayer.
- Colossians 4:2: Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.



- Lack of rain and dew means that crops can't grow; water is limited for man and animals
- God took care of Elijah.
 - provides water in brook and food from ravens: then brook dries up



Obediently Following God

- God sends Elijah to Zarephath (Sidon), to widow
- Elijah asks for water and bread
- She only has a little flour and a little oil: expecting to die from lack of food
- E: **do not fear**: make some, bring me a little
- They ate from many days; flour and oil never empty.



- The food and drink of the world is money, self-sufficiency, pleasure
 - The world is facing a spiritual famine.
 - Many are feeding on a variety of foods that are junk, fake, and fail to nourish the soul of man
 - We often find ourselves struggling in a world that focus' on material things and selfishness.
 - Sometimes we find ourselves longing for the food of the world



- Fear Not
 - When we are hungry, God provides for us
 - Manna in the wilderness
 - Elijah in the wilderness
 - Elijah, widow, and household (son)



Obediently Following God

- Spiritually true too

- John 6:32-35 (ESV) 32 Jesus then said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. 33 For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” 34 They said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.” 35 Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.



Obediently Following God

- John 6:47-51 (ESV) 47 Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. 48 I am the bread of life. 49 Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. 50 This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. 51 I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”



- For us, we need to spend more time in reading, studying, and living God's Word: Feed on his word.
 - See Jesus, learn about Jesus, so that we can follow him and obey him.



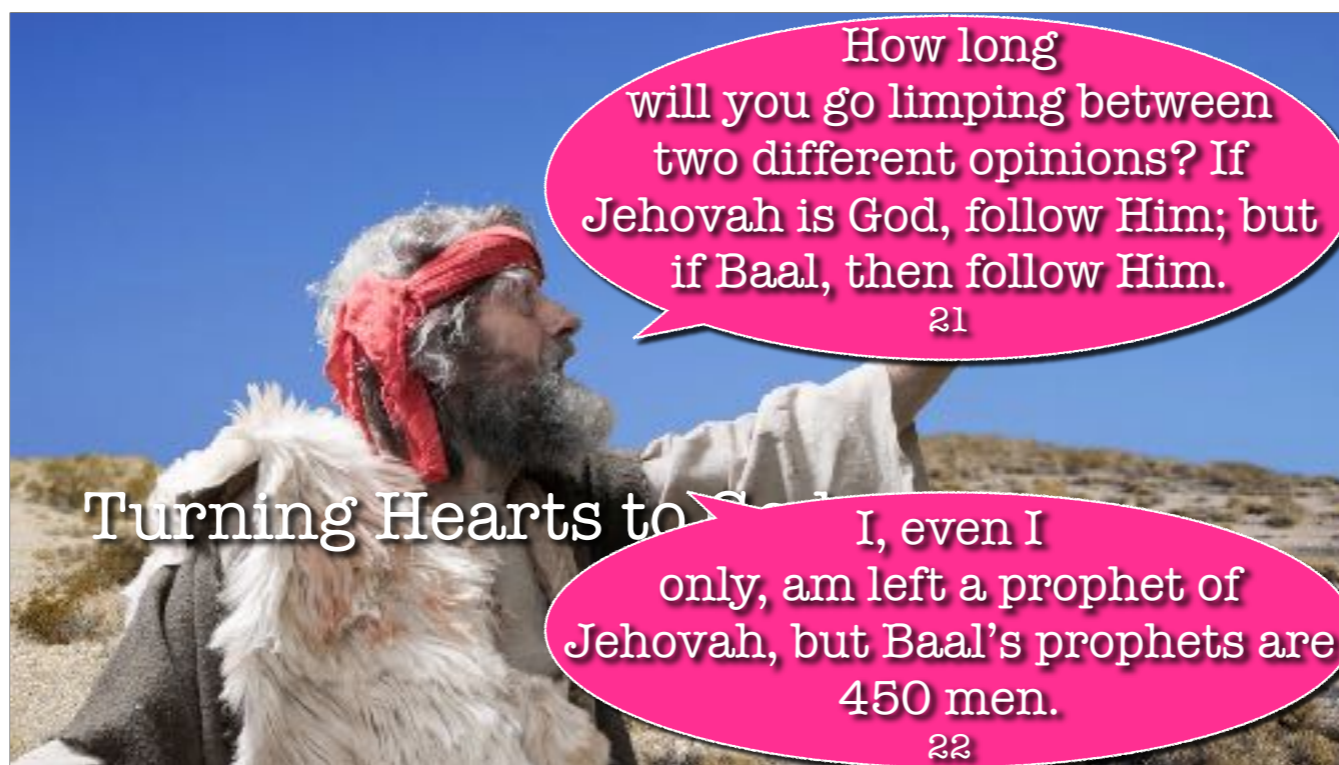
- Raising the widow's son (17:17-24)
 - Widow blames Elijah for the death of her son.
 - Elijah prays to God (PRAYER!)
 - 1 Kings 17:24: And the woman said to Elijah, "Now I know that you are a man of God, and that the word of the LORD in your mouth is truth."



