

The Prophet Elijah
1 Kings 16:29-17:6
A Man Like Us

This is my message written prior to being preached. Please excuse the bullet point format and any grammatical mistakes. This is meant to be spoken.

Introduction

- Today we begin a **new series** through the **life of OT prophet Elijah. Why Elijah?**
- **Well first**, I wanted us to look at the life of an **Old Testament Saint**.
- Because these **men and women** provide us with great examples of people who faced struggles, doubts, trials, depression, and failures.
- And yet, by God's power they **maintained and grew** in **faith**, ultimately living victorious lives which brought glory to God.
- And that's what I want for each one of us!
- To live victorious lives that glorify God!

- So, with that in mind, I then turned to the Old Testament.
- Now, in past years we've looked at **Abraham, Jonah and Ruth**.
- So that **left me with plenty to choose from**.
- I considered **Moses, David and Esther**, any one of which would have been good.

- But then, a few months ago, we participated in what is called **Secret Church**.
- This was an extended **time of prayer**, of seeing **God's world, and studying his word**.
- Specifically studying **the life of Elijah**.

- And as David Platt led us through this prophet's life in one evening,
- I thought, **and the elders later agreed**, that it would be good to expand on what we learned at **Secret Church** by doing a sermon series **on The Prophet Elijah**.
- **And so that's what we are going to do!**

- We're going to walk through the **latter chapters of 1 Kings and the beginning of 2 Kings**.
- This is where **Elijah's life and ministry is recorded**.
- However, Elijah is also mentioned in several other Old and New Testament books.
- And we will touch on several of these passages as well.
- In fact, I want to introduce **Elijah** by reading **what James** says about him in **chapter 5** of his letter. He writes...

- ***6 ...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. (James 5:16-17)***

- James wants to encourage believers, in our ability to pray in faith.
- And he does this by pointing to **an event that we'll see today in 1 Kings**,
- **That is, Elijah's pronouncement that the rain will cease to fall in Isreal**.
- And along with that James says something very interesting, that **Elijah had a nature like ours**.

- His point is that Elijah prayed an amazingly bold and effective prayer, and he is like us,
- Therefore, we can pray amazing effective prayers. **(more on prayer later).**
- But first I want us to think about that fact that Elijah **was a man with a nature like ours.**
- For those who know something about Elijah's story, **what do you think about that?**
- Personally, I've read these verses on many occasions, **and at times I have thought "really",** Elijah was like us, **like me? I find that hard to believe. Why?**
- **Well, let me give you a brief rundown of Elijah's greatest hits.**
- **He** endured the **greatest natural (supernatural) disaster** of his times,
- living through a drought and famine that lasted **for three and a half years.**
- **He** arranged the **greatest religious showdown of his times,**
- facing down the prophets of **Baal at Mount Carmel** and calling down **fire from heaven.**
- **Then He executed** the **greatest judicial sentence** of his times, striking down 450 false prophets.
- **He** performed the greatest **athletic feat of his times,**
- running seventeen miles from **Carmel down to Jezreel,** ahead of a horse and chariots.
- Not to mention, he gave **food to the hungry;** he brought **the dead back to life;**
- he appeared **transfigured with Moses and Jesus.**
- And if that's not enough, he's one of only **2 men in the Bible** that did not die.
- Elijah was taken up into heaven in **a whirlwind and a chariot of fire.**
- **Does that sound like Elijah was a man like US?**
- Well, let me tell you this, if James (inspired by the Holy Spirit) hadn't said it,
- **I for one wouldn't believe it.**
- But he (inspired by the Holy Spirit) did say it.
- Elijah ***"was a man with a nature like ours."***
- That word nature is the Greek word **homoio-pathes.**
- Which means having like feelings, affections, passions, **being the same as.**
- Paul and Barnabas used the same word in Lystra,
- where the people tried to worship them as gods. **They said...**

15 "Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men, of like nature with you..." (Acts 14:15)

- The apostles rightly insisted that they too were just like the **people of Lystra.**
- They were **mere mortals**, not anything special, **certainly not gods.**
- And that's what James was saying about Elijah.
- He was a real person, **just like all of us,**
- He put on **his sandals one foot at a time.**
- He was a **human being with human feelings, affections, passions.**
- He had human needs like anyone else, he struggled and even failed like us.

