

# HEROES OF THE FAITH

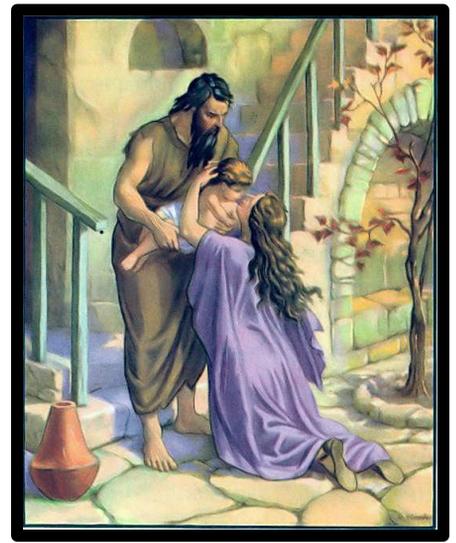
## ELIJAH: Crucible of Leadership {Part 3}

1 Kings 17:17-24

2 September 2020

*“...let people see the cracks in your life. You cannot be phony. You’ve got to keep it real.”*

*-- Chuck Swindoll*



➤ God raises the widow’s son. (vv. 17-24)

❖ (v. 17)

- Some time later...the widow’s son died.
- God turns up the heat in the crucible’s furnace.

✓ Elijah: His name means “The Lord is God.”

1. (v. 1) God commanded His prophet to confront Ahab.
2. (v. 2) God commanded Elijah to leave Samaria.
3. (vv. 3-6)
  - God isolated Elijah in the desert. (v. 3)
  - Elijah would not leave Cherith. (v. 7)
  - God fed the prophet bread and meat daily. (v. 6)
  - God gave Elijah water to drink. (vv. 3-4, 7)
  - God had to refine Elijah’s character & test his mettle.
  - Elijah needed to learn to become less dependent upon self.
  - Elijah needed to learn to become more dependent upon God.
  - God had to teach Elijah to wait upon Him.
4. NOTE: (vv. 1-24)
  - God’s purpose for Elijah was to tackle Baal worship in Israel.
  - Macro View
    - God ordained the drought.
    - Spiritual warfare: Who is God – Jehovah, or, Baal?
    - Only God can bring a drought; and, end it.
    - God is holy. He sees sin. He judges it.
  - Micro View
    - God molded His servant into a great leader.
    - Elijah obeyed God. God refined him.



- (17:8-16): Elijah's crucible - Trust. Humility. Dependence.
- (vv. 17-24)
  - Elijah's crucible of character & mettle continued.
  - God tested the widow's faith, belief, & conviction in Him.

❖ (v. 18)

- The widow seemed to be convinced about the truth of Elijah's God.
- God demonstrated His power through Elijah in verses 8-16.
  - ✓ Phoenicia/Sidon was known for its exports of oil and flour.
  - ✓ Yet, there was drought, shortages of resources, and extreme poverty.
  - ✓ The resources were nearly gone.
  - ✓ Baal – the fertility god – could not stop the drought (spiritual warfare).
- The woman blamed Elijah, & His God, for judgment of her sin.

❖ (vv. 19-20)

- NOTE: Elijah's *response*, and, Elijah's *actions*. (vv. 19-20)
- He took the boy and went to be alone with God.
- He prayed. He talked with God.
- He was real before God. He asked the hard questions he couldn't answer.

❖ (vv. 21-22)

- He pled fervently with God. (v. 21)
- "...three times..." (v. 21)
  - ✓ The purpose of this action is unclear. The significance is unknown.
  - ✓ *Yahweh* listened. *Yahweh* acted...in accordance with His will.
- Another illustration of God's divine, sovereign power. (v. 22)
- Unlike Baal, God does not submit to death, He controls it.
- "...life..." = נֶפֶשׁ (*nephesh*): soul; life; inner being; that which breaths.
- Psalm 139:7-12

❖ (vv. 23-24)

- Only God can defeat death. (v. 23; 1 Corinthians 15:54b-55)
- God spoke. The widow encountered the living God...she knew it. (v. 24)
- God glorified Himself in Elijah's, the widow's, & the boy's life.
- God is the God of life...even in Sidon. (vv. 17-24)

