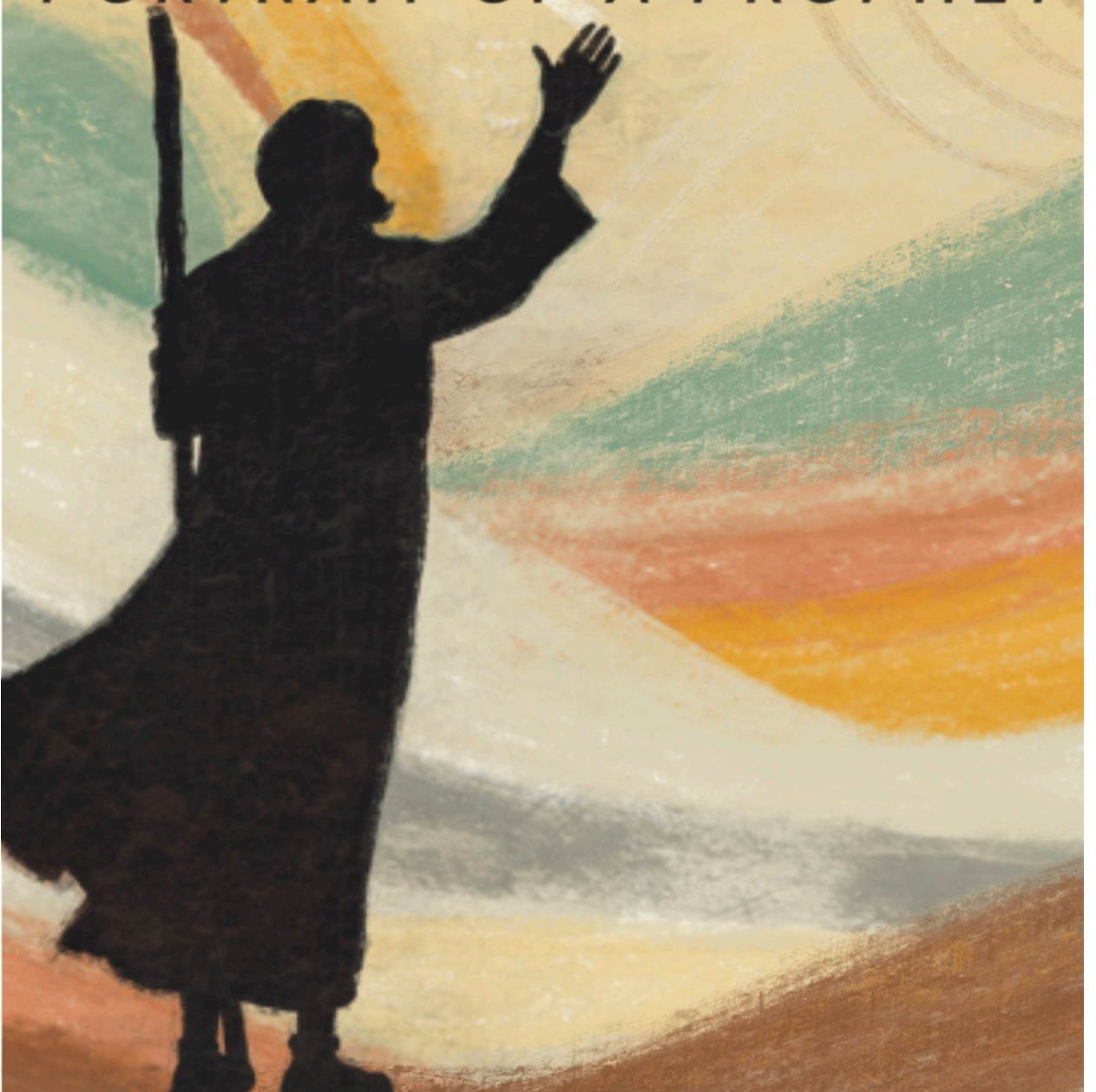


# ELIJAH

*PORTRAIT OF A PROPHET*





# **ELIJAH**

## *PORTRAIT OF A PROPHET*

**WEEK ONE ..... 1 KINGS 17:1-6**

**WEEK TWO ..... 1 KINGS 17:7-24**

**WEEK THREE ..... 1 KINGS 18:16-40**

**WEEK FOUR ..... 1 KINGS 19:1-18**

For centuries, God raised up prophets to call His people back to covenant faithfulness. Elijah was one of the greatest of these prophets, and his life ultimately points us to Jesus—the greater Prophet who alone can fully restore hearts to God. Join us this summer for *Elijah: Portrait of a Prophet* as we discover what it means to trust God in hidden places, depend on His provision in impossible moments, stand with courage in spiritual conflict, and experience His presence in weakness and exhaustion. Above all, we will see how the story of Elijah points us to the gospel and to God’s ultimate rescue through Jesus Christ.

# WEEK ONE

## NOTES

### 1 KINGS 17:1-6

<sup>1</sup> Now Elijah the Tishbite, from Tishbe in Gilead, said to Ahab, “As the Lord, the God of Israel, lives, whom I serve, there will be neither dew nor rain in the next few years except at my word.”

<sup>2</sup> Then the word of the Lord came to Elijah: <sup>3</sup> “Leave here, turn eastward and hide in the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan. <sup>4</sup> You will drink from the brook, and I have directed the ravens to supply you with food there.”

<sup>5</sup> So he did what the Lord had told him. He went to the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan, and stayed there. <sup>6</sup> The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning and bread and meat in the evening, and he drank from the brook.

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What are some of the greatest or most memorable entrances into history that you can think of?

Wilt Chamberlain had 43 points and 28 rebounds in his NBA debut. Cam Newton threw for 422 yards and scored 3 touchdowns in his first NFL game.

Trevor Story, a major league baseball player, hit a homerun in his first two at bats.

How about Kramer on *Seinfeld*? His entrances into Jerry’s apartment each episode became iconic.