- And what that means is as we study the life of **this truly great prophet**,
- As we look closely at his **many victories and even a few defeats**.
- As we look at Elijah's **life of faith and obedience**.
- **We can know that** he's no different than you or me,
- Therefore, he is a **suitable example** for us to follow.
- As we study his life, we can never say, I could never do that,
- because Elijah was a man just like us.
- **And that brings us to our passage for today.**
- Where we begin not with Elijah himself but with his times.
- **Not only was Elijah a man like us but...**

1. Elijah's Times Were Evil - Like Ours

- Before we're introduced to **Elijah in Chapter 17**, we are introduced to **his times**, his world...
- Specifically, **His King, the King of Israel**.
- Beginning in **chapter 16 verse 29** we read...

²⁹ In the thirty-eighth year of Asa king of Judah, Ahab the son of Omri began to reign over Israel, and Ahab the son of Omri reigned over Israel in Samaria twenty-two years. ³⁰ And Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the LORD, more than all who were before him.... ³³ And Ahab made an Asherah (ASH-AIR-AH). Ahab did more to provoke the LORD, the God of Israel, to anger than all the kings of Israel who were before him. (1 Kings 16:29-30, 33)

- Elijah prophesized during the time that **Ahab was king over the Northern Kingdom of Israel**.
- This was **about 50 years** after the United Kingdom of Israel was divided.
- The kingdom in the North continued to be called Israel.
- And the kingdom in the South was called Judah.
- And Elijah was a prophet mainly to the Northern Kingdom.
- And if you read through the history of the Northern Kingdom in **Kings and Chronicles**.
- You'll find that none of its Kings were good, **not even one followed after God**.
- And this was certainly true of **the first six kings**.
- The Bible records that they, **did evil in the sight of the Lord...**
- **Jeroboam** set up idols.
- **Nadab (Nay-Dab)** was an evildoer.
- **Baa-sha** was a murderer.
- **Elah (El-ah)** was a drunkard.
- **Zimri** murdered **Elah**.
- **Omri** was even worse, just a few verses back in 16:25 we read...

²⁵ Omri did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, and did more evil than all who were before him. (1 Kings 16:25)

- But Omri's **son Ahab**, the **7th King of Israel** took the cake.
- He was the worst of all...

he did evil in the sight of the LORD, more than all who were before him.... And he did more to provoke the LORD, the God of Israel, to anger than all the kings of Israel who were before him.

- In short, **Ahab set records for EVIL.**
- And this is clearly seen in his **choice of a wife.**
- As we'll see throughout our study, **Ahab** chose to marry a woman whose name is synonymous with **wickedness.** Verse 31 of chapter 16 says...

³¹ And as if it had been a light thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat,

- Ahab thought it was a light thing,
- It meant nothing for him **to repeat and increase the sins of Jeroboam** (Israel's 1st Evil King)
- And this was clearly seen when...

he took for his wife Jezebel the daughter of Eth-baal king of the Sidonians... (1 Kings 16:31)

- Wicked queen Jezebel became the evil woman behind and sometimes in front of the evil man.
- They were the **Bonnie and Clyde** of the **Old Testament.**
- Now, Ahab certainly married Jezebel for **political reasons.**
- Their marriage **established an alliance** between **Israel and Sidon.**
- But it was more than a political alliance, **it was also a religious alliance.**
- An alliance between **Israel and the false god (BAH-AL or Bail) Baal.**
- Notice the king of Sidon's name is **Ethbaal**, which means **with Baal.**
- **Eth-baal and his daughter Jezebel were committed to the worship of Baal.**
- And this was not a problem for Ahab, He

³¹... went and served Baal and worshiped him. ³² He erected an altar for Baal in the house of Baal, which he built in Samaria. (the capital of Israel in the North) ³³ And Ahab made an Ash-air-ah... (1 Kings 16:31-33)

- Ahab became a worshiper of both **Baal and Asherah.**
- **Baal was the God of storms, rain, fertility and agriculture.**
- **Asherah was the goddess of happiness and fortune, often called the wife of God.**
- And one of the reasons these "gods" were so popular in **ancient Canaan** was because their temples included prostitution, **sexual immorality of all kinds.**
- And **King Ahab** sought to make **his unholy couple** popular in Israel as well.
- He built an **altar** and a **sacred pole** so that **his subjects so that...**
- **God's people** could join him in his **idolatry, apostasy and sexual immorality.**

- And they certainly did.
- Evil in the king begat evil in the kingdom. **We see an example of this in verse 34...**

34 In his days (the days of Ahab) Hiel (HEYEL) of Bethel built Jericho. He laid its foundation at the cost of Abiram (Ab-i-ram) his firstborn, and set up its gates at the cost of his youngest son Segub (Seg-ub), according to the word of the LORD, which he spoke by Joshua the son of Nun. (1 Kings 16:34)

- And what was the word of the Lord that he spoke to Joshua?
- Well in **Joshua 6:26** we read...

