

Elijah Was A Man With A Nature Like Ours

► = next PowerPoint slide(Lessons from Elijah)

► Intro:

- **Ja. 5:17 Elijah was a man with a nature like ours** (lesson prompted by suggestion from Melanie Trask)
 - many lessons we can learn from Elijah
 - he was like us: had struggles and difficulty of life like us, had questions yet served and obeyed God like us

► Elijah's first recorded encounter with Ahab

- "Elijah" means *Yah is God*
- first read of Elijah when God punishes Israel for forsaking the commandments of the Lord and following the Baals
 - Ahab was king over Israel
 - he brought calamity upon them by listening to His wife, Jezebel, and leading God's people to worship Baal
 - in the course of events, Jezebel tried to annihilate the prophets of God
 - but Obadiah hid a hundred of them in a cave, and fed them with bread and water
 - Elijah prayed, by the will of God, that it would not rain, to punish the Israelites for their sins with famine (Ja. 5:17)
 - then he fled to the wilderness (as directed by God), where he was fed by ravens and drank from a brook
 - when the brook dried up, God sent Elijah to a widow who took care of him
 - 3½ years into the drought, Elijah went to Ahab as commanded by God
 - spoke the word of God to Him
 - challenged and defeated 850 prophets, and proved Yahweh is God
 - prayed that it would rain again, as directed by God, proving again that Yahweh is God
- **1 Ki. 17-18 (7-8 minutes)**

- There is a price to pay for serving God, and delivering the message of the gospel to lost souls
 - illus.: **1 Ki. 17-18 Elijah and prophets**
 - Elijah living in wilderness, homeless with only bare essentials, **then with widow**
 - 100 prophets Obadiah hid, living in cave with only bread and water to survive
 - **prophets killed through efforts of Jezebel**
 - faithful people of God suffered, while God was bringing about events according to His will, in preparation for the delivering of His message

- - God's people often have to suffer, endure extreme circumstances, for the sake of the gospel
 - **Matt. 5:10-12** blessed when persecuted, insulted, slandered, rejoice, reward great in heaven, so people did to prophets – illus.: Jesus

- - **Rev. 2:20-24 Jezebels in religion**, they are their adherents are condemned unless repent
 - **1 Ki. 21:25, 26** "Jezebel" incited people to do evil
 - Jezebels (false teachers, prophets) often persecute God's people to their personal advantage

- - beware of tactics of false teachers – be ready, not surprised
 - lie about God's children, gospel, church, to lead people away from God
 - **Jn. 8:44** Satan is father of all lies
 - **2 Pet. 3:16** twist the truth
 - **Eph. 4:14** by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming

- - **2 Pet. 2:1-3, 9-15, 17-19** evil motives and tactics of false teachers, prophets, like Balaam who showed people how to cause God's children to stumble for personal financial gain (**Rev. 2:14**)

- - try to use people we love against us, to turn us away from God
 - **1 Tim. 2:14; Gen. 3:1, 2-3, 4-5, 6, 17** illus.: Satan deceived Eve, then used her to get to Adam and influence him to sin

- - destroy the messengers (Christians) if possible, to keep the truth from getting out
 - illus.: Jesus, apostles, early Christians, Crusades, Jihad by radical Islam
 - illus. peer pressure: preachers of tolerance trying to silence us

End Part I

- review PP – Elijah was a man with a nature like ours

- inv.: begin life of faith today, paying the price, reward great in heaven

► **Part II**

- **Ja. 5:17 Elijah was a man with a nature like ours** (lesson prompted by suggestion from Melanie Trask)

- many lessons we can learn from Elijah

- he was like us: had struggles and difficulty of life like us, had questions yet served and obeyed God like us

► - review PP

► **God uses people who are strong in faith to do His work – not the weak**

- illus.: **1 Ki. 17:8-24 Elijah sent to Zarephath, in the land of Sidon, where a widow provided for him according to the command of God**

- Elijah got to the city and the widow was gathering sticks

- he asked for water and bread

- woman said she was gathering sticks to cook last meal for her and son, then die

- Elijah told her not to fear, but to do as he said, wouldn't run out of flour or oil during the drought

► - **Lk. 4:25-26 many widows in Israel, but Elijah was sent to none of them, but to Zarephath**, in the land of Sidon (a Gentile city, the woman was probably a Gentile and not a Jew)

- God uses people to do His will who have faith to do the work (obey)

- these are often the most unlikely folks in world terms

- if we have the faith we should, we know God is using us as He needs, though we may not know His plan

- illus.: brethren, Revelation, severely persecuted, may not completely understand God's plan

- God blesses the people who are busy doing His will

- illus.: widow not run out of food, Elijah raised her son

- illus.: **Lk. 4:27 Naaman healed**, but none of the lepers in Israel (Naaman a Syrian, Gentile)

