



Watchman's

Prayer Letter

Christian Friends of Israel

prayer@cfijerusalem.org

www.cfijerusalem.org

December 2018 / Jewish Year 5779

Elijah Lived an Amazing Life

“Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah: “Leave here, turn eastward and hide in the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan. You will drink from the brook, and I have directed the ravens to supply you with food there” (1 Kings 17:2-4).



A statue of Elijah in the Cave of Elijah, Mount Carmel, Israel (CC BY-SA 2.5, by Joe Freeman, via Wikimedia)

Baal. While human eyes may have seen Elijah as outnumbered 450 to 1, it is always the one True God that makes the difference no matter what the odds. After allowing the false prophets their opportunity to call upon their god, Elijah takes the stage and says something very interesting. Verse 36 and 37 of the chapter unveils a true answer to effective prayer ... *“At the time of sacrifice, the prophet Elijah stepped forward and prayed: “LORD, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, let it be known today that you are God in Israel and that I am*

Many have often wondered what it was about Elijah that made his prayers and his life so effective and powerful? He lived an amazing life. He was fed by ravens. He saw a widow's supply of oil and flour that miraculously never ran out. He later raised her son from the dead. And in answer to his prayer, God brought fire down from heaven when he faced the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel.

So, what are the components involved in the life of Elijah that can help us with our own prayer lives, and achieve the success in prayer that he did?

To begin with, it seems to me that Elijah learned to be completely dependent on God. After his first confrontation with King Ahab, God sent him to the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan River. He didn't just run away, but Scripture says that God sent him (1 Kings 17:2-4). We must all learn that in going where God sends us, we are in His will, even if we don't fully understand the reason why. Elijah rested there with no food and no provision. Yet God took care of his needs. It was also there, that earthly things were stripped away from him, yet God sent the ravens to bring him bread and meat in the morning and meat in the evening. (1 Kings 17:5-6)

It was after this time, that the Lord called him back to face Ahab, and Scripture reveals to us the encounter with the prophets of



The Cave of Elijah, Mount Carmel (CC BY-SA 3.0, by Deror Avi, via Wikimedia)

your servant and have done all these things at your command. Answer me, LORD, answer me, so these people will know that you, LORD, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again.”

Elijah states that the purpose for his actions was for the people to know, that the One True God is the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and that He is THE God in Israel. Elijah wanted their hearts to turn back to God.

Our prayers should always be purposed for those around us to know that He, the God of Israel, is the One True God and that by speaking God’s purpose, people will know that it is the LORD that has done these things.

For our prayers to be most effective and successful, we must pray “the word of the Lord” from our mouths. Then, just as the widow of Zarephath said to Elijah, “*Now by this I know that you are a man of God, and that the word of the Lord in your mouth is the truth.*” Those around us will know that it is not our words, but the words of our Lord.

Let’s pray the word of the Lord concerning...

- The nation of Israel’s continuing struggle with the ongoing rocket attacks on the communities surrounding Gaza, even to Beersheba, as Hamas keeps up its war of terrorism against Israel (**Deut 31:6**)
- Israel’s great need for the winter rains to arrive on time and to be plentiful for a beautiful and bountiful new year for all residents of the country (**Joel 2:23**)
- The wisdom needed for Israel’s government – including Jerusalem’s new Mayor – to hear the true word of the Lord in dealing with the multitude of issues presented each day (**Prov 4:6-7**)
- Israel’s military leaders, as they would seek the Lord’s strategy for combating the many enemies of the nation on all borders and fronts (**Isaiah 41:10**)
- The political leaders of the nation to know that they need God’s wisdom in making decisions for the nation on the world stage, that they may be in line with the Lord’s timetable and His perfect will (**Prov 21:1**)
- The people of the nation, that they would all turn their face again to the One True God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob who is their hope, their future, and their deliverance (**2 Chron.7:14**)

CFI in Jerusalem:

- The health and wellbeing of all those who serve in Israel as they endeavor to fulfill the calling of the Lord on their life in service and humility to the people of the nation of Israel (**Psalms 91:14**)
- The ongoing spiritual warfare waged against all those who seek the will of God in blessing the nation of Israel and her people (**Eph 6:12**)
- The wisdom of the Lord to fulfill the purpose of His work in Jerusalem, and all of Israel, as He would have done according to His perfect will, while awakening the nations to the urgency of the times in which we live (**Prov 3:13**)

In His service always,
Kevin Howard

Christian Friends of Israel - Jerusalem
email: prayer@cfijerusalem.org

