

New Faith Church
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Divine Access: A Study of Elijah the Prophet

- I. **Elijah is a real human being like you and me. He experiences hunger, fatigue, irritability, doubt, insecurity and a range of other emotions.**
 - A. **Elijah teaches us our humanity is never a threat to God's power, purpose or plan.**
 - B. James 5:17 states ¹⁷ Elijah was a human being, even as we are. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. ¹⁸ Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.
 - C. There are connections to Elijah and Moses. Both discharged their duties in the context of the covenant that binds Israel to the LORD. Both knew the challenges of ministry in trying to keep a rebellious Israel connected to God.
 - D. Eventually Elijah would find himself hidden by the brook of Cherith, on the run, tired and disappointed. In Micah 6:16 we see the comparison of the condition of Israel during Elijah's time around 700-870BC versus in 450BC. In 2 Chronicles 7:1-3 captures the glorious rule of Solomon, the building and dedication of the temple in Jerusalem which is a preview of Christ's everlasting reign in the New Jerusalem (Rev. 21-22).
 - E. Fallenness in society is not new. When we fall as a nation or individually, we must allow God to convict us, humble us into repentance and return back to obedience and loving relationship to Him.
 - F. Solomon created an environment where Israel could worship God, especially worship in Jerusalem during the annual feasts. Over many decades Israel sought after kings, who overtime relaxed standards and eventually departed from worshipping Yahweh. They became idolatrous and fell away from the worship of God as their only God.
 - G. These kings included Jeroboam (1Kings 12:28-32), Elah (1 Kings 16:8-10) and Omri (1 Kings 16:23-25). Also remember Solomon died the nation of Israel split into two tribes the Southern Kingdom, known as Judah and the ten tribes of the Northern Kingdom where would be known as Israel.

- II. We first meet Elijah in 1 Kings 17 when we get a view in 1Kings 16:29-33 of the increasing wickedness of the Omrides (aka Omri) kings.
 - A. **Sin is any failure to conform to the moral law of God in act, attitude or nature. It is a problem every one of us has. However God's omnipotence or providence is never overcome by sin.**
 - B. 1 King 16:30 says Ahab son of Omri did more evil in the eyes of the Lord than any of those before him. Ahab thought it was nothing to commit the sins of Jeroboam before him and he married Jezebel of Sidon. Remember Solomon had forbidden Sidonian wives in 1 Kings 11:1-5.

- C. Year after year these kings lead Israel away from God. However, Ahab went even further than intermarriage but also build an alter to worship Baal.
- D. God after being gracious and patient for many decades decides He will respond to Israel's disobedience by leaving them on their own and allowing them to experience the repercussions of their decision. God let's go.
- E. However because God is loving, kind and is never altered by human sin in the mountains of Gilead He is still preparing a response. God is preparing Elijah who will call His people back to him

III. Elijah, the Tishbite

A. **The way in which God has shaped and formed each believer is no accident.**

1. Now Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the settlers of Gilead

B. **Our background, challenges, our strengths and weaknesses can be used by God.**

- C. Elijah's life teaches us God wastes nothing when it comes to how He can use our lives.
- D. The exact of Tishbe cannot be identified however there is more known about Gilead.
- E. Gilead was a mountainous and secluded region and reason would suggest this contributed to the type of person Elijah was-strong, comfortable with being alone, often unafraid or seeking the approval of others.
- F. Read Psalm 119:71-73 especially verse 73 says Your hands made me and fashioned me; Give me understanding, that I may learn Your commandments.
- G. What Elijah learned in Gilead allowed him to know Yahweh deeply and to develop an allegiance, belief, respect and reverence for Yahweh.

IV. **Elijah also understood covenant and what it meant to keep and break covenant.**

- A. God is always fair and just. Israel's sin required judgment. So, when we see Elijah in 1 Kings 17:1 it is a pledge of allegiance to the Yahweh.
- B. Elijah declares this: The Lord is God, of Israel, He lives and he (Elijah) has pledged his soul to Him.

C. **We must pledge out allegiance to those things that give life and that is God alone.**

D. **Elijah's allegiance is like when we stand in front of the flag and "pledge allegiance". Except we pledge allegiance to the God who loves and redeems us.**

V. **Like Elijah, our whole identity should be wrapped in our allegiance to God should**

- A. 1 Peter 2:9-10 9 But you are a **chosen race**, a **royal priesthood**, a **holy nation**, a people for **God's own** possession, so **that you may proclaim** the excellencies of Him who has **called you out of darkness into His marvelous light**; 10 for you once were not a people, but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.
- B. Rejoice in knowing that each believer is everyone of those adjectives mentioned in 1 Peter 2:-9-10. Faith in Jesus Christ secures your identity and your calling.
- C. Knowing who you are gives you courage to stand on truth and proclaim truth to power, your past, present and future.

