

FINAL STUDY NOTES – 1 Kings Chapters 17-18! 2/16-17/2026

CLASSROOM LOCATION AND ZOOM – SIGN IN INFORMATION:

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NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE ONLINE (ZOOM) STUDY!

MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM PACIFIC STANDARD Time (US and Canada)
THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY WILL BE MEETING ON ZOOM ONLY UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!

MEETING ID - 878 5864 4763 Passcode: 087484

Join Zoom Meeting -

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One tap mobile: +16699006833,,87858644763# US (San Jose) +13462487799,,87858644763# US (Houston)
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TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM PACIFIC STANDARD Time (US and Canada).
TUES MORNING MTG PLACE: 1201 KEY WEST, CORONA DEL MAR (shown as 1201 KW, Corona del Mar, CA 92625) on Global Positioning System (GPS) in automobiles. For driving directions, suggest using ([waze.com/live](https://www.waze.com/live) map) or MapQuest ([mapquest.com](https://www.mapquest.com)), AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!

MEETING ID# - 853 0915 0746 - Passcode: 715340

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Review: (1Ki 16:30,31,33) *Now Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the LORD, more than all who were before him. [31] And it came to pass, as though it had been a trivial thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he took as wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal, king of the Sidonians; and he went and served Baal and worshiped him. [33] And Ahab made a wooden image. Ahab did more to provoke the LORD God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel who were before him.*

OPENING PRAYER

1 KINGS – Chapter 17 – Elijah Proclaims a Drought – (vs. 1-7); Elijah and the Widow – (vs. 8-16); Elijah Revives a Widow's Son – (vs. 17-24); Chapter 18 – Elijah's Message to Ahab – (vs. 1-19); Elijah's Mount Carmel Victory – (vs. 20-40); The Drought Ends – (vs. 41-46)!

- Suddenly in the midst of this spiritual decline, there appears this man, Elijah, the Tishbite.

Elijah Predicts a Drought - 1Ki 17:1 *And Elijah the Tishbite, of the inhabitants of Gilead, said to Ahab, "As the LORD God of Israel (not Baal) lives, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, except at my word."*

- **Elijah** announces, "As the LORD God of Israel lives," in contrast to Baal who was just a false god, not a living god at all. Just a form of religion or worship. And he said, "Before whom I stand." The servant always stood before his Lord in that culture. He is declaring that he is a servant of Jehovah. "before whom I stand," to serve Him. "There shall not be dew nor rain, except at my word."
- **In (Deu 11:17) lest the LORD's anger be aroused against you, and He shut up the heavens so that there be no rain, and the land yield no produce, and you perish quickly from the good land which the LORD is giving you.** (also Lev. 19; in Solomon's prayer, *because they have sinned, 1Ki 8:35*) So, Elijah comes now, and announces that this drought is going to take place. It is not going to rain, except by his word.
- **In (Jas 5:17-18) Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. [18] And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.** Elijah saw the moral and spiritual decline, and he was praying, "God, turn the nation back to You. God, get hold of these people. God, if necessary, bring judgement, shut up the heavens, that it does not rain." The LORD evidently spoke to him, and said, "Okay, the time of drought has come. Go announce it, Elijah." He did! And then disappeared.

1Ki 17:2-3 *Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, [3] "Get away from here and turn eastward, and hide by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan.*

- **He was to go down to the area of the Jordan river, where the Brook Cherith flows into Jordan, and there he was to hide himself from King Ahab.**

1Ki 17:4-6 *And it will be that you shall drink from the brook, and I have commanded the ravens to feed you there. [5] So he went and did according to the word of the LORD, for he went and stayed by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan. [6] The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning, and bread and meat in the evening; and he drank from the brook.*

- **People have trouble with this story because they have trouble believing God.** Whenever you come to the miraculous aspects of the Bible, critics start scrambling to try to say, "Well that is not really what the Bible says," or "That really did not happen, trying to discredit the miraculous out of the Bible. I believe that God could supernaturally use a raven to take bread and meat to this prophet, there by the Brook Cherith.
- **About seventy-five years ago, there was** the account of a Christian man in China, who was placed by the communists over this province in the rationing of the food. Being a caring Christian, and seeing the needs of the people, he gave out all of the food, and did not have enough for himself. As he sat down at his table. He prayed, "Lord, You know I need food, and I've given it all away to the people, and I don't have any, so, I ask You Lord, to provide me with some food." He heard some noise on the floor, and a rat was pushing a yam through a hole in the floor. It is written up in a book actually, that a rat would poke a yam through the hole.

