

calvary
chapel
portsmouth

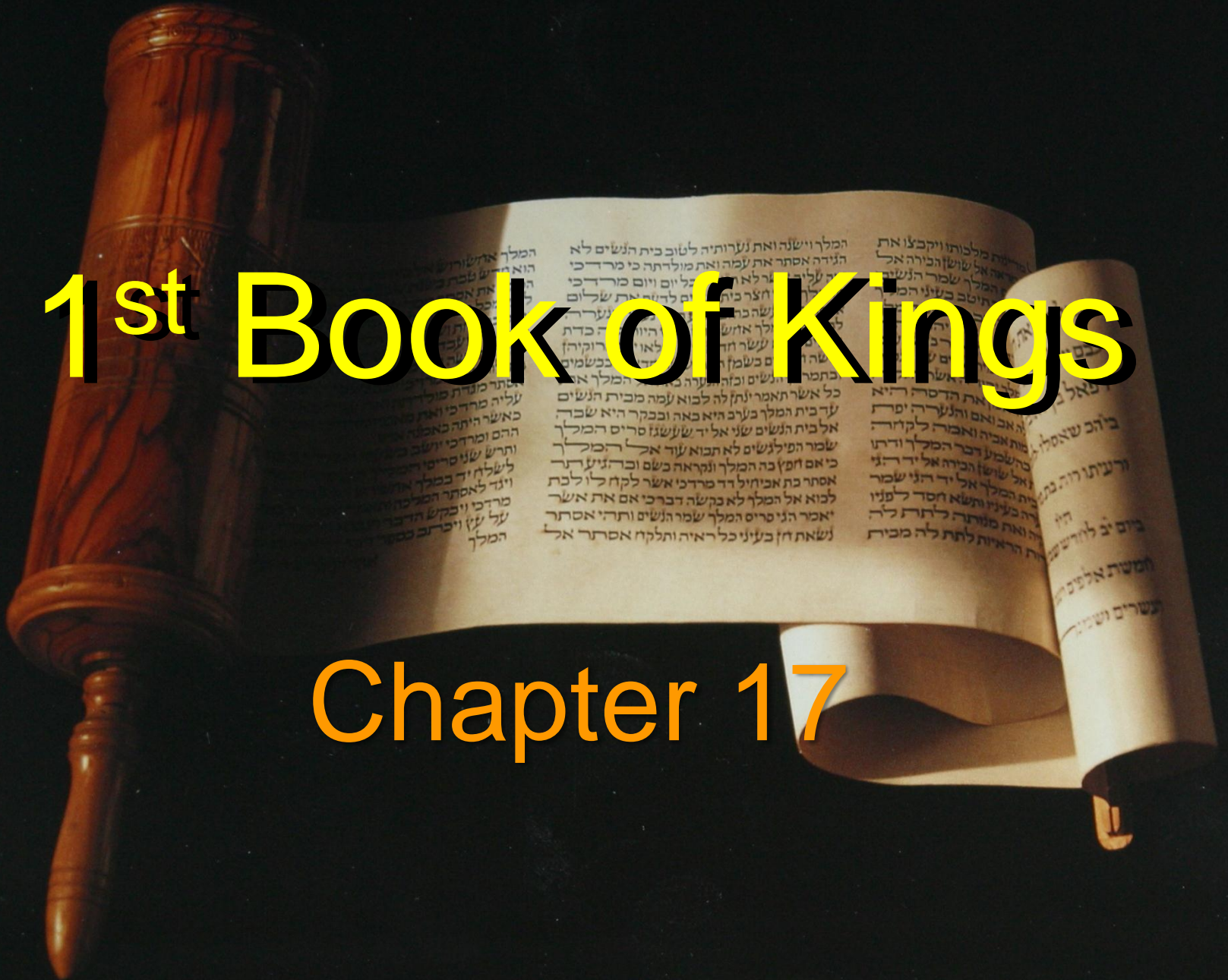


1st Book of Kings

Simply teaching the Word simply

1st Book of Kings

Chapter 17



Setting The Scene

- Around 60 years since the dividing of the kingdom
- Israel has now seen 7 kings come and go...
- ...each getting successively worse
- Ahab (son of Omri) is now the 8th king
- Of Omri is was said: *“But Omri wrought evil in the eyes of the LORD, and did worse than all that were before him”* 1 Kings 16:25
- The ‘Golden calves’ (representing God) have now been replaced with idol worship

I And Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the inhabitants of Gilead, said unto Ahab, As the LORD God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word.

