

THE LIFE OF ELIJAH
"God Keeps His Promises"
1 Kings 18:41-46

INTRODUCTION:

1. The fact that God keeps His promises is a major part of the IMMUTABLE nature of God.
 - a) **Numbers 23:19**
2. It was because of a promise of God that Elijah came on the scene in the first place.
 - a) **1 Kings 17:1**
3. Even though it may seem like God has forgotten...He never forgets anything He promises. **NEVER.**
4. God assured Elijah, who passed it on to the king, that the drought would not end until God determined it would end. **PERIOD.....BOOM**
5. God keeps his promises!!!
 - a) God's word is always final!!!
6. **God's agenda always continues to unfold right on schedule!!!**
 - a) Even when we think He's forgotten.
 - b) Even in the most extreme events when life doesn't seem fair.
 - c) God is there carrying out His plan.
 - d) And God doesn't feel the need to clear any part of His plan with us!!
7. **18:1**
8. **18:39**
 - a) When God proved Himself to them, the *"people fell on their faces"* and immediately acknowledged, *"The LORD He is God."*

I. CLARITY ABOUT PROMISES

1. Can we claim every promise PERSONALLY? NO

2. *2 Timothy 3:16*

A. PERSONAL OR UNIVERSAL?

1. We must ask "*Is it a promise that was meant for a unique situation for a specific purpose God reserved for their time and place.*"

2. Or "*Is it a promise with a universal appeal?*"

a) Or did God intend it for anyone in any generation?

3. **VERY IMPORTANT:** If it is a universal promise that we can claim!!!

a) Claim it!!

b) Believe it!!

c) Memorize it!!

4. **A PROMISE WE CANNOT CLAIM**

a) *Joshua 6:3-5*

b) *Mark 16:18*

1) **WOW!!!** It is dangerous to claim a promise out of context, away from its original meaning.

5. **EXAMPLE OF UNIVERSAL PROMISES**

a) *Psalms 103:11-13*

b) *Proverbs 3:5-6*

c) *Isaiah 41:10*

d) *Isaiah 40:31*

e) *Matthew 7:7-8*

f) *Romans 10:11-13*

g) *Philippians 4:19*

h) *2 Corinthians 10:4*

i) *1 Thessalonians 4:16-17*

j) *1 Peter 4:12-17*

B. CONDITIONAL OR UNCONDITIONAL?

1. We must determine whether the **PROMISE** is **CONDITIONAL** or not.

a) A **Conditional Promise** will not be realized until we have kept our part.

1) *1 Corinthians 2:9* (Go to verse)

2) *1 John 2:9*

3) *Matthew 21:22*

a. *Psalms 66:18*

b) An **Unconditional Promise** has no conditions.

1) *Psalms 119:105*

2) *Philippians 4:19*

3) *Titus 2:11*

2. The Bible is God's inspired truth.
 - a) It can be trusted because God can be trusted.
 - b) The Bible is our sacred guide!!

II. ELIJAH CLAIMS GOD'S PROMISE

1. WHAT GOD SAID WOULD HAPPEN!!!! HAPPENED!!!

- a) The land had become dry and parched!!

2. 1 Kings 18:1

3. In **Chapter 17** Elijah met that condition!!

- a) He went to Ahab!!
- b) Then he climbed to the top of Mount Carmel and prayed fire down from heaven.
- c) **Vs 39-40**

4. 1 Kings 18:41

5. So what was the sound?

- a) Elijah was certain that the rain was coming, not because he heard the sound of rain, but because he claimed God's promise.

III. LABORING IN PRAYER

1. 1 Kings 18:42-44

FIVE PARTS OF ELIJAH'S PRAYER

A. HE GOT ALONE

1. Vs 42

- a) Elijah had a place to meet with God. Mount Carmel

2. We need a place where we where we can get alone with God to pray, to wait, to seek His will **AND CLAIM HIS PROMISES.**

B. HE PERSEVERED IN PRAYER

1. Vs 42

- a) *"and he bowed himself down on the earth and put his face between his knees."*

- 1) **WOW!!!** That's a position of LABOR.

2. Elijah just came through the greatest victory of his life, was not arrogant but postured himself to labor in prayer.

3. *1 Peter 5:6*

C. HE WAS SPECIFIC

1. Vs 43

- a) *"Go up now"*
- b) *"look toward the sea"*

2. Look for rain!!!

- a) Elijah expected rain.

D. HE WAS PERSISTENT

1. Vs 43

2. Waiting is hard!!!

- a) God is seldom early, but He is never late.

3. BUT GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES.

E. HE WAS EXPECTANT

1. Vs 44

2. Do you live expecting???

- a) Do you imagine the improbable...expecting the impossible?

3. **VERY IMPORTANT:** Life is full and running over with opportunities to see God's hand at work in our lives.

4. Vs 45-46

5. *James 5:16b-18*

- a) Elijah was just like us