

# THE GOD IN HEAVEN IS WORKING ON EARTH

Part 2 of New Days, Old Gods. 1 Kings 17:1-24.  
Peter Foxwell. Cornerstone Church. July 7, 2024.

## WHEN THE DEMONS RULE

**The demon-gods took control in ancient Israel.**

- King Ahab led the nation into spiritual darkness.
- Jezebel promoted Baal worship.
- Two marks of every nation ruled by demons: child sacrifice and sexual perversion.

## GOD IS WORKING ON EARTH - 1 KINGS 17

**Story one: The famine of God's Word - verses 1-7.**

- What do we know about Elijah? He spoke for God. His name means Yahweh is my God.
- Cancelling the rain was a judgment on Israel for breaking the covenant (Deuteronomy 11:16-17; 28:23-24).
- Baal was the storm god in charge of sending rain, but God is stronger than the demons.
- The Lord told Elijah to hide in the hills to save his life from Ahab, and to withhold his Word from the nation. There was a famine of water and Word.

Amos 8:11-12 (CSB) Look, the days are coming — this is the declaration of the Lord GOD — when I will send a famine through the land: not a famine of bread or a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD. 12 People will stagger from sea to sea and roam from north to east seeking the word of the LORD, but they will not find it.

- In spite of appearances, Baal was losing the battle.

## **Story two: The fulfillment of God's Word - verses 8-16.**

- The famine of the Word continued in Israel when the Lord sent Elijah across the border to Zarephath.
- This was Jezebel's dad's territory. It was Baal-land.
- The widow was close to starvation because that's how Baal treats people.
- It seems unkind of Elijah to demand bread, except for this:

14 "for this is what the LORD God of Israel says, 'The flour jar will not become empty and the oil jug will not run dry until the day the LORD sends rain on the surface of the land.'"

- The Lord keeps his Word, and he takes care of those who trust him.

## **Story three: The truth of God's Word - verses 17-24.**

- The first half of the story seems to make no sense. Why did the boy die when the prophet was there? Did Baal (the child hater) win?
- Life feels overwhelming when we look around instead of looking up for answers. We must look up to the Lord and pray like Elijah.
- What destroys life? The false gods of popular culture, the lies and ideologies, the godless lifestyles, Satan, and demons.
- What gives life? The true God, his Word, prayer, the Gospel. The Lord hears and answers prayers that bring life and hope to desperate people.
- The widow summarized Elijah's ministry as follows: "*Now I know you are a man of God, and the LORD's word from your mouth is true*" (verse 24).
- Every Word from God is true (Proverbs 30:5). Count on it.

# NEVER LOSE HOPE

## We all feel discouraged from time to time.

- In his book, *The Expectation Gap*, author Steve Cuss writes,  
“Many of us struggle with a gap between what we believe about God and what we experience from God. We believe things about God that we actually struggle to encounter in our daily lives ...” He identifies some of these gaps. Two of them are: “1. I believe God loves me, but I don’t feel it. 2. I believe God is with me, but I don’t see him.” (Cuss, Steve (2024). *The Expectation Gap: The Tiny, Vast Space between Our Beliefs and Experience of God*. Zondervan. Kindle Edition.)
- When the devil watched Jesus die on the cross, he thought he’d won.
- He was wrong. God never fails. He raised and exalted Jesus.
- The God in heaven is working on earth. In the darkness, there is light. There was Elijah then, and there is Jesus now.

Hebrews 13:5-6 (CSB) ... he himself has said, I will never leave you or abandon you. 6 Therefore, we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?”

- Don’t give up. Don’t be discouraged. Keep believing, expecting, praising, serving, sharing, and watching with eyes of faith. Amen!

# PRAYERS FOR AWAKENING AND REVIVAL

Adapted from: <https://www.absc.org/articles/10-specific-prayers-for-revival-spiritual-awakening/>

1. Pray for deep conviction of sin, spiritual brokenness, a holy fear of God and genuine repentance among His people. Only God can produce them in us (2 Corinthians 7:10).
2. Pray for deep cleansing, genuine repentance, and spiritual power to engulf pastors and Christian leaders. Renewed pastors are absolutely crucial to a move of God in our day (Ephesians 6:14-20)!
3. Ask God to create spiritual hunger in us leading to fervent intercession. We cannot “produce a genuine prayer movement. (Philippians 2:13)
4. Pray for loving unity in our churches and a deep harmony between our churches. Many churches need healing among members and many churches need to stop competing jealously with other churches. (John 13:35)
5. Pray for God to fill His people with a passion to see people saved leading to prayer for the lost and active evangelism (Romans 9:1-3).
6. Pray for God to give His people a passion for missions and starting churches. Great revivals produce an explosion of mission projects, new ministries and new church starts (Matthew 28:19).
7. Pray that God will call thousands into church ministry, missions and voluntary Christian service (Matthew 9:37).
8. Pray that God will pour out His Spirit in increasing measure.
9. Pray for a mighty move of conviction and salvation upon communities of cultural influence. Some key examples are Hollywood actors and producers, government officials, educators, teachers, and college professors, news and media people, talk shows hosts, comedians, homosexual activists groups, and the music industry (1 Timothy 2:1-2).
10. Lord, send a revival. Start with me. Send your Spirit to awaken this nation to the ugliness of sin and the beauty of the Savior. Lord, move in power. Amen.