1Ki 17:7 *And it happened after a while that the brook dried up, because there had been no rain in the land.*

- **Surely God who fed him with the ravens, the bread and meat,** could have also supplied water. He could have opened up a little spring there in the brook. But God did not see fit to, but instead moved him on.
- **It is an interesting thing about the way God deals with us,** that is He does not always confine Himself to one method, or to one way. Rather than continuing there at the brook Cherith, now that the brook is dried up, the LORD says, "Move on Elijah."
- **He was to go about 80 miles** to an area between Tyre, and Sidon, to the city of Zarephath, right in the area of the stronghold of Baal. God is developing Elijah's faith! God knows what Elijah does not know at this moment, and that in three and a half years, there is going to be a certain showdown between Elijah, the prophet of God, and the prophets of Baal, to demonstrate before the entire nation who is the true and living God. In preparation for that great showdown that is going to come. God is developing Elijah's faith for that time.
- **One of the wonderful things about our God is that He will never allow us** to end up in any kind of a circumstance or situation where He has not prepared our faith, if we have been obedient to Him, to be victorious in that situation. But sometimes that preparation can be very difficult. I need to remind myself at that time that there is something more difficult than God's preparation, and that is to end up in that situation one day unprepared, lacking the kind of faith and relationship that is necessary for victory!
- **In times when my brook is drying up, what am I to do? I am to pray! I must get alone with Him and pray! Early in the morning, during the day, late at night! Learning to listen to His still, small voice; LORD, what is going on? My brook is drying up! My hearing is being sharpened! Listening to what I should do next, waiting for Him to tell me what to do! "Move to Zarephath?" Continuing to pray, listening for His answer, willing to obey!**

The Widow of Zarephath - 1Ki 17:8-10 Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, [9] "Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. See, I have commanded a widow there to provide for you (to be sustained by a Gentile woman would have been very humbling to a Jewish prophet)." [10] So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, indeed a widow was there gathering sticks. And he called to her and said, "Please bring me a little water in a cup, that I may drink."

- **Zarephath.** Notice that God takes Elijah and hides him in Jezebel's home territory, right in the very stronghold of Baal, who cannot seem to tell anybody where God's prophet is, even in the place where his reception is the strongest for getting a word from Baal. So the LORD hides him right in Baal's backyard and then fees him there, developing his faith!

1Ki 17:11-12 And as she was going to get it, he called to her and said, "Please bring me a morsel of bread in your hand." [12] So she said, "As the LORD your God lives, I do not have bread, only a handful of flour in a bin, and a little oil in a jar; and see, 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."

- **Elijah meets this widow woman and asks for a drink of water.** As she was going to get him a drink of water, he said, "Also, bring me a morsel of bread. She said, "Ah, that I cannot do. I have only got a little flour, and a little oil. I came out and gathered these sticks that I might build a fire, going to make up some little cakes, and that is it. We are going to eat that, and then we are going to die. That is all we have left." Welcome to Zarephath!

1Ki 17:13-14 And Elijah said to her, "Do not fear; go and do as you have said, but make me a small cake from it first, and bring it to me; and afterward make some for yourself and your son. [14] For thus says the LORD God of Israel: 'The bin of flour shall not be used up, nor shall the jar of oil run dry, until the day the LORD sends rain on the earth.'"