1 Kings 17:1

Elijah

- Elijah the Tishbite...
 - Tishba: a town in northern Israel?
 - From the area of Gilead around Galilee
- His name means 'Yahweh is my God'
 - Indicates Godly parents
- He is the major character in Kings
 - More so than Solomon
- Mentioned more in the NT than any other prophet
 - not quoted – he didn't write anything!
 - He is a prophet, but not predictive

Elijah

- Eight recorded miracles:
 1. Stopping the rain for 3 ½ years
 2. Being fed by ravens twice a day
 3. The grain and oil multiplying
 4. Raising the widows son
 5. Calling fire down from heaven
 6. Starting the rain again
 7. Running for 30 miles
 8. Supernaturally sustained for 40 day/night

Elijah

- His is unique in many ways
 - First to stop the rain, call down fire from heaven & raise the dead
 - He does not die, but taken alive to heaven
 - Is the personification of 'the prophets'
 - He appeared at the Mt of Transfiguration
 - He will return before the 2nd Coming
 - Is seems to be 1 of the 2 Witnesses in Rev 11
- His is not unique in that he is just an ordinary man!

An Ordinary Man

¹⁷ Elijah was a man of like passions with us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain; and it rained not on the earth for three years and six months.

¹⁸ And he prayed again; and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit.

James 5:17-18

- When did he start to pray?
- Why did he start to pray?
 - **Convicted by God's word**

An Ordinary Man

13 Suddenly a voice came to him, and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

14 And he said, "I have been very zealous for the LORD God of hosts; because the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword.

1 Kings 19:13-14

I And Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the inhabitants of Gilead, said unto Ahab, As the LORD God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word.

1 Kings 17:1

- Psalm 39:3 *“My heart was hot within me, while I was musing the fire burned: then spake I with my tongue”*

Blessing or Curse

⁸ Therefore shall ye keep all the commandments which I command you this day, that ye may be strong, and go in and possess the land, whither ye go to possess it;
⁹ And that ye may prolong your days in the land, which the LORD swore unto your fathers to give unto them and to their seed, a land that floweth with milk and honey.

Deuteronomy 11:8-17

Blessing or Curse

IO For the land, whither thou goest in to possess it, is not as the land of Egypt, from whence ye came out, where thou sowedst thy seed, and wateredst it with thy foot, as a garden of herbs:

II But the land, whither ye go to possess it, is a land of hills and valleys, and drinketh water of the rain of heaven:

Deuteronomy 11:8-17

Blessing or Curse

12 A land which the LORD thy God careth for: the eyes of the LORD thy God are always upon it, from the beginning of the year even unto the end of the year.

13 And it shall come to pass, if ye shall hearken diligently unto my commandments which I command you this day, to love the LORD your God, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul,

Deuteronomy 11:8-17

Blessing or Curse

14 That I will give you the rain of your land in his due season, the first rain and the latter rain, that thou mayest gather in thy corn, and thy wine, and thine oil.

15 And I will send grass in thy fields for thy cattle, that thou mayest eat and be full.

16 Take heed to yourselves, that your heart be not deceivd, and ye turn aside, and serve other gods, and worship them;

Deuteronomy 11:8-17

Blessing or Curse

¹⁷ And then the LORD's wrath be kindled against you, and he shut up the heaven, that there be no rain, and that the land yield not her fruit; and lest ye perish quickly from off the good land which the LORD giveth you.