- God asks us to do difficult and challenging things, some of which could be dangerous (cost. above)
 - illus.: **1 Ki. 18:1-16** God commanded Elijah to show himself to Ahab
 - Elijah told Obadiah to tell Ahab, “Elijah is here” – tell Ahab the location of Elijah so he could go to him
 - **Obadiah objected**, thought this put his life in danger
 - thought the Spirit of the Lord would carry him away and he could not be found, and Ahab would kill him instead of Elijah
 - **Elijah promised that he would show himself**
 - **Obadiah obeyed**, and went to Ahab, reporting the location of Elijah
- - illus.: **R - Matt. 23:31-36** Jesus' words to scribes and Pharisees in presence of disciples
 - of those whom Jesus would send, the Jews would kill, crucify, scourge in their synagogues, and persecute from city to city
 - imagine being a disciple, standing there and listening
- - **Heb. 11:32-38** extreme persecution of many who lived by faith
 - **Eph. 4:15; 1 Pet. 3:15** to speak the truth in love, and give a defense of the hope within us, **could cost us** a sale, a promotion, a job, a friend
 - illus.: working in Leesburg, meeting with salesman for accounting and inventory software, told me something and prefaced it by saying, “**This may cost me a sale. . .**” – what he had to say was more important than the sale
 - have to risk our own lives – physical, financial, social reputation – little risk posed to us v. other countries
 - illus.: lady converted in China
 - God asks His children to do some challenging things, the result sometimes is harsh treatment
 - if we have the faith that we should, we will do these things, and succeed as God's people to His glory
 - if we have the faith to obey God, not matter the consequences, live with God forever in heaven

► **We must stand up for the truth, and for ourselves as God's children**

- **1 Ki. 18:17-18** Ahab falsely accuses Elijah, who corrects him and rebukes him, while standing up for himself – we must do the same thing today
- - contend for the faith, fight with the spiritual weapons God has given us
 - **Jude 1:3, 4** contend earnestly for the faith, to deal with false teachers, keep people from being led astray
- - **2 Cor. 10:3-5** spiritual weapons, powerful for the destruction of fortresses, destroying speculations, taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ (**Eph. 6:10-18**)
 - not allow people to silence us, stop us from speaking the truth and getting out the gospel
 - vigorously refute false doctrine, and challenge false teachers with truth (next major point)
- - illus.: Jesus, accused of casting out demons with the power of Satan (Beelzebul, prince of demons)
 - Jesus convicts them of false religious doctrine with Scripture, and with human logic
 - then Jesus address that they seek a sign – we're not Jesus, can't speak with same authority
 - **Lk. 11:29** told them generation was wicked
 - told them the Queen of the South and Ninevites would rise up and condemn them at the judgment
 - then Jesus had lunch with a Pharisee, who was surprised Jesus didn't wash according to tradition before eating – not give into false religious tradition
 - **Lk. 11:39-41** Jesus issued strong warnings (woe), and rebuked them for teaching false religious doctrine
 - then a lawyer told Jesus he was insulting them
 - **Lk. 11:46-52** Jesus strongly warned the lawyers and rebuked them
 - we don't have the same authority of Jesus
 - today, God's word is the voice of authority, as we deliver it to men
 - like Jesus, we stand up for the truth, God's word, and do not allow ourselves to be silenced or intimidated
- - illus.: Paul, rebuke of Elymas, a false teacher who used magic to trick people and turn them away from God
 - **Acts 13:6-12** Paul, inspired, harshly rebuked Elymas as a son of the devil, full of deceit and fraud, enemy of all righteousness
 - we don't have apostolic authority - not inspired by Holy Spirit
 - we have God's word, and it rebukes people who are doing the same thing today, as we deliver the message of the gospel
 - like Paul, we stand up for the truth, God's word, and do not allow ourselves to be silenced or intimidated
- - illus.: Apollos, not inspired by Holy Spirit, mighty in the Scriptures
 - **Acts 18:24-28** fervent in spirit, changed when corrected (baptism), spoke boldly, powerfully refuted the Jews in public, demonstrating by the Scriptures Jesus was the Christ
 - note: difference between handling of Apollos who sincerely didn't know the truth, and those who were teaching false religious doctrine

(illus. continued next page – early Christians)

- - illus.: early Christians not silenced, spoke truth to the death – stand up for truth, for ourselves as God's children
 - Satan makes war against Christians – couldn't silence them
 - Rev. 12:17 dragon, made war with the rest of her children, who keep the commandments of God, hold to the testimony of Jesus
- - Christians persecuted – not silenced
 - Rev. 1:9 John exiled because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus
 - Rev. 6:9 Christians slain because of the word of God, and because of the testimony which they had maintained
 - Rev. 20:4 Christians beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, not worshiped the beast or his image
- - Christians victorious because of the word of their testimony – that for which they were persecuted and killed
 - Rev. 12:11 overcame Satan, because of the blood of the Lamb, because of the word of their testimony, did not love their life even when faced with death (Rev. 7:14; Acts 22:16; 1 Pet. 3:21)

End Part II

- review PP – Elijah was a man with a nature like ours
- inv.: begin life of faith today, God will use you to do accomplish His will in the world

SR=Ja. 5:13-18

► **Part III**

- **Ja. 5:17 Elijah was a man with a nature like ours** (lesson prompted by suggestion from Melanie Trask)

- many lessons we can learn from Elijah

- he was like us: had struggles and difficulty of life like us, had questions yet served and obeyed God like us

