



## Scripture



# 1 Kings 17:1-4,10-24

## Unit .13

## Session .01

# The Pictures of God's Authority

**1** 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.” **2** And the word of the Lord came to him: **3** “Depart from here and turn eastward and hide yourself by the brook Cherith, which is east of the Jordan. **4** You shall drink from the brook, and I have commanded the ravens to feed you there.” ... **10** So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, a widow was there gathering sticks. And he called to her and said, “Bring me a little water in a vessel, that I may drink.” **11** And as she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, “Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand.” **12** And she said, “As the LORD your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. And now I am gathering a couple of sticks that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it and die.” **13** And Elijah said to her, “Do not fear; go and do as you have said. But first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterward make something for yourself and your son. **14** For thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, ‘The jar of flour shall not be spent, and the jug of oil shall not be empty, until the day that the LORD sends rain upon the earth.’” **15** And she went

and did as Elijah said. And she and he and her household ate for many days. **16** The jar of flour was not spent, neither did the jug of oil become empty, according to the word of the LORD that he spoke by Elijah. **17** After this the son of the woman, the mistress of the house, became ill. And his illness was so severe that there was no breath left in him. **18** And she said to Elijah, “What have you against me, O man of God? You have come to me to bring my sin to remembrance and to cause the death of my son!” **19** And he said to her, “Give me your son.” And he took him from her arms and carried him up into the upper chamber where he lodged, and laid him on his own bed. **20** And he cried to the LORD, “O LORD my God, have you brought calamity even upon the widow with whom I sojourn, by killing her son?” **21** Then he stretched himself upon the child three times and cried to the LORD, “O LORD my God, let this child’s life come into him again.” **22** And the LORD listened to the voice of Elijah. And the life of the child came into him again, and he revived. **23** And Elijah took the child and brought him down from the upper chamber into the house and delivered him to his mother. And Elijah said, “See, your son lives.” **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.”

What are some ways we try to find fulfillment apart from God?

How have you seen God provide for your daily necessities, especially in a difficult season of life?



## 99 Essential Doctrines

### Miracles

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A miracle is an event in which God makes an exception to the natural order of things, or supersedes natural laws, for the purpose of demonstrating His glory and/or validating His message. Miracles are recorded throughout Scripture; miraculous signs and wonders were oftentimes evident when a prophet or an apostle was speaking God's message to the people. Because we believe God to be all-powerful and personally involved in this world, we believe He can and does perform miracles.

## Main Point

**God's grace often comes in unexpected ways.**

**Share of a time when God used an unexpected person to provide for your needs? Was it convenient for them to help you during this time?**

**Have you ever seen God's provision come in unexpected, even miraculous ways? Explain.**

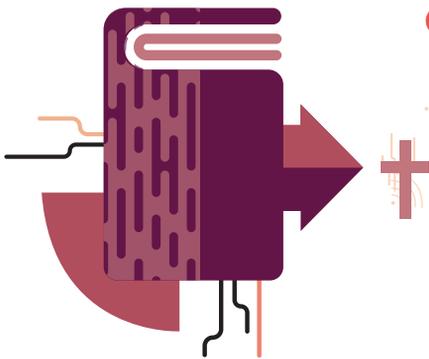
When you face a trial, what is your first instinct?

Express Frustration

Panic/Worry

Make a Plan

Pray



## Christ Connection

The miracles Elijah performed revealed that he was a prophet of the one true God and that the Lord's words were true. In a greater way, the miracles Jesus performed revealed that He is the Son of God, the true Word of God (John 20:30-31).

# Our Mission



## Head

What are some of the things that attract a person's loyalty in our current culture, thus compromising their loyalty to God?

How can we show others that loyalty and faithfulness to God are better than these worldly loyalties?



## Heart

Can you name any "false gods" in our day that consume our time and effort (in reference to both Christians and non-Christians)?

Why do these things take away so much of our time and effort?

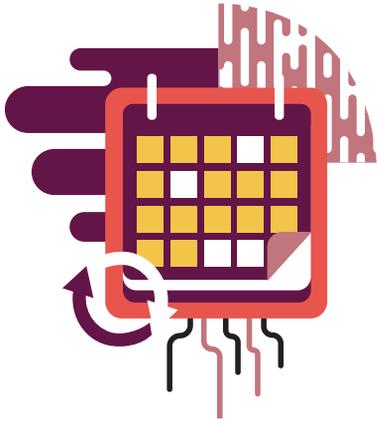


## Hands

How can Elijah's faith and prayer life instruct and inspire us today?

What are some ways you can strengthen your prayer life this week?

