

Elijah's Prayer

I Kg.16:29-34	Perversion	Ahab	Foreign wife & false gods
I Kg.17:1	Prophetic	Prayer	Of a true Patriot
I Kg.17:2-16	Provision	Miracles	Airlifted steak & special flower & oil

I Kg.16:29-34 – Ahab, Jezebel & Baal

Ahab – 7th king of the Northern Kingdom, reigned 28 years from 919-897 BC. Humanly speaking, a good king, especially in foreign policy: re-established trade with the Phoenicians, made peace with Judea made an alliance with king of Damascus. Spiritually he was a weak and evil leader. Led the nation into idolatry.

- vs.30 - did evil in the sight of the Lord more than all before him
- vs.31 – Ahab considered it trivial to follow sins of Jeroboam – established idolatrous religion; **Jezebel** – princess of Sidon, worshipper & promoter of Baal, woman who brought idolatry to the land (Rev 2:20), (1King 18:4) killed the prophets of Yaweh, 18:19 450 prophets of Baal ate at her table. **Baal** – Sun god who controlled the skies and giver of rain; worship included human sacrifice of children and sexual immorality.
- vs.32 – Ahab built an altar to Baal.
- vs.33 – Asherah – female counterpart to Baal; did more to provoke the Lord
- vs.34 – Heil – rebuilt Jericho; lost his oldest & youngest sons as promised by the Lord (Josh 6:26) to anyone who would rebuild the city – example of the Lord keeping His promises
- Ahab was an evil king who disobeyed God by marrying a foreign woman (Dt.7:3)
 - Ahab led the nation into religious perversion – idolatry
 - Jezebel was a murderer: prophets of Yaweh & Naboth for his vineyard
 - The royal couple brought corruption into the land – Baal

I Kg.17:1 – Elijah the Patriot - The prayer, the confrontation & the prediction

- vs.1 – As the Lord God of Israel lives – in cp to Baal who is nothing more than a dead piece of wood & stone artfully crafted to “represent” a significant presence, but doesn’t.
- vs.1 – before whom I stand – ready to serve in any capacity Yaweh required
- vs.1 – neither dew nor rain these years until I speak it – not even dew
 - The Hebrew does not tell how or why Elijah ends up before Ahab – he does
 - (Dt.11:16-17) God warns that idolatry results in drought
 - Elijah prays according to God’s promise – prayed for no rain

(Jam 5:17-18) – Prayed earnestly it would not rain – did not rain 3 yrs, 6 months; prayed again and it rained.

- When Elijah recognized the degenerate influence of Ahab’s idolatry, he decided to appeal to the Lord to turn his nation around and back to the Lord.
- Note that Ahab’s leadership had brought economic prosperity and a measure of peace with neighboring nations.
- Elijah’s priority was spiritual, not economic; He wanted his nation to be at peace with God even if it meant war with neighbors.
- Note what he didn’t pray: prosperity, military victory, peace on earth, etc
- The content of Elijah’s prayer was aimed at bringing his people back to the Lord
- He believed that relationship with Yahweh was so important that he was willing for those he loved to suffer and even die if it would awaken them to God.
- What do you pray for your loved ones who are at odds with the Lord????!!!

(I Kg.17:2-16) – Provision for the Drought – ravens & the widow of Zarephath

- vs.2-4 word/Lord – go away, hide yourself by a brook – he was not popular with Ahab; I have commanded the ravens to provide for you there – incredible
- vs.5-7 – ravens airlifted bread/meat & he drank from the brook of Cherish until the brook dried up because of the drought
- vs.8-9 – word/Lord – go to Zarephath – city of Sidon, the home of Jezebel; widow
 - Widows were most helpless of all & first to die in a famine He uses the helpless
 - Sidon was the nation where the idolatry had originated
- vs.10-12 – only enough for 1 meal – then my son and I will die – fish & loaves
- vs.13-14 – Do not fear, God has promised your little bit will be enough
- vs.15-16 – she obeyed and the flour and oil did not run out – according to the word/Lord
- Mt 6:25-34 – do not be anxious about food, clothing & shelter
- God’s provision for bel’s is guaranteed – not dependent on circumstances
- God provides in most unusual ways through the most unlikely people

(John 6:9) – The young boy who had 5 loaves and 2 fishes – fed 5 thousand

(James 5:17-18)

- vs.17 – a man like us – Elijah was no super hero – he was subject to weakness like all of us
- vs.17 – prayed earnestly – proseuche + proseuchomai – intensity
- vs.17 – no rain – it did not rain – 3 yrs 6 mo.

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1. What do you want for your loved ones? Pleasure/prosperity; Peace/intimacy Lord
 2. What have you been praying for your loved ones? To what end? Effectiveness?
 3. Do you believe that intimacy with Christ is the only way to experience true +H?
 4. Having learned how God uses adversity for our growth, do you have the faith & courage to pray hardship for your loved ones that they might seek the Lord?
 5. Idolatry: dependence upon anything/one but the Lord for +H & provision
 6. Idolatry: money, prosperity, pleasure, sex, popularity, fame, success, etc.
 7. Elijah prayed max adversity to break the idolatry of his nation – many died
 8. Elijah was willing to be used in conjunction to his prayer – ready to serve
 9. Elijah was willing to suffer along with his people to turn them around.
 10. Do we trust God that we would pray for Him to lower the boom on USA to turn our people back to God?
 11. Are we willing to serve and to suffer to bring about repentance in USA?