26 Joshua laid an oath on them at that time, saying, “Cursed before the LORD be the man who rises up and rebuilds this city, Jericho. “At the cost of his firstborn shall he lay its foundation, and at the cost of his youngest son shall he set up its gates.” (Joshua 6:26)

- So, **1 Kings 16:34** gives an example of how bad things were in **Ahab’s immoral kingdom**.
- Since the days of Joshua, no one had dared to **defy God’s curse against rebuilding Jericho**.
- But **Hiel** deliberately rebuilt the city.
- Ahab’s subjects deliberately did things God commanded them not to do,
- including **sacrificing their children for their own ends**.
- Now when the Scripture says that...

Hiel of Bethel rebuilt Jericho “at the cost of” his sons,

- It’s not clear whether this meant that he performed a literal child sacrifice
- (As the Canaanites sometimes did **or that God visited his house with judgment.**)
- But in either case,
- **Hiel recklessly disobeyed God, putting his own ambitions ahead of his family, with deadly consequences.**
- And that’s a brief picture of the **Elijah’s Evil Times**.
- And unfortunately, his times remind us of our times.
- We too live in evil times: times of violence, and sexual immorality of many kinds.
- Resulting in **the slaughter of unborn children**.
- We live in times when **evil is said to be good and good evil**.
- And worst of all (or the cause of it all) is that **like Israel under Ahab,**
- Much of **our world** has rejected **the one true God** in favor of **gods of their own making**.
- This is **certainly seen** in the **many false man-made religions** that dominate in many places.
- But it’s also seen in **western world** where **people bow** down before the idols of money, power, pride, culture, entertainment, beauty, sex, selfish pleasure, and more.

Even as Ahab did more to provoke the LORD, the God of Israel, to anger than all the kings of Israel who were before him.

- I don't think it is a stretch to say...
- **The people of the 21st century have done more to provoke the LORD to anger than all the generations who were before us.**
- So, we've seen that Like US, **Elijah Lived in Evil Times.**
- Therefore, as a man like us and as a man of God, living in evil times,
- Elijah can provide Christians with an example of how to live among a people who've rejected the one true God, turning instead to the worship and service of gods of their own making.
- So, let's now turn to Elijah.
- Following the description of the evil times **perpetuated by King Ahab.**
- We are then introduced to Elijah himself,
- and we discover what drove him to **stand up against the evil of his times, that is...**

2. Elijah's God Was Alive - Like Ours

- **Chapter 17** begins...

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." (1 Kings 17:1)

- Without any introduction, warning, explanation or preparation for what was coming,
- **Elijah suddenly appears.** Out of the blue. Just like that.
- He is simply called

Elijah the Tishbite of Tishbe.

- The Bible doesn't tell us anything else about Elijah's background,
- except that his hometown **Tishbe** was in **Gilead**,
- Which is the region east of the Jordan where the tribes of Gad, Reuben and ½ of Manasseh settled.
- So having briefly introduced Elijah, the author turns to **his** pronouncement to Ahab.
- Elijah begins by saying...

¹ ... "As the LORD the God of Israel lives" (1 Kings 17:1)

- This opening statement is truly revealing.
- For it provides the basis for Elijah's prophetic rain stopping pronouncement that follows.
- And each phrase is significant...

The LORD

- In Hebrew this is **Yahweh**, the name above every name,
- the name God gave to Moses at the burning bush,
- It means I AM or the self-existent one!

- It was Yahweh who Elijah stood before, **Yahweh was His God.**
- Even his name, Elijah means “**My God is Yahweh.**”
- And Yahweh is...