- 1 Kings 18:17-19 (ESV) 17 When Ahab saw Elijah, Ahab said to him, "Is it you, you troubler of Israel?" 18 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. 19 Now therefore send and gather all Israel to me at Mount Carmel, and the 450 prophets of Baal and the 400 prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table."



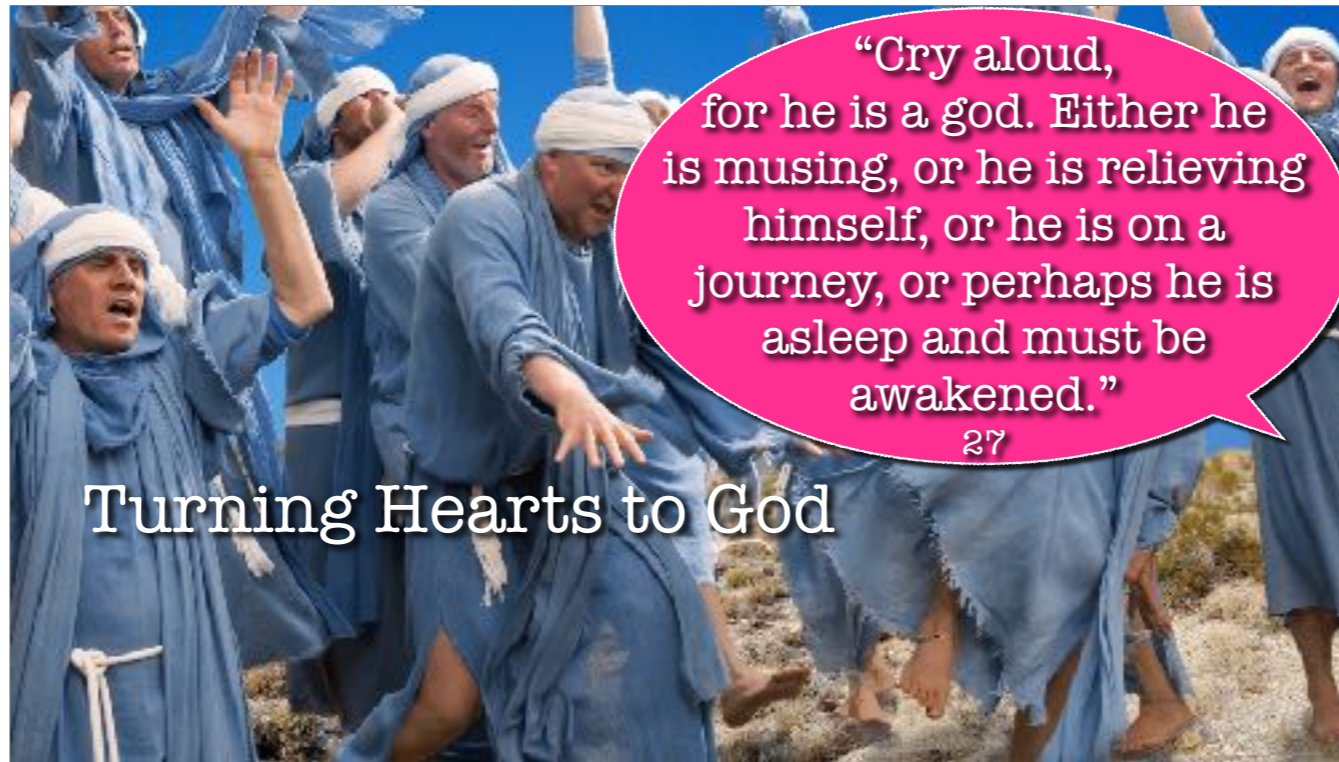
- 1 Kings 18:21 (ESV) 21 And Elijah came near to all the people and said, "How long will you go limping between two different opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him." And the people did not answer him a word.