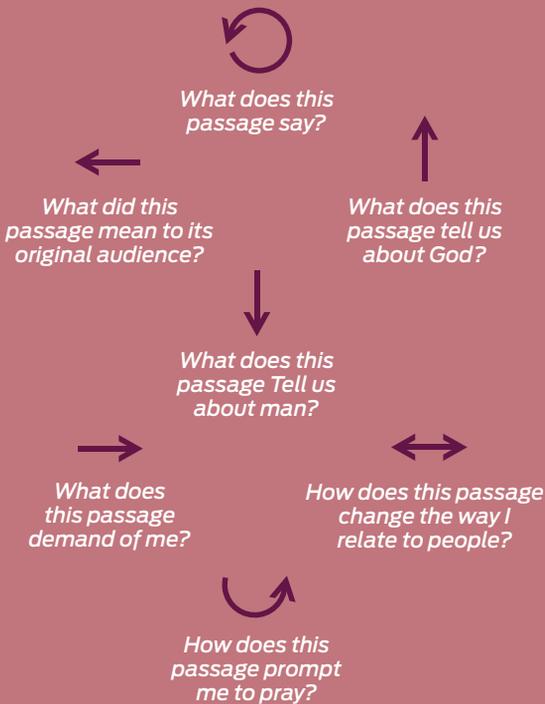
# Daily Devotions



Day 1

## 1 Kings 15:1-32

### The 7 Arrows of Bible Reading



Some of the kings in 1–2 Kings had commendable traits, though none were flawless; and many were a total mess. What keeps certain portions of 1–2 Kings from being depressing is this: God was preserving a remnant so that the ultimate Son of David would come and reign forever. God was preserving “a lamp in Jerusalem” (11:36; 15:4).

We meet Judah’s king, Abijam, in 15:1-8. He apparently married within the faith but was not completely devoted to the Lord like David had been. Next, we read of Asa, Judah’s king who sought the Lord for the majority of his life (vv. 9-24). Only Hezekiah and Josiah received higher praise than Asa. Sadly, Asa fell later in life due to unbelief. Then we read of Israel’s king, Nadab (vv. 25-27), who did evil in the sight of the Lord. He continued in the sins of his father before being killed and replaced by another bad king, Baasha (vv. 28-30).

We need a better king, and praise God we have one, the Lord Jesus!

**What are some lessons to glean from the lives of the kings in 1 Kings 15:1-30?**

# 1 Kings 16:1-34

This chapter highlights the sinfulness of sin. It also shows us our need for, and the trustworthiness of, God's Word.

We meet the prophet Jehu, who brought a word against Baasha. The Lord gave Baasha an opportunity to change things, but he acted like Jeroboam and consequently shared Jeroboam's fate (16:2-4). Then we meet Elah (vv. 8-10), who got drunk and was assassinated by Zimri. Zimri went on to kill Baasha's house (vv. 11-14), which fulfilled prophecy (v. 12). Zimri only reigned for seven days (v. 15).

Omri would then reign for twelve years (v. 23). He established Samaria as the new capital city of the Northern Kingdom. It remained Israel's capital until Assyria plundered it in 722 BC.

Finally, we meet the evil king Ahab. He reigned for twenty-two years (v. 29). He married Jezebel of Tyre. She was a Baal worshiper, who had hundreds of prophets for Baal. She also killed God's prophets (1 Kings 18:4,13). Ahab also served Baal, the first Israelite king to do so. In this context, God sent his prophet Elijah to proclaim the Word.

**How do we see God's faithfulness and the need for God's Word in this chapter?**

# 1 Kings 17:1-7

We read of all these kings, and then we meet Elijah the prophet. The writer says he was the "Tishbite from the Gilead settlers" (17:1a). He was a settler in the wild, forested area east of the Jordan in Gilead.

God chose this man from nowhere. Unlike the kings, we don't know who his family was, and we don't know anything about his childhood. God chose him out of obscurity in order to confront apostasy.

Your family background doesn't determine your usefulness to God. God loves to use "nobodies" from "nowhere" places.

The chapter begins with Elijah proclaiming a message to King Ahab (17:1). Can you picture this? Don't think of a pastor with a suit on. More like a man from the wild, entering the presence of the king.

Because Elijah knew the living God, he was able to stand fearlessly before Ahab. Because he knew the living God, he could also trust God for his daily provisions (17:2-7). Elijah had great faith because he had a great God.

**How might we elevate our concept of God? What steps can you take this week?**

# 1 Kings 17:8-16

In this passage, God provided for his prophet through a widow at Zarephath (17:8-9). She had nothing but a handful of flour and a bit of oil, but God multiplied these meager supplies. Elijah promised the widow that if she would bake him a cake before feeding herself and her son that the flour jar would not be empty and the oil would not run out. She submitted to Elijah's word, and her household ate for days. This all took place according to the word of God (17:8,14,15-16).

Observe God's sovereignty and grace. God chose this widow to provide for Elijah. God told Elijah, "I have commanded a woman who is a widow to provide for you there" (17:9). But we don't read that God ever spoke directly to the widow. Even though she had no prophet to tell her this news, God proclaimed it to be so because He is the only sovereign. He works in the hearts of the mighty and in the hearts of the lowly to accomplish His purposes.

**What impact might this passage have on a person who is anxious, afraid, or overwhelmed about the cares of this life?**

# 1 Kings 17:17-24

A third miracle—and a more dramatic one—took place next in 1 Kings 17. The widow's son became ill and died (v. 17), but God raised him from the dead through the ministry of Elijah. We're reminded of the reality and pain of death in this story. Stories of death are all around us. At any moment, a loved one could take his or her last breath. Like in this story, just when things seem to be working out wonderfully, death can take someone. In this case, it's a precious child.

But there is hope beyond the grave for every grieving believer: God raises the dead. God gives us a little sign of his resurrection power in this Old Testament story.

We should ask God to do what only he can do, that being most importantly raising spiritually dead people to life (Eph. 2:4-5). This young boy eventually died again. What everyone needs is to be raised up forever by the resurrection power of God.

**How does this story inspire you to pray more fervently?**