The God of Israel

- This means the God who has made a **covenant with the children of Israel.**
- He is the God of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and their descendants.
- Yahweh is the one true God of Israel, **even if Ahab was trying cast him aside.**
- Elijah continues, **the Lord, the God of Israel,**

lives

- This is Elijah’s **main point in this opening statement.**
- Above all else he wants Ahab to know that Yahweh, **the true God of Israel, is ALIVE!**
- Yahweh Lives!
- And this is a **clear rebuke to Ahab** and the **false gods he worshiped.**
- Ahab’s lifestyle was a **denial that God lives.**
- When **Ahab considered sin a light thing,**
- When he trusted in his **own alliances,** and set up **pagan idols to worship,**
- he was denying the existence of a living God.
- His **words and deeds** declared that Yahweh, the God of Israel, was dead.
- But Elijah declares not only **that the Lord Lives but that...**

He stands before Him.

- And this is why Elijah (from nowhere important) is able to face down Ahab (the king of Israel).
- Because he stands before, he is in the presence of Yahweh, the self-existent Living God.
- And the same **self-existent God is alive today.**
- Elijah is like us, **or we are like Elijah** because we have **the same living God.**
- Therefore, **we too can and must stand before Him.**
- And this is made all the more possible for us because God has revealed himself in Jesus Christ.
- By raising Jesus from the dead,
- God won the victory over death,
- And he proved that he was and is and will ever be the living God forever.
- And Jesus through his death and resurrection makes it possible for those who trust in him to stand before a holy God.
- As the author of Hebrews tells us, **because of what Christ has done to make us righteous before God...**

¹⁶ Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. (Hebrews 4:16)

- God is alive and through Jesus Christ we **can stand before him**.
- We can enter his presence where we will **not only find the boldness of Elijah**,
- but mercy and grace to help in time of need.
- **Let us rejoice and be bold in evil times, knowing that our God lives!**
- So, we've seen **that like us**, Elijah's Times were Evil, **but Elijah's God was Alive**.
- And so how did Elijah (and how must we) respond in **evil times to our living God?**
- Well, **we must certainly stand before Him**, enter and remain in his presence.
- And **what does that mean**, what does that look like, **well it looks like what we see in Elijah**.

3. Elijah's Life was Devoted to God - Like Ours (? = Should be)

- What James said is true: Elijah was a man like us, so we must be men and women like Elijah.
- His life was devoted to the living God, **and our lives must be devoted to the living God**.
- And in our passage, we can see three ways Elijah demonstrated his devotion to God....
- Three ways we **can emulate Elijah in our devotion to God**. First

A. Elijah Prayed

- To live for God in evil (or any) times is to **become a person of prayer**.
- In **1 Kings 17** Elijah makes a pronouncement from the Lord regarding the **stoppage of rain**.

¹ ... "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." (1 Kings 17:1)

- But as we've seen, **the book of James reveals** that this pronouncement was clearly preceded by prayer...

¹⁷ Elijah... prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. (James 5:17)

- That phrase **prayed fervently** literally means **"with prayer, he prayed,"** or **"praying, he prayed."**
- And so, James holds Elijah up as an example for us, **as a man of prayer**.
- It seems that before **Elijah** talked to **Ahab**, **Elijah talked to God**.
- Before he was on his feet before the **king of Israel**, he was on his knees before the King of kings.
- In fact, some **commentators believe that Elijah was in prayer for 6 months** before he confronted Ahab.
- No wonder **God chose his to be his prophet, his messenger!**
- When **God needed a man to go and speak divine judgment to Ahab**, Elijah was his man.
- His fervent prayer signifies his devotion to God.
- The call to serve God often begins with a **burden to pray for the Lord's work**.
- To pray for **some particular person**, particular **problem**, or particular **place or people**.
- As we pray, we begin to discern God's calling and receive God's transforming power.

- The power and fear of the LORD drove out Elijah's fear of man,
- and so, he had the kind of spiritual boldness that's given only to those who spend extended time in the presence of the living God.
- And he could pray powerful, rain ceasing, prayers because he was confident that he was praying God's will.
- Let's think for a moment about Elijah's prayer.
- Some would question whether it was good or right for him to pray for the rain to stop.
- Because this would mean **hardship and suffering** for his own people?
- But if you know the word of God, which Elijah certainly did,
- then you will understand **the rightness** of his prayer.
- Because his pray was in **perfect alignment** with God's word.
- In **Deuteronomy 11** we find **this warning given to the children of Israel...**

16 Take care lest your heart be deceived, and you turn aside and serve other gods and worship them;

- And this is exactly what was happening in Ahab's Israel.
- They were serving and worshipping other gods, and then come the consequences...