► - review PP

- **price to pay**

- Elijah, wilderness, widow

- 100 prophets, cave, bread and water

- **God uses people who are strong in the faith**

- widow, take care of Elijah

- not run out of flour or oil during the drought

- **God asks us to do difficult and challenging things**

- God commanded Elijah to show himself to Ahab

- Elijah sent Obadiah to Ahab

- **we must stand up for the truth**

- Ahab falsely accused Elijah, blamed problems in Israel on him

- Elijah stood up for the truth and himself, and rebuked Ahab

► **We must challenge false prophets, false teachers, false religions**

- Elijah's challenge – exposed error, taught truth
 - **1 Ki. 18:19-20 challenged Ahab to assemble 850 false prophets** at once – imagine the crowd
 - **1 Ki. 18:21 challenged the people to make a decision**, between God or Baal
 - **1 Ki. 18:22-40 challenged prophets of Baal, pressed them more when failed**
 - two oxen to sacrifice: one for prophets of Baal, one for Elijah
 - challenge: prepared the oxen and put on wood of alter, but not light with fire
 - see if Baal answers his prophets for lights the sacrifice on fire, or if Yahweh answers His prophet
 - people thought good idea
 - Elijah pressed them harder: mocked them when they failed, Baal not answer
 - **1 Ki. 18:26-29 – paint picture**
 - Elijah called people to him, repaired alter of the Lord, made a large trench around the altar, arranged the wood and cut the ox in pieces and laid it on the wood, had people pour water over on the ox and wood 3 times, filling trench, Elijah prayed, fire of the Lord fell and consumed the burnt offering and the wood and the stones and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench
 - **people fell on their faces; and said**, "The Lord, He is God; the Lord, He is God"

► - Lessons we learn

- prophets and teachers of false religions may outnumber leaders of God's people – Elijah against 850 prophets – strength not in number of false teachers
 - doesn't make them strong, or right – truth always wins
 - adherents of their doctrines are just as lost, no matter how many leaders there are
- prophets and teachers of false religions do absurd things in the name of religion – prophets of Baal crying with loud voices and cutting themselves, custom, with swords and lances, blood gushing out
 - may be appeal to people deceived by false religion
 - does no good religiously or spiritually – vain
- Yahweh doesn't listen to the prophets and teachers of false religions – Baal not respond, Yahweh didn't allow Satan to respond
 - false gods can't help us, or do anything

► - Things we can emphasize when challenging false religion, as revealed by Elijah

- emphases on God's word
 - **1 Ki. 18:31 Israel, word of Lord** had come
 - obey God, do things in the name of the Lord (**Col. 3:17**)
- - **1 Ki. 18:32 built altar in the name of the Lord**
 - be humble, not like outlandish worldly religious traditions (**1 Pet. 5:6**)
 - **1 Ki. 18:36 done all by word of God**
 - bring glory to God in obedience to Him
- - **1 Ki. 18:36-37, 39** so know Yahweh God in Israel, and turn their hearts back again
 - God listens and responds to those who obey Him, according to His will (**1 Pet. 3:10-12; 1 Jn. 5:14-15**)
- - **1 Ki. 18:38** fire of the Lord fell, consumed burnt offering and wood and stones and dust, licked up water that was in the trench
- - What does Elijah reveal about the fate of false prophets (teachers)? – must challenge
 - punishment of false prophets and teachers (**2 Pet. 2:3-9**)
 - **1 Ki. 18:40 seized prophets of Baal, not let them escape, slew them**

1-2: price to serve God deliver message of the gospel, God uses people strong in faith, God asks us to do difficult and challenging things, stand up for truth and ourselves
3: challenge false prophets and false teachers and false religions

► **Elijah demonstrates the effectiveness (power) of prayer**

- after slaying the prophets of Baal, God commanded Elijah to pray that it would rain, and it did

- **Ja. 5:16b-18 Elijah example, nature like ours, effective prayer of righteous man**

- God commanded Elijah to pray, he obeyed, produced much good according to God's will

- God commands us to pray, we obey, produces much good according to His will

► - our confidence. . . .

- **1 Jn. 5:13-15 believe name of Jesus, confidence, God hears – if He hears, he answers according to His will**

- our job is to pray according to God's will

- we're confident that God is answering as He wills, as we are doing the work He desires

- we're confident that God is working all things together for good

- we're confident we have the strength, and all the blessings of God, to do His will and endure the trials of this life to His glory

End Part III

- review PP – Elijah was a man with a nature like ours

- **inv.: begin life of faith today, standing up for the truth as a child of God, and receiving the blessings we have from prayer**

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SR=Ja. 5:13-18

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- we must challenge false prophets, false teachers, false religions

- Ahab challenged Ahab, the people, and 850 false prophets

- when the people saw the foolish ineffectiveness of the false prophets religion, and the power of Jehovah, they glorified God as Lord

- Elijah demonstrates the effectiveness (power) of prayer

- God commanded him to pray, and it didn't rain for 3 1/3 years, then God commanded him to pray again and it rained