- **Basically, Elijah is saying, "Put God first, and He will take care of you."** Have faith in God, trust in God. Jesus expressed it as a basic spiritual principle. He said, (Mat 6:33) But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. If you will put God first, in your life, God will take care of the secondary things.
- **Make me a small cake first! When God gave the law of tithing, they were to bring the first fruits unto God.** Too many people have the policy of giving God the leftovers. Those people never seem to have anything left over. However, those who give God His share first, always find that there is sufficiency for them afterwards. "Bake me first a cake and bring it unto me, and then bake it for you and your son. For by the LORD God of Israel," he declares that, "the flour shall not fail, nor the oil dry up, until God sends rain again upon the earth. God will take care of you. If you put God first."
- **Where do I stand in giving "first" to God, in seeking His kingdom and His righteousness? What am I doing with my "first fruits"? Is it all about me being first? Where is God in my life? Is He really first?**

1Ki 17:15 So she went away and did according to the word of Elijah; and she and he and her household ate for many days.

- **We do not have to know everything that God is doing through our lives.** All we have to do is just be obedient to what He tells us to do next, and then it is amazing how we can find out months or years later, that God was doing a number of things here. He wants to reach this woman. He does not want her and her son to die in this famine, and He wants to bring her into an understanding of Him. So that is what He's up to. How willing would I have been to "Go to Zarephath" and be obedient to God's word?"

1Ki 17:16 The bin of flour was not used up, nor did the jar of oil run dry, according to the word of the LORD which He spoke by Elijah.

- **God supplied for this household, not just for her son and herself, but we are told for her whole family!** She makes a little breakfast and put the lid on the oil and on the flour. She would come back at dinner time, open it up and see if had all been replenished. I mean, two times a day, it was like Christmas for a six-year-old. God just supernaturally re-supplying this for the years of drought, exactly as spoken the word of Elijah.

Elijah Raises the Widow's Son - 1Ki 17:17-18 Now it happened after (it came to pass) these things that the son of the woman who owned the house became sick. And his sickness was so serious that there was no breath left in him. (So the widow's son died) [18] So she said to Elijah, "What have I to do with you, O man of God? Have you come to me to bring my sin to remembrance, and to kill my son?"

- **What have I done wrong to you?** She was saying, “You have brought my sins in remembrance to God? Are you telling God what a mean personality I have, that God would slay my son?” (Wrong perception! Wrong conclusion!)
- **It is a temptation and a tendency at such a time to blame yourself.** It is not the case in this situation. And it is not the case in how God works in our lives in Christ Jesus, which is a far superior covenant. But we live in a fallen world. Bad things happen here! It happens to the just, it happens to the unjust.

1Ki 17:19-21 *And he said to her, “Give me your son.” So he took him out of her arms and carried him to the upper room where he was staying, and laid him on his own bed. [20] Then he cried out to the LORD and said, “O LORD my God, have You also brought tragedy on the widow with whom I lodge, by killing her son?” [21] And he stretched himself out on the child three times (not a lack of faith), and cried out to the LORD and said, “O LORD my God, I pray, let this child’s soul come back to him.”*

- **The child had died. No breath.** But he is praying that God would resurrect the child. “let this child’s soul come back to him.” Now it is interesting to me that he prayed three times. God does not always answer the first time we call, though many times He is planning to answer.
- **Why God waits, I do not know.** Jesus prayed three times, that the cup might pass from Him. Nevertheless not My will but Your will be done.” And He submitted to the will of the Father, praying three times.
- **Paul prayed three times, concerning his thorn in the flesh.** Again, after praying three times, the thorn in the flesh was still there, but he got a different answer than what he was asking. He got an answer of the all-sufficiency of the grace of God. Paul took a whole different attitude toward the thorn in the flesh. He now began to glory in the weakness of his flesh, in order that the power of God might be revealed in him.
- **It is wrong to believe that God has to heal you if you will follow a certain formula.** God sometimes has purposes about which we do not know. Purposes for our weakness, or for our failures. We need that faith that can mount above weakness, and that glory of God’s power might be manifested through our weakness.
- **Could it be said of me, that I am a man who perseveres in prayer? Is there any Daniel in me, who persevered in prayer for more than 21 days in Daniel chapter ten? Then Michael came, giving great prophecy!**

1Ki 17:22 *Then the LORD heard the voice of Elijah; and the soul (the consciousness) of the child came back to him, and he revived.*

- **This speaks of the consciousness having left him, returning in him again.** The LORD heard this prayer. The child came to life again; whereupon Elijah gave him back to his mother.