- 1 Kings 18:22 Then Elijah said to the people, “I, even I only, am left a prophet of the LORD, but Baal's prophets are 450 men.”
 - courageously standing “alone”
 - determination to help the people choose Jehovah.



- 1 Kings 18:23-24 (ESV) 23 Let two bulls be given to us, and let them choose one bull for themselves and cut it in pieces and lay it on the wood, but put no fire to it. And I will prepare the other bull and lay it on the wood and put no fire to it. 24 And you call upon the name of your god, and I will call upon the name of the LORD, and the God who answers by fire, he is God.” And all the people answered, “It is well spoken.”
- Were the people just wanting a good show ... they got one, more than they expected.
- Elijah focus' not on himself, but on Jehovah.
 - Trust that God will answer him.



“Cry aloud,
for he is a god. Either he
is musing, or he is relieving
himself, or he is on a
journey, or perhaps he is
asleep and must be
awakened.”

27

Turning Hearts to God

- 1 Kings 18:27 And at noon Elijah mocked them, saying, “Cry aloud, for he is a god. Either he is musing, or he is relieving himself, or he is on a journey, or perhaps he is asleep and must be awakened.”
- Elijah’s mocking is intended for the people, to emphasize the lack of response from their false god.
- Baal does not live, therefore he cannot act no matter how intense the pleads of the priests.
 - He cannot hear their prayers.



Turning Hearts to God

- 1 Kings 18:30: Then Elijah said to all the people, “Come near to me.” And all the people came near to him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD that had been thrown down.
- He drew the people in to help him.



- 1 Kings 18:36-37 (ESV) 36 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. 37 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.”
- Prayer!
- Public and Pointedly to Jehovah.
 - Prayers can be used to teach.



- 1 Kings 18:39 (ESV) 39 And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces and said, “The LORD, he is God; the LORD, he is God.”



- 1 Kings 18:40 (ESV) 40 And Elijah said to them, “Seize the prophets of Baal; let not one of them escape.” And they seized them. And Elijah brought them down to the brook Kishon and slaughtered them there.
- Elijah encourages the people to put an end to the priests who are deceiving them and leading them astray.
 - Not how it works now in Kingdom of heaven.



Turning Hearts to God

- 1 Kings 18:41: And Elijah said to Ahab, "Go up, eat and drink, for there is a sound of the rushing of rain."



Turning Hearts to God

- 1 Kings 18:46 And the hand of the LORD was on Elijah, and he gathered up his garment and ran before Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel.



- Turning Hearts to God now is very different than in Elijah's Day
- 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10 (ESV) 9 For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, 10 and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.



- Pray Fervently.
- Obey by Following Jehovah at all times
- Turn hearts to Jehovah
- Pray Fervently.

- Can you be zealous like Elijah?
 - Absolutely!

**We implore you on
behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.**

2 Corinthians 5:20

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Elijah's Zeal

1 Kings 17-18

Synopsis: Elijah shows us that being zealous for God is not what it is often made out to be. Elijah reminds to pray fervently, obey following Jehovah, and turn hearts to Jehovah.

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“Let all that you do be done with love.”