- Elijah is a man with a nature like ours – demonstrates the power of prayer

- the effective prayer of a righteous man avails much

1-2: price to serve God deliver message of the gospel, God uses people strong in faith, God asks us to do difficult and challenging things, stand up for truth and ourselves
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► **Enemies of the cross will threaten us, in an attempt to stop us** – silence us

- illus.: **1 Ki. 19:1-2 Jezebel's threatening message to Elijah**, after Ahab told her what happened to the prophets of Baal, threaten to kill Elijah in 24 hours as he had killed the prophets of Baal
 - **2 Ki. 9:30-37** happened “somewhat” to her word – slain according to the will of Jehovah God, not one of her pagan gods
 - **1 Ki. 21:23** she was slain by Jehu, in accordance to Elijah's prophesy before his death, that dogs would eat Jezebel in the district of Jezreel

► - **Phil. 3:17-19 we must contend with the enemies of the cross** - enemy of Christ, salvation, church

- description, enemies of the cross
 - **Rom. 1:18** men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness
 - **Rom. 1:25** exchange the truth of God for a lie
 - **1 Tim. 6:5** men of depraved mind, deprived of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain

► - **Rev. 2:20-24 Jezebel is prototypical of the enemies of God, Christ, cross, church**

- **1 Ki. 21:25** a Jezebel is one who incites people to sell themselves to do evil – sell themselves to the devil
 - illus.: prostitute
 - illus.: **Acts 13:8-10 Elymas, son of the devil, enemy of righteousness, made crooked** the straight ways of the Lord

► - **Gal. 4:16 people opposed to the truth will consider themselves our enemy** - explain context

- **Ja. 4:4** whoever wishes to be a friend with the world makes himself as enemy of God
- **Jn. 3:20** evil hates the Light, does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed

► - **Jude 1:3, 4a our responsibility is to stand up to the enemies of the cross** – contend earnestly for the faith, against enemies of the cross

- **Matt. 5:10-11 sermon on the mount** – blessed when we stand up against the enemies of Christ
 - blessed when persecuted for the sake of righteousness
 - blessed when people insult us you and persecute us
 - blessed when people falsely say all kinds of evil against us because of Jesus
 - rejoice and be glad, our reward in heaven is great, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets
- **Eph. 5:11-13 expose darkness** – speak out and not be silenced – Elijah, 850 prophets of Baal
- **1 Tim. 6:12** fight the good fight, against the enemies of the cross, as soldiers of Christ – Elijah, 850 prophets of Baal
- **2 Tim. 3:12** often suffer persecution – Jezebel to Elijah

- **enemies of the cross threaten us, attempting to stop us** – scare us, peer pressure

- we must stand up to them, taking courage from God
- we must speak truth, and do God's will
- we'll be blessed – this life and next

1-2: price to serve God deliver message of the gospel, God uses people strong in faith, God asks us to do difficult and challenging things, stand up for truth and ourselves
3: challenge false prophets and false teachers and false religions, effectiveness of prayer
4: enemies of the cross will threaten us in attempts of stopping us

► **We shouldn't allow ourselves to be manipulated by Christ's enemies** – take courage, don't underestimate God

- illus.: after Jezebel threatened Elijah, he ran for his life, wanting to die, and hid in a cave, rather than trusting in God for deliverance from Jezebel, and doing the will of God as a prophet
 - God talks to Elijah as He passes before him on a mountain
 - Elijah incorrectly assumed he was the only one left in Israel who was righteous, but God reveals there are 7,000
 - God sends Elijah to anoint Hazael king over Aram, Jehu king over Israel, and Elisha as prophet in his place
 - **1 Ki. 19:1-18**

- - we shouldn't run away and hide, feeling sorry for ourselves when Christ's enemies try to stop us
- illus.: **1 Ki. 19:1-3, 9** Elijah afraid, ran for his life because one person (powerful) threatened him, hid in a cave
 - Elijah had just defeated the prophets of Baal, put them to death, by the power of God
 - all the people had just bowed and worshiped God, and would have submitted to Elijah's commands given to Him by God
 - Elijah shouldn't have been in the cave – God asked twice, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"
 - God strengthened Elijah through an angel and with food, and should have gone to do God's will, rather than hide in the cave
 - God strengthened Elijah again, by passing by him on the mountain and speaking to him
 - review this series: take courage and do the will of God
 - price to serve God deliver message of the gospel
 - God uses people strong in faith
 - God asks us to do difficult and challenging things
 - stand up for truth and ourselves
 - challenge false prophets and false teachers and false religions
 - pray: effectiveness of prayer
 - if Christ's enemies succeed in silencing us, they have won the battle, at least against us personally, though God always wins
 - woe be to us, if God wins without us
 - illus.: Mordecai to Esther – (picture) God will save Israel with or without you, but woe be to you if He saves them without you – who knows if you were put here for this very purpose
 - Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, learn not to run away when threatened and challenged, but to fight

1-2: price to serve God deliver message of the gospel, God uses people strong in faith, God asks us to do difficult and challenging things, stand up for truth and ourselves
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4: enemies of the cross will threaten us in attempts of stopping us, shouldn't allow ourselves to be manipulated by Christ's enemies

