

“A MAN WITH A NATURE LIKE OURS”

James 5:17,18

Introduction:

- 1 Moral and religious conditions in Israel were at an all time low.**
 - a. King Ahab was weak, selfish, concerned only for his own welfare.**
 - b. He married Jezebel, the daughter of a pagan king.**
 - c. She soon became the power behind the throne.**
 - d. She eliminated the worship of GOD by killing His prophets.**
 - f. The fertility worship of Baal and Asherah was instituted in its place.**
- 2. Elijah boldly stood against the weak king and his evil queen.**
- 3. He told Ahab: “There will no rain upon the earth until I give the word!”**
- 4. GOD told Elijah to hide by the Cherith where he was fed by ravens.**
- 5. When the brook dried up, GOD sent Elijah north to Zarephath.**
 - a. A widow was gathering wood for a last meal for herself and her son.**
 - b. Elijah told her her flour and oil would last until rain came again.**
 - c. When the widow’s son died, Elijah raised him to life again.**
- 6. After three years, the time came for a showdown with the forces of evil!**

Discussion:

- I. GOD SENT ELIJAH TO AHAB WITH THE MESSAGE, “RAIN IS COMING!”**
 - A. Ahab greeted Elijah: “Is that you, O troubler of Israel?”**
 - 1. The prophet replied, “I have not troubled Israel but you and your father’s house are the troublers of Israel.”**
 - 2. Elijah commanded Ahab: “Gather the prophets of Baal and Asherah and the people to Mt. Carmel.”**
 - B. Elijah asked Israel: “How long will you falter between two opinions? If Jehovah is GOD serve Him; if Baal serve him.”**
 - 1. He proposed a test to see who the real God is.**
 - 2. “Choose a bull, build an altar and ask Baal to send fire; we will do the same for Jehovah; the one who sends fire is GOD.”**
 - C. Baal’s prophets called on him till noon, but there was no answer.**

1. Elijah mocked: "Cry louder for he may be meditating, or sleeping, or perhaps he is on a journey."
 2. They cried to Baal and cut themselves with stones until time for the evening sacrifice, but there was no answer!
- D. Elijah took 12 stones, built an altar, dug a trench around it, and placed the offering on it.
1. Three times water was brought to saturate the offering.
 2. Elijah prayed and fire came down from Heaven.
 3. The fire burned the offering, the wood, the stones and licked up the water in the trenches.
 4. Elijah commanded the prophets of Baal and Asherah be slain.
- E. Elijah sent his servant to look out over the sea.
1. He asked him what he saw; six times he saw nothing.
 2. The seventh he said, "I see a cloud the size of a man's hand."
 3. Elijah told the king rain was coming; then outran his chariot.

II. WHEN JEZEBEL LEARNED BAAL'S PROPHETS WERE KILLED, SHE THREATENED TO DO THE SAME WITH ELIJAH.

- A. Elijah arose and ran for his life and did not stop until Beerbsheba.
1. He left his servant and went a day's journey into the desert.
 2. He prayed to die: "Now, LORD, take my life for I am no better than my fathers."
 3. He slept until touched by an angel who told him to eat.
 4. He slept again until the angel commanded him to "eat for the journey is too great for you."
 5. Elijah continued on to Sinai where he took shelter in a cave.
 6. The Lord said: "Elijah, what are you doing here?" He replied: "I have been very zealous for the Lord GOD..Israel has forsaken His covenant, killed His prophets and I only am left."
- B. The Lord told Elijah to stand on the mountain before Him.
1. A strong wind blew, but the Lord was not in it.
 2. An earthquake came, but the Lord was not in it.
 3. A fire burned, but the Lord was not in it.
 4. The Lord then spoke in a still, small voice: "What are you doing here, Elijah?"The prophet answered: I have been zealous for the Lord because Israel has forsaken your covenant, torn down your altars, killed your prophets, and I alone am left."

5. The Lord told Elijah he still had work to do:
 - a. He must anoint Hazael king of Syria and Jehu of Israel.
 - b. Elisha must be anointed as Elijah's successor.
 - c. The Lord said: 'I have yet 7,000 who have not bowed the knee to Baal.'

III. ELIJAH SUFFERED FROM DEPRESSION.

- A. There are many reasons for depression but "burnout" is a major one.
 1. The military call it "battle fatigue."
 2. Every year, 700 preachers in the church quit preaching.
 3. Richard Curry said, "Don't make your decisions on Monday."
- B. A let-down often comes after a great triumph.
 1. Elijah's came after the thrilling victory on Mt. Carmel.
 2. Jesus was tempted after His baptism and acknowledgement as GOD's Son (Matt. 3 & 4).
- C. What brought Elijah to this point?
 1. Jezebel's threat on his life came after his triumph on Carmel.
 2. He was physically, emotionally and spiritually drained.
 - a. He had run from Mt. Carmel to Sinai.
 - b. He thought he was a failure in his mission.
 3. He thought he was standing all alone.
 4. He lost faith and gave in to fear.

Conclusion:

1. How was Elijah a man with a nature like ours?
 - a. He struggled with lack of faith, a sense of failure, and fear.
 - b. He became greatly discouraged.
 - c. His ability to work miracles and proclaim GOD's Word did not change his human nature or take away his weakness.
2. Elijah did not die, but like Enoch "was translated that he should not see death" (2 Kings 2).
3. He and Moses appeared to Jesus (Matt. 17:1-13).

