



Watchman's

Prayer Letter

Christian Friends of Israel

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A Man Just Like Us

“Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly” (James 5:17)



Elijah prays for rain (CC BY-SA 3.0, Sweet Publishing/FreeBibleimages.org)

Thank God Elijah was “just like us!” He sat under a tree, complained to God, and expressed his unbelief – just as we have often done. Yet this was not the case at all when he was truly in touch with God. “Elijah was a man just like us,” yet “he prayed earnestly.” The literal meaning of this in the Greek is magnificent: instead of saying “earnestly” it says “He prayed in prayer.” In other words, “He kept on praying.” The lesson here is that you must keep praying. Climb to the top of Mt. Carmel and see that great story of faith and sight. After Elijah had called down fire from heaven to defeat the prophets of Baal, rain was needed for God’s prophecy to be fulfilled. And the man who could command fire from heaven could bring rain using the same methods.

We are told, “Elijah...bent down to the ground and put his face between his knees” (1 Kings 18:42) shutting out all sights and sounds. He put himself in a position beneath his robe, to neither see nor hear what was happening. Elijah then said to his servant, “Go and look toward the sea” (1Kings 18:43). Upon returning, the servant replied “There is nothing there.” “How brief his response must have seemed! “Nothing?”

Can you imagine what we would have thought under the same circumstance? We could say “Just as I expected” and then would stop praying. But did Elijah give up? No. In fact, six times he told his servant “Go back.” Each time the servant returned saying

“Nothing!” Yet “the seventh time the servant reported, ‘A cloud as small as a man’s hand is rising from the sea’ (1 Kings 18:44).

What a fitting description, for a man’s hand had been raised in prayer to God before the rains came. And the rains came so fast and furiously that Elijah warned Ahab to “go down before the rain stops you.” This is a story of faith and sight – faith cutting itself off from everything except God, with sight that looks and yet sees nothing. Yes, in spite of utterly hopeless reports received from sight, this is a story of faith that continues “praying in prayer.” Do you know how to pray in that way – how to prevail in prayer? Let your sight bring you reports as discouraging as possible, but pay no attention to them. Our heavenly Father lives, and even the delays of answers to our prayers are part of His goodness.



Arthur Tappan Pierson. "Each of three young boys once gave a definition of faith that illustrates the important aspect of tenacity. The first boy defined faith as "taking hold of Christ," the second as "keeping our hold on Him," and the third as "not letting go of Him." (*Streams in the Desert*, L. B. Cowman)

Because he was "like us," we know it took faith to believe God, focusing on God and not the situation, and believing God and His Promises. Let us do the same as we pray for Israel...all we need to do is "pray earnestly."

Let us Watch and Pray Together

- **Thank God for His Great Love for Israel.** Pray as Moses did for Aaron (Deuteronomy. 9:20). The LORD appeared to us in the past, saying: ***"I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness"*** (Jeremiah 31:3, NIV).
- **Thank God that He will fight for Israel** not because of her righteousness but because of the wickedness of her enemies. ***"But the wicked shall perish, and the enemies of the LORD shall be as the fat of lambs: they shall consume; into smoke shall they consume away"*** (Psalm 37:20).
- **Remain faithful and pray always.** ***"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people."*** (Ephesians 6:18, NLT).
- **Proclaim the infallible Word of God that Israel is special to the Lord's Heart and that they are still the Chosen People.** ***"To the LORD your God belong the heavens, even the highest heavens, the earth and everything in it. Yet the LORD set his affection on your ancestors and loved them, and he chose you, their descendants, above all the nations – as it is today"*** (Deuteronomy 10:14, NIV).
- **Praise the Lord for** over 750,000 Jewish people came "up to Jerusalem" in 2019 during the Passover (Pessach) season. The Western Wall was continually filled with worshippers. This means that the Feasts of the Lord are becoming more and more prevalent among all of Israel, for this we give the LORD GOD thanks. ***"O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever"*** (Psalm 136:1).
- **Lift up the Hands for** the young people in Tel Aviv (the capital of the gay pride world), that many are beginning to celebrate the Lord's Shabbat, fellowshiping together and also learning more from God's Word, the Torah. ***"...when all Israel comes to appear before the LORD your God at the place he will choose, you shall read this law before them in their hearing"*** (Deuteronomy 31:11, NIV).



Together, with the youth and the mature praying people in the nations, we can defeat the powers of the principalities of the air at work in so many places today influencing Israel to become "just like the nations" in behavior and conduct. As Christians, we pray Messiah will return soon, to turn the hearts of everyone to Him, that He might be praised throughout the entire earth beginning at Jerusalem.

THESE ARE THE DAYS OF ELIJAH!!

Sincerely in the Lord,
Sharon Sanders

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