- - we shouldn't underestimate God – if we do, we'll think things are worse than they really are, be discouraged
 - illus.: **1 Ki. 19:9-18** Elijah thought he was the only righteous person left in Israel, and was ready to die rather than fight
 - God can do anything
 - Job 42:2 "I know that You can do all things, And that no purpose of Yours can be thwarted."
 - Pr. 16:4 "The Lord has made everything for its own purpose, Even the wicked for the day of evil."
 - as God's children, we can do everything He sets forth
 - Eph. 6:10 we are strong in the strength of His might – armor of God
 - Is. 55:11 God's word not return to Him void – always accomplishes His will (**Rom. 1:16**)
 - Rom. 8:28, 37 God works all things together for good to those who love God, overwhelmingly conquer
 - 2 Tim. 4:7-8 fight the good fight to the end, crown of righteousness given to us in heaven
 - illus.: David's defeat over Goliath – (picture) battle belonged to the Lord, knew he would win by the word of God, hurried to the battle line to fight, killed Goliath and defeated Philistines
 - What are some areas in which we're prone to underestimate God today?
 - healing the sick – Ja. 5:16-18 Elijah, effectiveness of prayer, heal sick
 - guiding and directing us in our individual, everyday lives
 - working in the world to bring about His will, maybe because we can't see or understand what He is doing, and He often works over hundreds of years rather than a man's lifetime
 - God is not limited to just what we think and know – His thoughts are higher than ours
 - evangelism
 - we do little or nothing sometimes, because we underestimate the power of God, who gives the increase
 - must trust in God more than ourselves, and do the best we can
 - illus.: door hangers, banner, talking with people
 - strength God gives us in the inner man, to do His will in all things, and take the way of escape when tempted
 - return of Christ to the earth for salvation, take the elect home to heaven – picture
 - Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, learn not to underestimate God, but trust in Him and do His work
 - we shouldn't pay homage to pagan deities, or false religions – Buddha, Pope, Reverend
 - illus.: **1 Ki. 19:18** 7,000 had not bowed to Baal or kiss him on the mouth, by the will of God
 - reveals God's thinking and attitude toward such homage
 - must be careful what we do
 - when around people who pay homage to false gods - homes, temples, churches, etc.
 - when visiting and touring foreign lands, should not put ourselves in a position to pay homage in any regard, which may mean we can't tour some places
 - business practices: some places in the world one would have to pay homage to pagan deities with a customary bow, to do business – not sell soul to Satan for \$ (**Matt. 16:26**)
 - talking to people who are members of any false religion
 - God helps in our weaknesses, but we still have to do the work
 - **1 Ki. 19:5-18** God helped Elijah, but he still had to do the work – couldn't quite
 - word, prayer, blessings – zealous for good deeds, getting the message out to lost souls

- 1-2: price to serve God deliver message of the gospel, God uses people strong in faith, God asks us to do difficult and challenging things, stand up for truth and ourselves
- 3: challenge false prophets and false teachers and false religions, effectiveness of prayer
- 4: enemies of the cross will threaten us in attempts of stopping us, shouldn't allow ourselves to be manipulated by Christ's enemies

End Part IV

- review PP – Elijah was a man with a nature like ours

- **inv.:** begin life of faith today, standing up for the truth as a child of God, contending for the faith, and standing up for Jesus

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SR=1 Ki. 20:1-21

► Part V

- **Ja. 5:17 Elijah was a man with a nature like ours** (lesson prompted by suggestion from Melanie Trask)

- many lessons we can learn from Elijah

- **he was like us:** had struggles and difficulty of life like us, had questions yet served and obeyed God like us

► - review PP

- **price to pay**

- Elijah, wilderness, widow

- 100 prophets, cave, bread and water

- **God uses people who are strong in the faith**

- widow, take care of Elijah

- not run out of flour or oil during the drought

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- Ahab falsely accused Elijah, blamed problems in Israel on him

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- **we must challenge false prophets, false teachers, false religions**

- Ahab challenged Ahab, the people, and 850 false prophets

- when the people saw the foolish ineffectiveness of the false prophets religion, and the power of Jehovah, they glorified God as Lord

- **Elijah demonstrates the effectiveness (power) of prayer**

- God commanded him to pray, and it didn't rain for 3 1/3 years, then God commanded him to pray again and it rained

- the effective prayer of a righteous man avails much

- **enemies of the cross will threaten us, in an attempt to stop us – silence us**

- we must contend earnestly for the faith - stand up to the enemies of the cross

- **we shouldn't allow ourselves to be manipulated by Christ's enemies**

- shouldn't run away and hide, feeling sorry for ourselves

- we shouldn't underestimate God

- we shouldn't pay homage to pagan deities, or false religions

- God helps in our weaknesses, but we still have to do the work

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► When God determines the outcome of a battle, it's certain and can't be changed

- illus: **1 Ki. 20** war with Ben-hadad, king of Aram, consisting of 2 battles – sr = 1st battle

- both battles, Ahab and Israel won by the word of the Lord

- Arameans believed Jehovah was like their pagan gods, and went to battle against Israel in the 2nd battle on the plain because they thought He was the god of the mountains and not of the plains

