

SERMON-BASED STUDY: PROPHET PRAYER

1 Kings 18:41-46, ESV – ⁴¹ And Elijah said to Ahab, “Go up, eat and drink, for there is a sound of the rushing of rain.” ⁴² So Ahab went up to eat and to drink. And Elijah went up to the top of Mount Carmel. And he bowed himself down on the earth and put his face between his knees. ⁴³ And he said to his servant, “Go up now, look toward the sea.” And he went up and looked and said, “There is nothing.” And he said, “Go again,” seven times. ⁴⁴ And at the seventh time he said, “Behold, a little cloud like a man’s hand is rising from the sea.” And he said, “Go up, say to Ahab, ‘Prepare your chariot and go down, lest the rain stop you.’ ” ⁴⁵ And in a little while the heavens grew black with clouds and wind, and there was a great rain. And Ahab rode and went to Jezreel. ⁴⁶ And the hand of the LORD was on Elijah, and he gathered up his garment and ran before Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel.

Notes:

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- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week’s teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

ENGAGE WITH THE MESSAGE

- 1 Elijah approached God in prayer with humble confidence. How would you describe humble confidence?
- 2 Why is it helpful to remember how God has answered prayer in the past? How has this impacted your prayer life?

- 3 Elijah sent his servant seven times before he saw a sign that his prayer was being answered. What lessons can we learn from this?

DIGGING DEEPER

A **1 Kings 3:4-9, ESV** – ⁴And the king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place. Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. ⁵At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, “Ask what I shall give you.” ⁶And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant David my father, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you. And you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this day. ⁷And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. ⁹Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?”

- 4 Looking at the passage above, what is Solomon’s request of God? Why is this such an important request?

- 5 Why does Solomon refer to what God did for his father, David?

- 6 What does this prayer tell us about Solomon’s character? What does this prayer tell us about Solomon’s understanding of God?

B **Ephesians 3:14-21, ESV** – ¹⁴For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, ¹⁶that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

²⁰Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, ²¹to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

7 In the passage above, Paul is praying specifically for the Ephesian believers. What were his prayers for them? What is the significance of these specific prayers?

8 What does it mean when Paul says, “So that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith”? How are we “rooted and grounded in love”? Why are these things important regarding our prayer life?

9 What does this prayer tell us about Paul’s understanding of God?

TAKING IT HOME

How does your prayer time emulate or differ from the prayers of Elijah, Solomon, and Paul? What would need to occur for you to pray with humble confidence, knowing that God will answer? Share with your group what God is showing you. Pray together for those things that you wrote on the prayer cards during the Sunday service.

PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUEST

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FOR FURTHER STUDY

Ephesians 6:18
Philippians 4:6-7