



## *You Can Count on God When Times Are Tough*

The Elijah series - Week 1

1 Kings 17:1-6

- ◆ **Note:** The prophet Elijah is one of the greatest prophets in the Bible. After Moses, Abraham, and David, Elijah is the most frequently mentioned Old Testament person in the Bible. Elijah is also mentioned in the New Testament and by Jesus: Matthew 11:11-14; Matthew 16:13-14; Matthew 17:1-3; Luke 4:24-26; James 5:17-18.

**Section 1 - A prophet of God tells of coming judgment from God.**  
(1 Kings 17:1)

**Section 2 - After Elijah's public announcement, God sends him to a private place.** (1 Kings 17:2-5)

**Section 3 - God provides for the needs of His prophet.**  
(1 Kings 17:6)

### Today's Take-Away Truths from God's Word

**Truth #1 -** Even when times get tough, God is still in control.

**Truth #2 -** Spiritual and moral compromising can happen to anyone, anytime we let our spiritual guard down.

*\* 1 Corinthians 10:12: "If you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!"*

*\* Ephesians 4:26-27: "In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold. ESV says "give no opportunity to the devil."*

**Truth #3 -** God still uses "ravens" today to help meet needs. When we put our trust in God, we can count on Him to meet our needs even when times are tough.

**Truth #4 -** God has appointed the beginning and ending of every season of life.



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*You Can Count on God When Life's Tests Come*

The Elijah series - Week 2

1 Kings 17:7-24

◆ **Note:** Throughout life we face different kinds of tests. Some things test our patience. Some things test our faith. Some things test our integrity. There are all kinds of tests in life. Today, we will learn that no matter what test we face, we can always count on God to help us when life's tests come.

**Section #1 - Elijah obeys God even when things don't seem to make sense.** (1 Kings 17:7-11)

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**Section #2 - The widow replies to the words of Elijah.**  
(1 Kings 17:12-16)

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**Section #3 - A miracle happens that is bigger than bringing food out of an empty jar - the prophet brings the widow's son back to life.**

(1 Kings 17:17-24)

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**Today's Take-Away Truths from God's Word**

**Truth #1** - There are different kinds of dried up brooks we experience in life. When a brook in life dries up, we can either worry about the problem or we can trust God, but we can't do both. Worry and trust can't exist in the same heart.

**Truth #2** - It can be very frustrating when you're in a job, in a relationship, or in a situation when you are ready to go and God says stay there.

**Truth #3** - We don't always know the answers to life's tragedies. For instance, if God can heal a sick child some of the time, why doesn't He do it all the time? Some tragedies in this imperfect world we will not understand until we arrive in that perfect world called Heaven.

**Truth #4** - Tests in life do come but God's help is always available to us.



*You Can Count on God*  
*When the Odds Are Against You - Part 1*  
The Elijah series - Week 3  
1 Kings 18:1-21

◆ **Note:** As we come to chapter 18, God is going to give Elijah the green light to go before King Ahab again. But before he meets with ungodly King Ahab, he will meet a godly believer named Obadiah.

**Section #1 - Obadiah - a good man in a hard place.**  
(1 Kings 18:1-6)

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**Section #2 - Obadiah meets Israel's most wanted man - Elijah.**  
(1 Kings 18:7-14)

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**Section #3 - The prophet meets the king again and requests an audience with all of Israel and the prophets of Baal and Asherah.**  
(1 Kings 18:15-21)

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**Truth #1** - It is possible to be a committed Christian in a worldly environment.

**Truth #2** - God uses both Elijahs, the bold, and Obadiahs, those who serve, to fulfill His purposes.

**Truth #3** - A compromising believer is a disobedient believer.

**Truth #4** - False "gods" promise what only the true God can provide.



*You Can Count on God*  
*When the Odds Are Against You - Part 2*

The Elijah series - Week 4  
1 Kings 18:18-40

◆ **Note:** Ahab had no idea of how God was going to turn the tables on the king at Mount Carmel and all of Israel would witness it.

**Section #1 - A supernatural showdown between Baal and the Lord.**  
(1 Kings 18:22-24)

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**Section #2 - The prophets of Baal yell to their god.**  
(1 Kings 18:25-29)

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**Section #3 - Elijah's turn to burn the sacrifice.**  
(1 Kings 18:30-35)

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**Section #4 - Elijah looks up, fire comes down, and the people fall to the ground.** (1 Kings 18:36-39)

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**Section #5 - The Lord will take whatever measures are necessary to protect His name and His people.** (1 Kings 18:40)

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**Today's Take-Away Truths from God's Word**

**Truth #1** - The odds were against Elijah, but God was for Elijah. One person PLUS GOD makes all the difference in any situation.

**Truth #2** - Throughout our life there will be "it's time to make up your mind" moments that will call us out of any compromise and into full commitment to the Lord.

**Truth #3** - What we can't change in days, months, or years, God can change in a moment when we turn to him, trust in Him, and do what He says.