1Ki 17:23 *And Elijah took the child and brought him down from the upper room into the house, and gave him to his mother. And Elijah said, “See, your son lives!”*

- **God can not only daily provide, creating the flour and the oil, but He is the God that provides life beyond death, resurrection, eternal life!** But this is the God that we serve! This is the God that we look to! “See, your son lives!” We too, will hear that one day! See, your mom is alive. See, your dad is there!

1Ki 17:24 *Then the woman said to Elijah, “Now by this I know that you are a man of God, and that the word of the LORD in your mouth is the truth.”*

- **So apparently, she was still suspicious of Elijah at that point.** This clinches the deal. She says, Now I know that you are a man of God and the word of the LORD is in your mouth. that the word of the LORD is the truth! So that great light goes on for her and her confession concerning Elijah. Notice who gets the glory! Not Elijah, but God!

Elijah Confronts Ahab - Chapter 18 is one of the highlights of the Old Testament. It is a record of Elijah’s life and probably the pinnacle event of his entire life and his ministry!

1Ki 18:1 *And it came to pass after many days that the word of the LORD came to Elijah, in the third year, saying, “Go, present yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain on the earth.”*

- **God spoke to Elijah, and said, “Okay, the time has come. Go show yourself to Ahab because I am going to send rain upon the earth.”** He has the promise of God that rain is going to be sent. This particular incident shows us, that there is the listening side of prayer. Prayer is more than just talking to God, it is more than just laying out my need, or my request before the Lord. Prayer often involves God talking to me. There is that listening side of prayer.
- **Elijah heard the voice of the LORD, and the promise of God, that He was going to send rain.** For we find the next time, that Elijah is praying for rain, he prayed three times for the woman’s son. He prayed seven times for the rain. But he persisted in prayer, because he had the promise of God, that God would send the rain.

1Ki 18:2 *So Elijah went to present himself to Ahab; and there was a severe famine in Samaria.*

- Now we are coming back to Ahab's reality. Elijah had been in another reality, the ravens and the brook, then the barrel, the oil, and the resurrection. Now he comes back to Ahab's reality, which is that the whole land has dried up. There is a severe famine in the land.

1Ki 18:3 And Ahab had called Obadiah, who was in charge (governor, chief steward) of his house. (Now Obadiah feared the LORD greatly.

- How interesting it is that such a wicked king as Ahab would want a righteous man to keep his books? Even wicked men and women want good people, moral people to teach their children. It is a confession in life.

1Ki 18:4-5 For so it was, while Jezebel massacred the prophets of the LORD, that Obadiah had taken one hundred prophets and hidden them, fifty to a cave, and had fed them with bread and water.) [5] And Ahab had said to Obadiah, "Go into the land to all the springs of water and to all the brooks; perhaps we may find grass to keep the horses and mules alive, so that we will not have to kill any livestock."

- Things were really getting serious. The animals are now beginning to starve to death. So, "See if we can find some green grass around the springs, someplace. Anywhere in the land. Maybe there is a pool of water, with some green grass around it." He wants to keep these animals alive. They had a military value.

1Ki 18:6-9 So they divided the land between them to explore it; Ahab went one way by himself, and Obadiah went another way by himself. [7] Now as Obadiah was on his way, suddenly Elijah met him; and he recognized him, and fell on his face, and said, "Is that you, my lord Elijah?" [8] And he answered him, "It is I. Go, tell your master, 'Elijah is here.' " [9] So he said, "How have I sinned, that you are delivering your servant into the hand of Ahab, to kill me?"