Deuteronomy 11:8-17

- Deuteronomy 28:23 adds that *“thy heaven that is over thy head shall be brass”*

The Power of Prayer

- Elijah was on his own...
- No one to support, no one to encourage
- He was just one man
 - What difference could he make?
- How could he change the course of his nation?
- What effect could he have on the politics of his day?
- None, until God calls him to PRAY!

A Chain of Gold

- Edward Kimball

A Chain of Gold

- Edward Kimball
- Dwight L. Moody

A Chain of Gold

- Edward Kimball
- Dwight L. Moody
- Frederick Brotherton Meyer

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- Billy Graham

² And the word of the LORD came unto him, saying,
³ Get thee hence, and turn thee eastward, and hide
thyself by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan.
⁴ And it shall be, that thou shalt drink of the brook; and
I have commanded the ravens to feed thee there.

1 Kings 17:3-4

- Cherith means cutting, or separation
- Lit. 'whittling'

⁵ So he went and did according unto the word of the LORD: for he went and dwelt by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan.

⁶ And the ravens brought him bread and flesh in the morning, and bread and flesh in the evening; and he drank of the brook.

1 Kings 17:5-6

7 And it came to pass after a while, that the brook dried up, because there had been no rain in the land.

8 And the word of the LORD came unto him, saying,

9 Arise, get thee to Zarephath, which belongeth to Zidon, and dwell there: behold, I have commanded a widow woman there to sustain thee.

1 Kings 17:7-9

- Zaraphath means 'Crucible'
- *'The etymology of the name indicates that it was a place for smelting metals' (JFB)*

God's Crucible

³ *"The refining pot is for silver and the furnace for gold, But the LORD tests the hearts.*

Proverbs 17:3

God's Crucible

- 6 Wherein ye greatly rejoyce, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:
- 7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

1 Peter 1:6-7

IO So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, the widow woman was there gathering of sticks: and he called to her, and said, Fetch me, I pray thee, a little water in a vessel, that I may drink.

II And as she was going to fetch it, he called to her, and said, Bring me, I pray thee, a morsel of bread in thine hand.

1 Kings 17:10-11

12 And she said, As the LORD thy God liveth, I have not a cake, but an handful of meal in a barrel, and a little oil in a cruse: and, behold, I am gathering two sticks, that I may go in and dress it for me and my son, that we may eat it, and die.

13 And Elijah said unto her, Fear not; go and do as thou hast said: but make me thereof a little cake first, and bring it unto me, and after make for thee and for thy son.

1 Kings 17:12-13

14 For thus saith the LORD God of Israel, The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that the LORD sendeth rain upon the earth.

15 And she went and did according to the saying of Elijah: and she, and he, and her house, did eat many days.

16 And the barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake by Elijah.

17 And it came to pass after these things, that the son of the woman, the mistress of the house, fell sick; and his sickness was so sore, that there was no breath left in him.

18 And she said unto Elijah, What have I to do with thee, O thou man of God? art thou come unto me to call my sin to remembrance, and to slay my son?

19 And he said unto her, Give me thy son. And he took him out of her bosom, and carried him up into a loft, where he abode, and laid him upon his own bed.

1 Kings 17:17-19

20 And he cried unto the LORD, and said, O LORD my God, hast thou also brought evil upon the widow with whom I sojourn, by slaying her son?

21 And he stretched himself upon the child three times, and cried unto the LORD, and said, O LORD my God, I pray thee, let this child's soul come into him again.

22 And the LORD heard the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came into him again, and he revived.

1 Kings 17:20-22

23 And Elijah took the child, and brought him down out of the chamber into the house, and delivered him unto his mother: and Elijah said, See, thy son liveth.

24 And the woman said to Elijah, Now by this I know that thou art a man of God, and that the word of the LORD in thy mouth is truth.

1 Kings 17:23-24

- Down in Israel Jezebel is killing the prophets of the LORD
- Meanwhile, in 'Baal country' a revival breaks out in Zaraphath

