

## The Prayers of Elijah

1 Kings 17:1-24; 18:1,16-19:8

Intro: Have you ever had a “mountaintop experience” with God?

Have you ever been so down that you wanted to die?

The prophet Elijah experienced those extremes one after the other, as well as many other extraordinary events with God.

James 5:17 says Elijah was a person just like us.

Yet he was certainly a man of extraordinary *faith* and *prayer*.

- I. Elijah appears and confronts Ahab, Israel’s seventh king\*
  - a. The LORD had forewarned His people long before
  - b. The succession to the throne was wicked and bloody
  - c. Ahab did more evil than any before him
  
- II. The word of the LORD and Elijah
  - a. “I have directed the ravens to supply you with food.”
  - b. “I have directed a widow...to supply you with food.”
  - c. “LORD my God, let this boy’s life return to him!”
  
- III. Three-and-a-half years later\*\*, Elijah returns to confront Ahab
  - a. His mountaintop experience at Carmel
  - b. His righteous prayer: “Turn their hearts back again.”
  - c. His fearful run and prayer to die

Close: Elijah, in fact, never did die. He was taken up to heaven in a whirlwind with a chariot and horses of fire (2 Kings 2:11)!

Yet he was a person just like you and me—who prayed with tremendous faith.

\*The Northern Kingdom of Israel after the Kingdom divided

\*\*Luke 4:25 and James 5:17