The band Hootie & the Blowfish made their debut with the album called *Cracked Rear View*. It is known as one of the best selling albums of all time.

This entrance from Elijah is remarkable for a number of reasons. First of all, he’s barely introduced. We get his name and where he is from, but we don’t learn who his father is, which would have been part of a normal introduction. The next thing we read is Elijah





# NOTES & QUESTIONS

Can you imagine what it would be like to rely so much on God to provide that you would accept your food from ravens who were sent to bring it to you?

Do you recall a time when you were utterly dependent on God?

What is holding you back from recognizing your dependence on God today?

Do God's faithfulness and care change the way that you perceive your own dependence?



# NOTES

her arms, carried him to the upper room where he was staying, and laid him on his bed.<sup>20</sup> Then he cried out to the Lord, “Lord my God, have you brought tragedy even on this widow I am staying with, by causing her son to die?”<sup>21</sup> Then he stretched himself out on the boy three times and cried out to the Lord, “Lord my God, let this boy’s life return to him!”

<sup>22</sup> The Lord heard Elijah’s cry, and the boy’s life returned to him, and he lived.<sup>23</sup> Elijah picked up the child and carried him down from the room into the house. He gave him to his mother and said, “Look, your son is alive!”

<sup>24</sup> Then the woman said to Elijah, “Now I know that you are a man of God and that the word of the Lord from your mouth is the truth.”

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Have you ever heard of the 19th century science experiment where scientists placed a frog in a pot of boiling water and it instantly jumped out? As part of the same study, they placed a frog in a pot of cool water and slowly increased the temperature until the water was boiling. In this iteration, the frog stayed in the pot and died.

The leadership principle taken from this study over the years is that refusing to change in order to protect our comfort can lead to the death of our organization, our calling, etc.