- Israel won both battles, by the word and the power of God, to show that Jehovah is the Lord

- winner predetermined by God, no way for the Arameans to win

- but Ahab disobeyed God and let Ben-hadad and other captives from the 2nd battle go, for which God promised to punish Ahab and Israel

- **1 Ki. 20:22-43 the second battle and Ahab's disobedience** – below, lessons from the 2nd battle

► - God's children will win the battle over Satan and sin, because God has already determined the outcome

- illus.: **1 Ki. 20:13, 28** God predetermined that Israel would win, there was no way the Arameans could win

- illus.: Jesus' crucifixion and ascension, Satan judged and defeated, Jesus raised to the throne of God, to sit at his right hand

- illus.: David's defeat over Goliath, knew battle belonged to the Lord, because God had ordained Israel's victory over the nations in His word

- **1 Cor. 15:50-52, 54, 57** God gives us the victory through Jesus, death swallowed up in victory

- **1 Cor. 15:58** therefore, steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing your toil is not in vain in the Lord

- illus.: #359, Victory In Jesus - review vs. 1, 3, chorus

► - we must obey God to succeed individually – to be a child of God and part of the victory

- illus.: **1 Ki. 20:35-37** prophet commands two men to strike him – one obeys, one disobeys

- prophet told 1st man by the word of the Lord to strike him, man disobeyed, refused to strike him, punished, killed by lion

- prophet told 2nd man to strike him, he obeyed, prophet departed

- shows the necessity to obey

- we must obey God, even if it's something we don't understand

- we will be punished if we don't obey

- we must obey God to be successful as individuals – Israel won as God ordained, but punished for disobedience after defeating the Arameans

- illus.: **1 Ki. 20:41-43** Ahab and Israel punished because Ahab made a covenant with Ben-hadad and the Arameans

- just as the man was punished for not striking the prophet – disobedience

- we must obey God to be successful as individuals – Israel won as God ordained, but punished for disobedience after defeating the Arameans

- **1 Jn. 5:3-4** victory over the world is faith – love, obey commands

- **1 Pet. 1:9** "obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls"

- we know the outcome of the battle (outcome of our faith), salvation in heaven, victory over Satan and death

- **Rev. 2:10** be faithful until death, receive crown of life – crown given to victors

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 5: when God determines the outcome of a battle the outcome is certain

► We must obey God before human authorities, even if the penalty is death

- illus.: Nabothen refused to sell his vineyard to Ahab
 - it was unlawful for Nabothen to sell his inheritance from his father (**Lev. 25:23; Num. 36:7**)
 - Ahab commanded Nabothen to do something sinful, and Nabol had to refuse
 - Ahab and Jezebel, with other evil men, conspired to put Nabol to death, because he refused to sin and thereby obey the king
 - falsely accused Nabol of cursing God and the king, and stoned him to death – painful price to pay
 - **1 Ki. 21:1-19**
- - **Acts 5:27-29, 40-42** apostles before Sanhedrin, must obey God rather than man, flogged afterwards, left rejoicing, continued to disobey them
 - **Acts 4:19** we must give heed to God, rather than man – God 1st, man 2nd
 - illus.: Shadrach, Meshach, Abed-nego, refused to obey the king and worship an idol, thrown into a furnace of blazing fire not knowing if God would save them
 - God blessed them: in the end they were saved by God and the king blessed Jehovah, and made a decree that no one should ever say anything offensive about Jehovah God
- - **Heb. 5:12-14** priority: grow to maturity, so senses trained to discern good and evil, so know if we should obey or disobey human authorities
 - training babes in Christ, and our children, one of the most pressing responsibilities we have
 - illus.: Why do the majority of young people in some congregations fall away, and in other congregations they do not? – training (or lack of) by parents and Bible teachers (elders, preachers)
 - if a king, president of a country, or any other person who has authority over us commands us to do something that's sinful, even at the threat of death, we must disobey and suffer the consequences
 - illus.: parent, spouse, friend, teacher, boss, police, etc.
 - love Jesus more than father, mother, wife, children, brothers, sisters, and even our own life, to be His disciple (**Lk. 14:26**)
 - but if a person in authority commands us to do something that is not a sin, we are bound by God to obey – don't have to agree, just obey
 - wives be subject to husbands (**Eph. 5:22-24**)
 - children obey parents, for this is right (**Eph. 6:1-4**)
 - employees obey employers (**Eph. 6:5-8**)
 - citizens be subject to civil authorities, for the Lord's sake (**Rom. 13:1-2; 1 Pet. 2:13-17**)

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- 5: when God determines the outcome of a battle the outcome is certain, must obey God before human authorities

► **God will forgive us and bless us, if we humble ourselves and obey Him**

- illus.: **Ahab sold himself to do evil in the sight to of the Lord and made Israel sin, so God sent Elijah to tell him that the Lord would bring evil upon him and utterly destroy his household**
 - Ahab humbled himself before the Lord, and God had mercy on him, and promised not to bring this evil upon his household until after he died
 - **1 Ki. 21:20-29**

