

1 Kings 17:1 - Elijah

1. What does James 5:16-18 tell us about Elijah?

Elijah – a man subject to same passions as we are
righteous
prayed fervently

2. When it says in James 5:17 he was subject to “like passions” what does it mean?

- a. Look up “passion” (C - *homoioopathes*) in Vines (you might also like to look up A2 “*pathos*” and from there “Affection” (*pathos*))

homoioopathes - NT:3663, "of like feelings or affections"

pathos - NT:3806 see AFFECTION, A, No. 1.

AFFECTION - *pathos*, from *pascho*, "to suffer," primarily denotes whatever one suffers or experiences in any way; hence, "an affection of the mind, a passionate desire."

3. What does his name “Elijah” mean?

- a. Look this up in Youngs concordance and Strongs concordance.
 - a. Young’s – “God is Jah” or “God Himself”
 - b. Strong’s – H452 – “God of Jehovah”
 - i. His name draws our attention to the central element of his ministry – to declare to Israel that Jehovah is God.
 - ii. For his ministry to be effective, this principle needed to be true in his life.

4. How does he refer to the Lord?

- a. The God of Israel
- b. Who lives
 - i. Israel had reached a place where they did not know the Lord, they needed to understand that He is the “God of Israel” and that “He lives”, (The contest with the prophets of Baal showed that the Lord lives where as Baal does not – 1 Kings 18:27)
 - ii. For Elijah personally he had to know not only in principle but also in practice that the Lord lives and hears and answers prayer

5. What is the significance of “dew & rain”

- a. Look up “dew” and “rain” in a bible dictionary

DEW - Value of Dew in Palestine: In Palestine it does not rain from April to October, and were it not for the dew in summer all vegetation would perish. Dew and rain are equally important. If there is no rain the winter grass and harvests fail; if no dew, the late crops dry up and there is no fruit. Failure of either of these gifts of Nature would cause great want and hardship, but the failure of both would cause famine and death. Even on the edge of the great Syrian desert in Anti-Lebanon, beyond Jordan and in Sinai, a considerable vegetation of a certain kind flourishes in the summer, although there is not a drop of rain for six months. The dews are so heavy that the plants and trees are literally soaked with water at night, and they absorb sufficient moisture to more than supply the loss due to evaporation in the day. It is more surprising to one who has not seen it before to find a flourishing vineyard practically in the desert itself. Some of the small animals of the desert, such as the jerboa, seem to have no water supply except the dew. - (International Standard Bible Encyclopaedia)

RAIN - Importance of Rain in Season: The cultivation of the land in Palestine is practically dry farming in most of the districts, but even then some water is necessary, so that there may be moisture in the soil. In the summer months there is no rain, so that the rains of the spring and fall seasons are absolutely essential for starting and maturing the crops. The lack of this rain in the proper time has often been the cause of complete failure of the harvest. A small difference in the amount of these seasonal rains makes a large difference in the possibility of growing various crops without irrigation. Ellsworth Huntington has insisted on this point with great care in his very important work, Palestine and Its Transformation. The promise of prosperity is given in the assurance of "rain in due season" (Lev 26:4 the King James Version). The withholding of rain according to the prophecy of Elijah (1 Kings 17:1) caused the mountain streams to dry up (1 Kings 17:7), and certain famine ensued. A glimpse of the terrible suffering for lack of water at that time is given us. The people were uncertain of another meal (1 Kings 17:12), and the animals were perishing (1 Kings 18:5). (International Standard Bible Encyclopaedia).

Part 2 - Significance of standing before the Lord

6. What does it mean to "stand before the Lord" (an abbreviated study)

- a. Look up "stand" in Wilson's "Old Testament Word Studies"
 1. Implies not only that one stands in a place but also that he comes to stand there - to take a stand, to place oneself (*i.e. the will and time is involved – DCF added*).
 2. The place where one stands is in relationship with something or someone, hence – to stand upon, or near, or by, or for *i.e. to succour or defend, to stand over, to be set over, to stand upon, i.e. to confide in. (DCF summary)*
 3. To stand before, usually to serve, to minister, *e.g. to a king, or minister; so to stand before Jehovah is said of priests and Levites, and of prophets.*
 4. To stand *i.e. to stand firm, to persist, to endure, to persevere.*
 5. To stand still, to stop, to stay, to remain in a place.
- b. Who do we read of standing before the Lord in Gen 18:8? (Gen 18:1 indicates it was the Lord) - **Abraham**
- c. What did Abraham do when he stood before the Lord in Gen 18:8? - **Waited in order to serve.**
- d. Where do we find Abraham in Gen 18:22? – **"Abraham still stood before the Lord" i.e. he continued to stand before the Lord – it was a continuing activity.**
- e. What is the outcome of Abraham standing before the Lord Gen 18:22-32 – **He could intercede for the people of Sodom & Gomorah**

Summary.

- i. Abraham was a man who stood before the Lord.
- ii. Standing before the Lord will involve a willingness to wait in order to serve Him.
- iii. We need to continue to stand before Him
- iv. By continuing to stand before the Lord we make ourselves available for the Lord to use in intercession.

7. Are there pre-conditions to standing before the Lord?

- a. Look up Jer 15:19, Jer 35:18,19

Jer 15:19 If thou repent

Jer 35:18,19 Being obedient and faithful

Summary - to stand before the Lord we need to be:

- i. Right with the Lord
- ii. Obedient
- iii. Faithful

8. Who could not stand?

a. Look up 1 Sam 6:19,20; Ezra 9:15

1 Sam 6:19,20 Those who are disobedient (presumptuous) – (Men of Beth-shemesh, looked inside the ark).

Ezra 9:15 Where there is sin

Summary – sin & disobedience (presumption) mean we cannot stand before the Lord