- Man, don't you know about me? You tell me to go and tell him that you are in the land and all that is going to result in my death.

1Ki 18:10-12 As the LORD your God lives, there is no nation or kingdom where my master has not sent someone to hunt for you; and when they said, 'He is not here,' he took an oath from the kingdom or nation that they could not find you. [11] And now you say, 'Go, tell your master, "Elijah is here!" (Are you kidding me?) [12] And it shall come to pass, as soon as I am gone from you, that the Spirit of the LORD will carry you to a place I do not know; so when I go and tell Ahab, and he cannot find you, he will kill me. But I your servant have feared the LORD from my youth.

- Look, I have been a good kid all the way, since I was a kid. I have been good! Why would you want to kill me, man? Why would you want to put my life in jeopardy like this, telling me to go tell Ahab you are here? He has been after you for a long time, and as soon as I go tell him, the Spirit of the LORD would catch you away someplace, I come to Ahab. You are not here, and then he is going to kill me.

1Ki 18:13 Was it not reported to my lord what I did when Jezebel killed the prophets of the LORD, how I hid one hundred men of the LORD's prophets, fifty to a cave, and fed them with bread and water?

Listen, my life is already in jeopardy without doing this.

1Ki 18:14 And now you say, 'Go, tell your master, "Elijah is here." ' He will kill me!"

- Hey! I feared the LORD from my youth. And didn't they tell you what I did when Jezebel killed the prophets of the LORD? How I hid a hundred of them in the caves, by fifty, and I fed them with bread and water? And now you say, "Go tell your master, Elijah is here." He will kill me man!"

1Ki 18:15 Then Elijah said, "As the LORD of hosts lives, before whom I stand, I will surely present myself to him today."

- There it is again, "I am His servant!! I stand before God, as His servant.

1Ki 18:16-18 So Obadiah went to meet Ahab, and told him; and Ahab went to meet Elijah. [17] Then it happened, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said to him, "Is that you, O troubler of Israel?" [18] And he answered, "I have not troubled Israel, but you and your father's house have, in that you have forsaken the commandments of the LORD and have followed the Baals.

- Baals. The plural of Baal. The Baalim. Elijah gets things turned around, setting the record straight.

1Ki 18:19 Now therefore, send and gather all Israel to me on Mount Carmel, the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal, and the four hundred prophets of Asherah (the goddess of the Sidonians, Ashtoreth, Astarte), who eat at Jezebel's table."

- It did not come to stay. It came to pass. And it will come to pass that after these things, He is the God that calls things that are not as though they were. Jesus is going to descend with a shout, the voice of the Archangel and the trump of God. And that demonstration of His love and power is going to shrink the flour and the oil that do not fail. All of that is going to pale when we realize the final end game.
- The end game of all this is that He gave us His Son! That is the ultimate sign of His love. Not the unfailing flour in the barrel or the unfailing jar of oil. That is not our hope. It is a blessing when those miracles are in our

lives. And He loves us and He cares for us. But that is not where our hope lies. Our hope lies in resurrection! Elijah went through his lessons and he is now ready to hit a home run on Mount Carmel.

The Prophets of Baal Defeated - 1Ki 18:20 So Ahab sent for all the children of Israel, and gathered the prophets together (the 450 Baal prophets) on Mount Carmel.

- **Notice that Elijah is calling the shots now.** He says, “I want to meet you and gather the people at Mount Carmel with all those prophets.” So Ahab sent, and gathered the people.
- **The Phoenician form of Baal worship considered Mount Carmel the dwelling place of Baal.** The Phoenicians, Jezebel and Ahab believed that Mount Carmel is where Baal lived. So when Elijah offers them out on Mount Carmel, they cannot back out!

1Ki 18:21 And Elijah came to all the people, and said, "How long will you falter (be lame) between two (mutually exclusive) opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him." But the people answered him not a word (were silent).