- - **Rom. 3:23; 6:23 all have sinned and are worthy of death** (punishment), **but when we humble ourselves and repent, obey, God forgives us and blesses us** (gift of eternal life)
 - **1 Pet. 5:5** God gives grace to the humble
 - **1 Pet. 5:6** we must humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God, and He will exalt us at the proper time

- illus.: **Bathsheba, complicit in the sin of adultery with David**, though the king had called for her, because she should have refused, even at the cost of death (obeyed king rather than God), and at least in obedience to the Mosaic Law she should have cried out for if she was raped, afterwards Bathsheba purified herself of her uncleanness in accordance to the law before going home – both could have been stoned to death under the Mosaic Law
 - **after they repented and God punished them, He blessed them:** used David and Bathsheba mightily in His kingdom, Bathsheba Solomon's mother and in the lineage of Christ

- - **What does God expect from man?** - could give many short answers
 - **Mic. 6:6-8** do justice, love kindness, **walk humbly with God** – must believe and obey

- **if we humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God, believing and obeying Him, He will forgive us and bless us, and exalt us at the proper time** – no matter the sins of our past

End Part V

- review PP – Elijah was a man with a nature like ours

- inv.: humble yourself under the mighty hand of God, obey, God will forgive you and bless you
 - inv. song: #359, Victory In Jesus

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SR=Jas. 5:17-18

► Part VI

- Ja. 5:17 Elijah was a man with a nature like ours (lesson prompted by suggestion from Melanie Trask)

- many lessons we can learn from Elijah

- **he was like us:** had struggles and difficulty of life like us, had questions yet served and obeyed God like us

► - review PP

- **price to pay**

- Elijah, wilderness, widow
- 100 prophets, cave, bread and water

- **God uses people who are strong in the faith**

- widow, take care of Elijah
- not run out of flour or oil during the drought

- **God asks us to do difficult and challenging things**

- God commanded Elijah to show himself to Ahab
- Elijah sent Obadiah to Ahab

- **we must stand up for the truth**

- Ahab falsely accused Elijah, blamed problems in Israel on him
- Elijah stood up for the truth and himself, and rebuked Ahab

- **we must challenge false prophets, false teachers, false religions**

- Ahab challenged Ahab, the people, and 850 false prophets
- when the people saw the foolish ineffectiveness of the false prophets religion, and the power of Jehovah, they glorified God as Lord

- **Elijah demonstrates the effectiveness (power) of prayer**

- God commanded him to pray, and it didn't rain for 3 1/3 years, then God commanded him to pray again and it rained
- the effective prayer of a righteous man avails much

- **enemies of the cross will threaten us, in an attempt to stop us** – silence us

- we must contend earnestly for the faith - stand up to the enemies of the cross

- **we shouldn't allow ourselves to be manipulated by Christ's enemies**

- shouldn't run away and hide, feeling sorry for ourselves
- we shouldn't underestimate God
- we shouldn't pay homage to pagan deities, or false religions
- God helps in our weaknesses, but we still have to do the work

- **when God determines the outcome of a battle, it's certain and can't be changed**

- God's children are victorious over Satan, sin, and death – we'll live with God forever

- **we must obey God before human authorities, even if the penalty is death**

- to be part of the victory, we must obey God

- **God will forgive us and bless us, if we humble ourselves and obey Him**

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► We must love the truth, or we'll believe a lie and lose our souls

- illus.: Israel and Judah formed an alliance and went to war against Aram, to take back Ramoth-gilead, a city belonging to Israel
 - Israel had defeated Aram twice (1 Ki. 21), now, 3 years later they go to war against them again
 - Ahab (king of Israel) inquired of 400 of his prophets; they falsely prophesied that he'd be victorious
 - but Jehoshaphat insisted on asking a prophet of the Lord (Micaiah), who told them. . .
 - the Lord put a deceiving spirit in Ahab's prophets so they would lie
 - the truth was, Ahab would lose the battle, and would not return alive
 - as a result of his unfavorable prophesy, Ahab threw the prophet of God into prison with minimal provisions (bread and water)
 - Ahab was killed in the war, because he disobeyed God – punished, not listen to the word of God
 - **1 Ki. 22:1-40**

- - we must love the truth to be saved
 - illus.: Ahab was not committed to the truth, to know it and obey it at any cost, so he died
 - **2 Th. 2:10b** not love (agape) the truth, not saved
 - **2 Th. 1:8** to love the truth as to be saved, we must obey the gospel
 - **1 Jn. 5:3** if we love God, we will obey – love for truth is a reflection of our love for God – visa versa

- - if we don't love the truth, we'll believe a lie and lose our souls
 - **2 Th. 2:9-10, 11-12** God has sent deluding influences (e.g., fake miracles: Simon, Elymas) into world (e.g., like Ahab's false prophets), so that people who don't love the truth will believe a lie, and be judged as not believing the truth
 - if we don't love (agape) the truth, we will believe a lie and lose our souls – hell
 - illus.: Ahab believed the truth and defeated Aram twice, then believed a lie and was defeated (died)
 - **Jn. 17:17** the truth is the world of God – love it, obey it, eternal life in heaven – visa versa
 - **Jn. 12:48** judged by Jesus' word

