

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

1) 05 June	1Kings 01-04	Granted
2) 12 June	1Kings 05-08	Repentance
3) 19 June	1Kings 09-11	Compromised
4) 26 June	1Kings 12-14	Divided
5) 03 July	1Kings 15-16	Return
6) 10 July	1Kings 17-18	Proven
7) 17 July	1Kings 19-22	Hope
8) 24 July	2Kings 01-05	God Heals
9) 31 July	2Kings 06-08	God Provides
10) 07 Aug	2Kings 09-12	God Honors
11) 14 Aug	2Kings 13-17	God Judges
12) 21 Aug	2Kings 18-21	God Hears
13) 28 Aug	2Kings 22-25	God Moves

INTRODUCTION

- Elijah is introduced and right away he takes control of the weather and prevents rain for 3.5 years and brings down fire from Heaven to demonstrate that only his God rules the universe.
- Do we have idols before God? What are they: Work? Family? Spouse/Significant Other? Kids? Bank Account? Other?
- Can we pray for similar miracles of Elijah, since he was a man like us as depicted in [James 5:17](#)?

Passage	Comments
1Kings 17:1-24	<p>Elijah and the Widow of Zarephath (Sidon)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> v1. Elijah comes out of nowhere. Like Melchizedek, we don't know his parentage. Coming from Gilead, east of the Jordan River, one scholar (Michaelis) conjectured may not have been an Israelite, but an Ishmaelite. But Gilead is in the Rueben/Gad/Manasseh territory. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elijah's 1st prophetic announcement to Ahab is for a 3 year drought vv2-6. Elijah obeys God explicitly by hiding from Ahab and being fed by unclean birds <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How does God talk to His people today?...Heb 1:1-2 vv9-16. God gives Elijah 1 more command – go to Jezebel's hometown & be fed by a widow <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is ironic God showed no mercy to Israel's widows and orphans during this drought, but only to this heathen widow. WHY? Isaiah 9:17 This widow and her family lived comfortably during the 3 year drought (supply of food and oil) v24. BUT the widow did not believe Elijah to be a 'man of God' and that God's word was truthful UNTIL Elijah brought her son back to life <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why was it critical for this widow to believe in Elijah and in God's word? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not only did God show mercy by relieving her physical and financial misery, but He also extended salvation to her through believing faith – "Now I know... God's word is truth"
Sidon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sidon is frequently mentioned with Tyre since they are neighboring cities Recall Jezebel came from Sidon 1Kings 16:31 The first resurrection recorded in the Bible was of a Sidonian boy raised by Elijah..... 1Kings 17:17-24 Jesus, while visiting Tyre, remotely healed a Sidonian widow's demon-possessed daughter..... Mat 15:21 Alexander the Great destroyed Tyre & Sidon c. 332 BC, in fulfillment of prophecy (Jer 47), BUT Jesus said Sodom & Gomorrah and Tyre & Sidon would still exist today if God had sent a miracle worker to them as He did for Capernaum & Chorazin Mat 11:21-23

Passage	Comments
18:1-46	<p>Elijah vs the Prophets of Baal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> v36. Elijah did not act presumptuously, nor did he run ahead of God. Elijah knew God was going to act. vv1-2. It's time for rain, simply because God said so vv3-4. Obadiah ("servant of Jehovah") was a governor of Ahab's house – a very righteous man who had a very unrighteous boss <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are 13 Obadiah's in Scripture The Book of Obadiah was written by another This Obadiah secretly hid 100 prophets, similar to Germans hiding Jews during WW-II vv8-15. Elijah gives Obadiah a simple command to go fetch his boss, Ahab. Why would Obadiah spend 5 verses (~10% of this chapter) arguing with Elijah? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It's in Scripture, so it has significance 2Tim 3:16 Obadiah had a valid concern for his life, and God allowed it to be recorded for our instruction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> So, when is it proper to obey without questioning authority vs obey after questioning authority? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discernment is always key. vv16-18. The Blame-Game begins with Elijah & Ahab <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Who's the real troubler of Israel? vv19-40. Elijah comes up with a simple test, to pit him against 850 false prophets – the god who answers by fire – Wins. The challenge is made, and God prevails v39. The people are convinced God is God v40. Elijah has the people kill Baal's prophets. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Did this upset Ahab? Ahab probably was in agreement since that was the stakes of the game vv41-46. Elijah miraculously outruns Ahab's chariot in the rain – a 20-mile trip <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There was reform in the land – God's people acknowledge God as God (modest repentance), so God showed mercy by ending the drought But why would God empower Elijah to outrun Ahab just to be at Ahab's side when he tells Jezebel about the slaughter of her prophets? Sometimes God uses intense drama to inflame the opposition for them to do the unthinkable. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recall how the Pharisees and Sadducees were inflamed every time Jesus would work a miracle in front of them, especially on the Sabbath, to confirm His deity or mission Lk 4:31-37; 6:6-10; 13:10-17

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS:

- God is not locked into only showing mercy to Jews and Christians. He shows mercy to whom He wants to show mercy, yet one's behavior does play into the equation.
- And YES, we can pray for God to work unusual providential wonders, such as send or withhold the rain. So, PRAY BIG.

NEXT WEEK: 1Kings 19-22. Elijah becomes fearful of Jezebel, & God reproves & moves him on, while His nemesis, K. Ahab, murderously acquires the field of his neighbor, yet receives mercy from God.