- **Elijah calls on them to make up their mind.** If Baal is God, then get 100%, behind him; forget about Jehovah, and go be great for Baal. But if the LORD is God, then forget this nonsense of Baal and wasting your life, and go 100% for the LORD!
- **But how long are you going to be in the middle**, which is just a sure way to waste your life, doing nothing for anyone or anything in life. It is not complicated! What side are you on? How much compromise is in your life? A divided allegiance is idolatry! So this is his charge to them! How long?
- **How long? Are there things in my life that are not quite right? That I am caught between two contradictory opinions? May You help me LORD to choose and follow only the right one? Now LORD! Not “How Long?”**

1Ki 18:22-24 Then Elijah said to the people, "I alone am left a prophet of the LORD; but Baal's prophets are four hundred and fifty men. [23] Therefore let them give us two bulls; and let them choose one bull for themselves, cut it in pieces, and lay it on the wood, but put no fire under it; and I will prepare the other bull, and lay it on the wood, but put no fire under it. [24] Then you call on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the LORD; and the God who answers by fire, He is God." So all the people answered and said, "It is well spoken."

- **Elijah is now challenging Ahab to a contest.** Elijah alone, against the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal. “We will build altars; we will place the sacrifices on them, but we will not light a fire to them. We will pray to our Gods, to kindle the fire, and let the God who answers by fire, be the God, that we worship.”
- **The people said, “Good enough, It is well spoken.”** They thought, wow, this is fabulous. He is playing right into the power and the strength of our god. Here is Elijah exposing Baal again, since he is evidently is no good at rain, Elijah gives Baal a chance to redeem himself in the opposite way, by sending fire or lightning.
- **The other thing that had to excite the prophets of Baal is that Mount Carmel had become a center** for the worship of Baal. This was kind of the place that he was worshipped. Finally, the animal that represented Baal in the ancient world was a bull, and it symbolized Baal's fertility and his strength. So when they listen to this proposal, they think, wow, Elijah is toast, our God is going to just cook him in this showdown!

1Ki 18:25-27 Now Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, "Choose one bull for yourselves and prepare it first, for you are many; and call on the name of your god, but put no fire under it." [26] So they took the bull which was given them, and they prepared it, and called on the name of Baal from morning even till noon (three hours), saying, "O Baal, hear us!" But there was no voice; no one answered. Then they leaped about the altar which they had made. [27] And so it was, at noon, that Elijah mocked them and said, "Cry aloud, for he is a god; either he is meditating, or he is busy, or he is on a journey, or perhaps he is sleeping and must be awakened."

- **Ah, it is so sad that you have a god that sleeps.** “The LORD of Israel neither slumbers nor sleeps.” Elijah is sort of cheering them on. Now, here is Baal. He does not answer by fire. It is noon. It is the hottest time of the day, at Baal’s peak. I mean, if your God can not do it in the heat of the day, and He is in charge of the weather, we have problems here. Elijah began to mock them, saying, to cry aloud! Maybe he is meditating, having his quiet time. Or he is busy, and literally in the Hebrew it means he is relieving himself. He is in the bathroom!

1Ki 18:28 So they cried aloud, and cut themselves, as was their custom, with knives and lances, until the blood gushed out on them.

- **Dancing, swaying, chanting, praying, going through their incantations, their rites**, building up into a real frenzy, until they are screaming, and yelling. All kinds of emotionalism! But, no power, no fire! People can be very religious without ever touching God. “The gods of the heathen,” David said, “are vain. For they are really the works of men’s hands.” David observes, “They have become like the gods that they have made.”

- That is an interesting and true observation. A man becomes like his god! If your god is false, you are false. You become like your god. You become a phony. If your god is insensate, you are becoming insensate. You are becoming blind, no longer seeing the beauty of God. You are becoming deaf, no longer hearing God.

1Ki 18:29 And when midday was past, they prophesied until the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice (3pm –they were at it for six hours!) But there was no voice; no one answered, no one paid attention.