- - we shouldn't take our own revenge, when we're persecuted for speaking the truth
 - illus.: Micaiah struck by Zedekiah, and imprisoned by Ahab, for prophesying truthfully
 - **Rom. 12:18-21** don't take own revenge, God will, love enemy, heap burning coals on head, overcome evil with good
 - **Matt. 5:44-45** love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so be sons of our Father in heaven

- we must love the truth, or we'll believe a lie and lose our souls

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- 5: when God determines the outcome of a battle the outcome is certain, must obey God before human authorities, God will forgive and bless us if we humble ourselves
- 6: we must love the truth or we'll believe a lie and lose our souls

► **Obeying a god (religion) other than Jehovah ends in death – eternal death, second death**

- illus.: **Ahaziah**, Ahab's son, became king of Israel after his father's death
 - **Ahaziah fell through the lattice in his upper chamber** which was in Samaria, and became **ill**
 - **he sent messengers to inquire of Baal-zebub, Philistine god at Ekron**, as to whether he would recover
 - **on the way, Elijah met me the messenger by the word of God**, and told them to tell Ahaziah that he would not recover because he had inquired of Baal-zebub rather than the Lord
 - **Ahaziah sent a captain of 50, with his 50, to call Elijah** to come
 - **why would the king sent a small army to bring Elijah to him** – force him, try to get him to change God's mind, scare him, impress him
 - **fire came down from heaven** and consumed them
 - **Ahaziah sent another captain with 50 men** to call Elijah
 - **fire came down and consumed them too**
 - **Ahaziah sent a 3rd captain with 50**, who humbly beseeched Elijah
 - **Elijah went with them, according to the word of the Lord, and reiterated the word of God**, that the king would die
 - **Ahaziah died**, reigning less than 2 years over Israel
 - **2 Ki. 1:1-17**

► - there is only one true God – we must obey His word to be saved

- **Eph. 4:4-6** one God, Lord, church
- **Jn. 14:6** Jesus is the only way to the Father – way, truth, life
 - **Heb. 5:9** must obey Jesus and His word to be saved
 - **Acts 24:14a, 22a** “the Way” of Jesus is His church, being a member of His church
 - **Eph. 5:23** Jesus Savior of the body – **Eph. 1:22-23** church – **Acts 22:14** the Way

► - if we obey anyone else other than Jehovah, we are lost in our sins – false prophets, false religions, pagan deities

- **Rev. 2:14-16** we are enemies of Christ if we adhere to false religious doctrines – not obey Jesus
 - Jesus will make war with us, unless we repent – illus.: God to Ahaziah

► - God's word, given to us by Jesus Christ (in the last days, no other days to come), will not change

- **Heb. 13:8-9a** Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever - don't be carried away by strange doctrines – illus.: Ahaziah, doctrines of Baal-zebub

- obeying a god (religion) other than Jehovah ends in death – eternal death, second death, hell

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- 5: when God determines the outcome of a battle the outcome is certain, must obey God before human authorities, God will forgive and bless us if we humble ourselves
- 6: we must love the truth or we'll believe a lie and lose our souls, seeking guidance from any other god or religion ends in death

► The next generation must be ready to lead

- illus.: Elijah was lifted up to heaven (translated) by angels in a chariot of fire
 - Elisha refused to leave him, not separated until he was lifted up to heaven
 - when Elijah asked what he could do for him, Elisha asked for a double portion of his spirit
 - while Elijah was going up to heaven, his mantel (cloak, large over-garment) fell to earth and Elisha put it on
 - then Elisha did miracles that proved he had received a double portion of Elijah's spirit
 - parted Jordan, purified the waters at Jericho, cursed the lads at Bethel who mocked him and they were torn up by bears
 - joke: don't make fun of bald guys, unless you want to be torn up by bears
 - 2 Ki. 2:1-25

► - we must prepare future generations to lead

- illus.: leadership training
 - Elisha was Elijah's assistant for many years before leading – trained
 - Joshua was Moses' assistant for many years before leading – trained
 - Jesus was trained by his parents when he was young
 - apostles trained by Jesus 3 ½ years, before He returned to heaven
 - Timothy and Titus trained by Paul before they were sent out on their own
 - co-teaching program, younger assist older teachers – train
 - preacher training program, young men work with congregation during training period
 - parents and Bible teachers train young folks to walk in the ways of the Lord, and become leaders in the kingdom
- Tit. 2:3-8; 1 Pet. 5:5a older teach and train the younger in the church – train
 - Heb. 13:17 obey your leaders and submit to them – training
 - illus.: why are there so many congregations with older men, but without elders overseeing the congregation – lack of training, preparation with goal in mind
- younger generations must take their training seriously, and be ready to lead
 - illus.: Elisha, Joshua, Jesus, apostles, above
 - often times young folks think they have nothing to do in the kingdom - wrong
 - many thing can do, but one of the most important is to learn to lead as a young person, prepare yourself to lead as an adult

Summary / Inv.

- series: Elijah was a man with a nature like ours
- review PP
- inv.: love the truth, obey God, begin working in the kingdom and learning to lead