***You Can Count on God  
When Nothing Seems to Be Happening***

The Elijah Series - Week 5  
1 Kings 18:41-46

**Section #1 - Elijah the prophet becomes Elijah the prayer warrior.** (1 Kings 18:41-44a)

**Section #2 - Elijah the prophet becomes Elijah the weather man.** (1 Kings 18:44b-45)

**Section #3 - Elijah the prophet becomes Elijah the runner.** (1 Kings 18:46)

**Four characteristics of effective praying**

- ◆ **Characteristic #1 - Effective prayers are HUMBLE prayers.** (1 Kings 18:42)
- ◆ **Characteristic #2 - Effective prayers are SPECIFIC prayers.** (1 Kings 18:43a)

**Why specific praying matters**

(1) Specific praying helps us better discern our desires.

- (2) Specific praying helps us better see the answer to our prayers and thank God for them.
- (3) Specific praying helps our faith and trust in God to grow.

◆ **Characteristic #3 - Effective prayers are PERSISTENT prayers.** (1 Kings 18:43b)

\* “Too many times we fail to get what God promises to give because we stop praying too soon.” (Warren Wiersbe)

◆ **Characteristic #4 - Effective prayers are EXPECTANT prayers.** (1 Kings 18:44-45)

**Why our prayers don't get answered**

**Reason #1** - Sometimes we ask for things with wrong motives.

- **James 4:3:** “When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives ...”

**Reason #2** - Sometimes we ask for something out of God's will for our lives.

- **1 John 5:14:** This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

**Reason #3** - Sometimes we are holding on to sin in our lives which prevents our prayers from being answered.

- **Psalms 66:18:** The Lord will not hear me if I hold on to sin in my heart.

**A truth worth remembering:** God will provide what we need when we need it, when we are looking to and trusting in Him.



## ***You Can Count on God When Days Are Dark***

The Elijah Series - Week 6

1 Kings 19:1-18

◆ **Note:** All that happened in chapter 18 was a very HIGH POINT in Elijah's life but it was about to be followed by a very LOW POINT in Elijah's life. After any "win" in life, we are often vulnerable to a setback from stress, fear, temptation, or discouragement. We will see this to be true for Elijah. But we will also see that it is true that we can always count on God when our days are dark.

**Section #1 - Elijah runs again but this time out of fear.**

(1 Kings 19:1-3a)

**Section #2 - The prophet of the Lord cries out to the Lord**

**"Enough."** (1 Kings 19:3b-4)

**Section #3 - Elijah might have felt like giving up on life, but the Lord was not giving up on Elijah.** (1 Kings 19:5-8)

**Section #4 - A cave called "Discouragement."**

(1 Kings 19:9-10)

**Section #5 - A God-moment can change how we see everything.** (1 Kings 19:11-18)

### **Today's Take-Away Truths from God's Word**

**Truth #1** - When we cry out "enough," God can be more than enough to help us.

**Truth #2** - Thankfully, God's doesn't always answer all of our prayers with a "Yes."

**Truth #3** - God first met Elijah's physical needs so He could better meet his spiritual needs. Sometimes the most spiritual thing we can do is get some rest.

**Truth #4** - Self-pity is an enemy to spiritually going forward.

**Truth #5** - God will meet us at the point of our discouragement, despair, and depression.

**Truth #6** - Let God help you with how you feel and what is real.



*You Can Count on God  
When the World Seems Upside Down*

The Elijah Series - Week 8  
1 Kings 21:1-29

- ◆ **Note:** Do you ever feel that it seems the world has been turned upside down? Every time I watch the news I get the feeling that the world has been turned upside down. What used to be wrong ... is now often seen as right. What used to be right ... is now often seen as being wrong. As disappointing or as frustrating as it can be when wrong seems to be winning, God promises that there will be a payday someday for ALL evil. That is the topic we will be looking at today from 1 Kings, Chapter 21, "*You Can Always Count on God Even When the World Seems Upside Down.*"

**The Story of Payday Someday** - There are four main characters in this story: Naboth, Ahab, Jezebel, and Elijah.

**Section #1 - When real estate is not for sale at any price.**  
(1 Kings 21:1-3)

**Section #2 - What the king wants - the king gets - says the king's wife.** (1 Kings 21:4-7)

**Section #3 - Naboth says "no" to the king which means "oh-no" for Naboth.** (1 Kings 21:8-16)

**Section #4 - A promise from the Lord of a payday someday for the evil of Ahab and Jezebel.**  
(1 Kings 21:17-24)

**Section #5 - False repentance is the same as no repentance.**  
(1 Kings 21:25-29)

### Today's Take-Away Truths from God's Word

**Truth #1** - Elijah wasn't a perfect believer - just a faithful believer (James 5:17). God continues to look today for "Elijahs" who will not bow to the gods of this world and will stand for Him.

**Truth #2** - When wrong seems to win, always remember that God has a payday someday for every wrong.

**Truth #3** - The life of Elijah shows us again and again that no matter what, we can always count on God!