- No voice; no answer! Nothing happened! It was nothing. It is always that way when we allow ourselves to worship the gods of this world. When we cry out to those gods that we had worshiped, given ourselves over to, they cannot produce anything. When everything is parched and languishing, and there is no life, and we feel dried up, realizing our hearts been in the wrong place. We cry to them, but they do not produce anything.
- **As I consider if there are any idols in my life, may I be reminded from this account, that they will never answer any cry. Silence is all you will ever hear! What a contrast to that of our crying out to our One and True God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, Who will always answer!**

1Ki 18:30 Then Elijah said to all the people, "Come near to me." So all the people came near to him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD that was broken down (apparently a site of an ancient altar.)

- Come! That is the call of God's heart, *come near to Me. (Mat 11:28) Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.*
- Elijah repaired the altar of the LORD. He would not make use of theirs, which had been polluted with their prayers to Baal, but, finding the ruins of an altar there, which had formerly been used in the service of the LORD, he chose to repair it. He was not introducing any new religion, but to revive their fathers' God, and their first love and works. He repaired this altar with twelve stones, according to the number of the twelve tribes.

1Ki 18:31-34 And Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the LORD had come, saying, "Israel shall be your name." [32] Then with the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD; and he made a (fairly deep) trench around the altar large enough to hold two seahs of seed. [33] And he put the wood in order, cut the bull in pieces, and laid it on the wood, and said, "Fill four waterpots with water, and pour it on the burnt sacrifice and on the wood." [34] Then he said, "Do it a second time," and they did it a second time; and he said, "Do it a third time," and they did it a third time (12 waterpots).

- The sacrifice is soaking wet, the ground is soaking wet, the wood is soaking wet. Notice Elijah's confidence in God! These are the actions of that kind of a man that really knows his God, what his God is able to do. He knows God is going to answer by fire. He does not want them thinking of spontaneous combustion.

1Ki 18:35-39 So the water ran all around the altar; and he also filled the trench with water. [36] And it came to pass, at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near and said, "LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that You are God in Israel (Baal is not god, but you are God) and I am Your servant, and that I have done all these things at Your word. [37] Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that You are the LORD God, and that You have turned their hearts back to You again." [38] Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood and the stones and the dust, and it licked up the water that was in the trench (God's fire). [39] Now when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces; and they said, "The LORD, He is God! The LORD, He is God!"

- **"that this people may know that You are the LORD God!" This is the point that God wanted to make through the miracle! There was that recognition that Baal is nothing! The LORD is God, and they ought to be worshiping the one and true God entirely!**

1Ki 18:40 And Elijah said to them, "Seize the prophets of Baal! Do not let one of them escape!" So they seized them; and Elijah brought them down to the Brook Kishon and executed them there.

- Under the law of Moses, it was a capital crime to draw God's people away from the worship of the true and the living God and into idolatry of God's people. So, when Elijah executes them, they are being executed for committing a capital crime according to the law of Moses. *(Deu 13:5a) But that prophet or that dreamer of dreams shall be put to death, because he has spoken in order to turn you away from the LORD your God.*

The LORD Sends Rain - 1Ki 18:41-43 *Then Elijah said to Ahab, "Go up, eat and drink; for there is the sound of abundance of rain." [42] So Ahab went up to eat and drink. And Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; then he bowed down on the ground, and put his face between his knees, [43] and said to his servant, "Go up now, look toward the sea." So he went up and looked, and said, "There is nothing." And seven times he said, "Go again."*

- The storm is going to come out of the Mediterranean. Go up and see if my prayer has had any impact on the storm coming in to bring an end to the drought. So he went up and looked.

1Ki 18:44 Then it came to pass the seventh time, that he said, "There is a cloud, as small as a man's hand, rising out of the sea!" So he said, "Go up, say to Ahab, 'Prepare your chariot, and go down before the rain stops you.'"