What does this have to do with Elijah? Fair question. Elijah was sent by God to a specific place at a specific time. What would move someone away from a place that God had clearly brought them? What if this place is also comfortable and all your needs are easily being met?

“God, you called me here, so I should stay.” Often times, we hear and obey a calling of God and then tune Him out as if we believe that He wouldn’t change our destination once we are settled somewhere. God can move us as He wills, and it is on us to pay attention when He is trying to do that.



# NOTES & QUESTIONS

Could you function with just enough and no extra?

Where in your life are you just barely getting by? Where you are totally relying on God? How does it make you feel to be in that position?

What roles are played in this story:

*By God?*

*By Elijah?*

*By the widow?*

What do you think caused God to hear Elijah's cry?







# NOTES

What would have happened if Bo would have chosen to focus on one sport in the pros? Did trying to live in two worlds limit who he could be?

God warned the Israelites as they were entering the Promised Land that if they lived like the people of the land, they would be punished for their disobedience.

The Israelites fell into the allure of the sinful pagan lifestyle while trying to hold onto the promise of the Father. They didn't believe that pursuing the one disqualified them from the other.

Throughout their history, Israel continually chose disobedience and moved further away from God, but God never abandoned them.

The Israelites were choosing between God, the Almighty Creator, and something that is as far away from Him as you can imagine. Our choices might not feel as diametrically opposed as that, but the reality is that anything that isn't following Jesus makes us His enemy.

The battle that ensues on Mt. Carmel is a battle between enemies of God and God himself. That battle doesn't go well for the enemies of God.

Read through the passage again and pay attention to Elijah's confidence in God. He was so confident in God, that he is just mocking all of the false prophets. He believed wholeheartedly that God would show up. How does he know that? Because he has seen God show up in the past.



# NOTES & QUESTIONS

Where do you have one foot in the world and one foot in the kingdom? What would move you to be “all in” on one or the other?

What’s one faithful step that you can take towards being “all in” for the kingdom?

When you read “enemies of God” who do you picture? Do you see yourself?

Where have you seen God show up in your life in the past? Where do you see Him in your life now?

# WEEK FOUR

## NOTES

### 1 KINGS 19:1-18

<sup>1</sup> Now Ahab told Jezebel everything Elijah had done and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. <sup>2</sup> So Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah to say, “May the gods deal with me, be it ever so severely, if by this time tomorrow I do not make your life like that of one of them.”

<sup>3</sup> Elijah was afraid and ran for his life. When he came to Beersheba in Judah, he left his servant there, <sup>4</sup> while he himself went a day’s journey into the wilderness. He came to a broom bush, sat down under it and prayed that he might die. “I have had enough, Lord,” he said. “Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors.” <sup>5</sup> Then he lay down under the bush and fell asleep.

All at once an angel touched him and said, “Get up and eat.” <sup>6</sup> He looked around, and there by his head was some bread baked over hot coals, and a jar of water. He ate and drank and then lay down again.

<sup>7</sup> The angel of the Lord came back a second time and touched him and said, “Get up and eat, for the journey is too much for you.” <sup>8</sup> So he got up and ate and drank. Strengthened by that food, he traveled forty days and forty nights until he reached Horeb, the mountain of God. <sup>9</sup> There he went into a cave and spent the night.

And the word of the Lord came to him: “What are you doing here, Elijah?”

<sup>10</sup> He replied, “I have been very zealous for the Lord God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too.”







# NOTES & QUESTIONS

God tells Elijah to go back where he came from (1 Kings 19:15). When God redirects you, how do you respond?

What is your response when you are overwhelmed with life? Do you complain to those around you about how bad things are? Do you isolate and try to stay away from everyone and everything? What encourages you to bounce back?

What do you need from God in the moments you are struggling? Do you look to God when you are at your worst?

A.W. Tozer once said: "What comes into your mind when you think about God is the most important thing about you." What do you think came to Elijah's mind? What comes into your mind?