17 then the anger of the LORD will be kindled against you, and he will shut up the heavens, so that there will be no rain, and the land will yield no fruit, and you will perish quickly off the good land that the LORD is giving you. (Deuteronomy 11:16-17)

- The drought in Elijah's day was not a random **natural disaster**,
- It was a **specific punishment** on God's people for their sin.
- The Israelites trusted in **Baal, the god of rain**.
- And therefore, when Elijah prayed that it might not rain,
- he was both praying the will of God, revealed in the word,
- And he was showing Israel the power and glory of the living God over dead Baal.
- Elijah knew both the Word of God **and** that he lived in **evil (idolatrous) times**,
- So, he lived with the expectation that the judgment of God (specifically drought and famine)
- would come against his people.
- Therefore, Elijah was right to pray for this judgment,
- because he knew that idolatry and immorality are far worse disasters for a nation than any physical hardship.
- Elijah had a proper sense of what was actually good for his people
- **and what would bring glory to God.**
- He knew that his own people must suffer before they would turn back to God.

- British Bible Scholar **A. W. Pink** asks:

Why was it Elijah prayed “that it might not rain”? Not because he was impervious to human suffering, not because he took a fiendish delight in witnessing the misery of his neighbours, but because he put the glory of God before everything else, even before his own natural feelings . . . Elijah was “very jealous for the Lord God of hosts,” 1 Kings 19:10, and longed to see His great Name vindicated and His backslidden people restored. Thus it was the glory of God and true love for Israel which actuated his petition. (A. W. Pink)

- So, here’s a RADICAL question for us:
- Since Elijah was a man like us, and for Israel’s good and God’s Glory,
- Based on God’s word he prayed for judgment against His own people.
- Would you, based on God’s word, dare to pray such a prayer?
- Would you ask God to act in judgment so that people’s hearts would turn to him?
- For God’s word promises severe judgment for those who continue to reject him,
- Those who continue to live godless lives.
- For example, to the Romans Paul wrote...

¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. (Romans 1:18)

- So can you, for their good and God’s glory,
- Pray that the wrath of God would be revealed in the lives of those who are living in ungodliness, unrighteousness, who suppress the truth of God.
- Can you pray that people you love would experience the wrath of God,
- that they might come to their senses, turn to Him and be saved?
- If not, it’s not because **such prayers are no longer possible.**
- Again, the Bible says Elijah (who prayed for the rain to cease) was a man like us.
- If we do not pray such prayers, **it may be because we are no longer men and women like Elijah.**
- We live in evil times,
- Therefore, **our prayers against evil are as necessary as they were in Elijah’s day,**
- and since we serve a living God, **our prayers can be just as effective as Elijah’s prayers.**
- May the Lord make us people of prayer, **so that we may pray the way Elijah prayed.**
- For God’s glory and the good of people who have currently rejected the LORD.
- So, **first Elijah’s devotion to God is seen through his prayer.**
- And second... his devotion is seen through his trust and obedience...

B. Elijah Trusted and Obeyed

- To live for God in evil (or any) times is **to trust and obey as well as to pray.**
- Once Elijah **communicated the Lord’s judgment to Ahab.**
- The Lord then gave **him instructions** regarding what he should do next.

² And the word of the LORD came to him: (1 Kings 17:2)

- This is a phrase we'll hear throughout our study of Elijah's life.
- He stood in the presence of God...
- and therefore, God was able to communicate his word, his will to Elijah.
- All Elijah need do was to trust and obey the word of God that came to him.
- And notice also when the word came.
- Elijah had traveled from **Gilead to Ahab**.
- God had told him what to say to Ahab,
- but apparently, God hadn't told him **what he wanted him to do next**.
- God didn't give him the **whole plan in advance**.
- Instead, the word of the LORD **came right on time**.
- God told **Elijah where to go, just when he needed to go there**.
- God's first words must have come as a great relief:

³ "Depart from here..." (1 Kings 17:3)

- Elijah was not required to hang around Ahab's Evil palace for a moment longer than necessary.
- He was probably happy not to see Jezebel on this occasion.
- But then came a command that **might not have been so easy to obey**:

³ "Depart from here and turn eastward and hide yourself by the brook Cher-ith, which is east of the Jordan. ⁴ You shall drink from the brook, and I have commanded the ravens to feed you there." (1 Kings 17:3-4)

- Now wait a minute Elijah might have thought, **or at least I would have thought**.
- Why must I hide, **don't I serve the living God?**
- How am I going to **drink from a brook** when it's not going to rain for years?
- And how am I going to be fed by ravens, **how's that even possible?**
- Yet whatever objections Elijah may have had, **the Scripture simply says that...**

he went and did according to the word of the LORD. He went and lived by the brook Cherith that is east of the Jordan.