- **Elijah prays over and over, seven times, before he sees an answer to prayer**, teaching us the importance of the persistence, the perseverance of prayer. God had told Elijah that this drought would end based upon Elijah's intercession and returning to Ahab. So it took faith to pray and send his servant seven times to see.
- **So why does God make us pray seven times or more** before we see an answer to that prayer, and then other prayers are answered instantly? If God did everything the same way every time, we would have Him reduced to a mathematical formula, rather than maintaining a relationship with Him!

1Ki 18:45-46 Now it happened in the meantime that the sky became black with clouds and wind, and there was a heavy rain. So Ahab rode away and went to Jezreel. [46] Then the hand of the LORD came upon Elijah; and he girded up his loins and ran ahead of Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel.

- **Elijah was pretty hearty to run all the way, about fifteen miles** from Mount Carmel, to Jezreel! It began to rain, which was a tremendous victory over the prophets of Baal! It was a tremendous confirmation by God in the sight of all the people! It would appear that there was a great spiritual revival, as all of the people were saying, "Jehovah is God!" But it was only surface. It did not go down into the heart and the fiber of the nation.
- **Those times when God has worked in our lives in a supernatural way, are always exciting, glorious times.** It is always exciting to see God work, to see God move. To see people acknowledge the work of God! But, watch out! Because right after every great spiritual experience, you can be sure that Satan is waiting to cut you down to size. Here is Elijah, coming from this tremendous spiritual victory, over the prophets of Baal. Wiping out all four hundred and fifty! A great victory! But watch out what happens next! Read ahead, chapters 19 & 20!

SUMMARY -

- **When my brook is drying up, what am I to do? I am to pray!** To get alone with Him and pray! Learning to listen to His still, small voice; LORD, what is going on? My brook is drying up! My hearing is being sharpened! Listening! "Move to Zarephath?" Continuing to pray, listening for His answer, willing to obey!
- **Where do I stand in giving "first" to God, in seeking His kingdom and His righteousness?** What am I doing with my "first fruits"? Is it all about me being first? Where is God in my life? Is He really first?
- **Could it be said of me, that I am a man who perseveres in prayer?** Is there any of a Daniel in me, who persevered in prayer for more than 21 days in Daniel chapter ten? Then Michael came, giving great prophecy!
- **How long? Are there things in my life that are not quite right?** That I am caught between two contradictory opinions? May You help me LORD to choose and follow only the right one? Now LORD! Not "How Long?"
- **As I consider if there are any idols in my life, may I be reminded from this account**, that they will never answer any cry. Silence is all you will ever hear! What a contrast to that of our crying out to our One and True God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, Who will always answer!
- **"that this people may know that You are the LORD God!"** This is the point that God wanted to make through the miracle! There was that recognition that Baal is nothing! The LORD is God, and they ought to be worshiping the one and true God entirely!
- ***(1Ki 18:39) Now when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces; and they said, "The LORD, He is God!"*** ***The LORD, He is God!"*** ***ISPEAK JESUS!***

ISPEAK JESUS *Here be Lions, Darlene Zschech (3:35/3:38)*

*I just want to **speak the name of Jesus** Over every heart and every mind 'Cause I know there is peace within Your presence I speak Jesus I just want to speak the name of Jesus Till every dark addiction starts to break Declaring there is hope and there is freedom I speak Jesus 'Cause Your name is power **Your name is healing Your name is life** Break every stronghold Shine through the shadows Burn like a fire I just want to speak the name of Jesus Over fear and all anxiety To every soul held captive by depression I speak Jesus Your name is power Your name is healing Your name is life Break every stronghold Shine through the shadows Burn like the fire Shout Jesus from the mountains Jesus in the streets Jesus in the darkness over every enemy Jesus for my family I speak the holy name Jesus Your name is power Your name is healing Your name is life Break every stronghold Shine through the shadows Burn like a fire I just want to speak the name of Jesus Over every heart and every mind 'Cause I know there is peace within His presence I speak Jesus*

CLOSING PRAYER

NEXT WEEK: Study I Kings, Chapters 19-20