- Clearly Elijah trusted the Lord,
- and because of that he simply obeyed the word that God revealed, **as every believer should**.
- And that might sound simple,
- but sometimes the simple things are the hard things in the **Christian life**.
- All the Lord wanted from Elijah was **simple trust and obedience** to his revealed will,
- which is what he wants from any of us.

- Christians often struggle to know (or trust) the Lord's will for their lives,
- but those who walk with God, trusting in him,
- will find that **he leads them** where they need to go, **when they need to go there**.
- So, when God instructed Elijah where to Go,
- Elijah showed his devotion to God through **trust and obedience**.
- He went where God directed, **and we must do the same**.
- When God calls us to go someplace or do something,
- We must trust him and we must go and do according to the word of the LORD.
- And just to be clear his word, which we should be reading on a daily basis gives us plenty direction for where God wants us to go, and what God wants us to do.
- For example, Jesus said...

19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations... (Matthew 28:19)

- Here is some clear going and doing we should all be trusting and obeying...
- And that's just one example of guidance God's word provides us for how we are to live in devotion to him, in trust and obedience to HIM.
- If you don't know God's will his direction for your life, take some time to read his word.
- Trust it and then obey it!
- So, Elijah devotion to God was revealed by his praying and his trust and obedience.
- And this resulted in God's provision for and protection of Elijah.

6 And the ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning, and bread and meat in the evening, and he drank from the brook. (1 Kings 17:6)

- Even or especially in evil times, God protects and provides for those who are devoted to him.
- Those who stand in his presence, those who pray and trust and obey.
- This was true for Elijah, and this is true for all God's people.
- We worship and serve a living God; therefore, he will always be there for us in our time of need.
- This doesn't mean we will not be impacted by our evil times.
- It doesn't mean we will never suffer hardship because of evil men.
- It means the living God, will protect and provide for us in the midst of our suffering.
- In the midst of evil times.
- As David wrote in **the 23rd Psalm...**

4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you (the living God) are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. (Psalms 23:4)

- Elijah did not fear Evil Ahab because God was with him, protecting, comforting, providing.
- **And he was with God, He was devoted to God, praying, trusting and obeying.**

- And the same should be true for us, God is always there for his people.
- He will provide for and protect all who are devoted to him!

Even if he has to use ravens to do it.

- In a sermon called “Elijah by the Brook,” **Al Martin** tells of a cold, snowy winter night in a German village when **a boy and his mother were in desperate straits**.
- They had run out of food.
- The fire was out, and there was **nothing left to burn** to keep their cottage warm.
- So, the mother was shocked, as they prayed, to hear her son walk across the room and fling the cottage door wide open to the cold night air.
- “My son, why are you opening the door on such a cold night?” she cried out.
- “It’s for the ravens, Mother,” **the little boy simply replied**.
- He knew the story of **Elijah by the brook**.
- He remembered **how God had provided** for his prophet and trusted that God would send his ravens, **snow or no snow**.
- It so happened that **the burgomaster** (the mayor) was walking about that snowy night to see that all was well in the village.
- He was amazed to see an open door at the tiny home, **so he went to investigate**.
- He met the woman at the door and asked what was the matter.
- When she explained that she and her son were waiting for God to send his ravens,
- the burgomaster replied, **“I will be your raven, both now and ever.”**
- The poor mother and child were just like Elijah.
- Although they lived in evil desperate times, they knew the same God that Elijah knew.
- As they prayed for his provision, they **trusted that he would provide**.
- And they discovered the same thing that we will discover as we trust in him:
- **he is a living God, who always keeps his word and always cares for his people.**
- So let us be people like Elijah.
- As we live in evil times, let us devote ourselves the LIVING GOD.
- Let us be people of prayer to, trust in, and Obey the LORD.
- Would you join me in prayer to that end.