

The Appearance of Elijah (1 Kings 17:1-7)

- God has His way of getting our attention: at times He does it quietly or with a roar
- King Ahab was buried beneath pagan practices, with a wife leading the charge
- But God knew how to get Ahab's attention, he did so with sending him Elijah

I. God's Servant in Dark Times (17:1-2)

- The times in which Elijah was called to be Israel's prophet were wicked times
- Elijah appears with abruptness, no reference to past life, no pedigree, no history
- He lived in Gilead, a back water town isolated from Israel across the Jordan
- Elijah wasn't known for anything, no superior education, no seeming influence
- Doesn't Elijah's seemingly humble beginnings remind us of another? (Is 53:2-3)
- Elijah's qualification to serve the Lord was the same as all of God's servants
- God shut up His word in Elijah's bones like fire and he could not hold it back
- Elijah went right into Ahab's presence armed with the Word of God alone
- Elijah's name gives us evidence of this, it literally means "Yahweh is my God"
- Elijah was fully acquainted with the promises & curses of God's word to Israel

II. God's Appointed Weapon in Dark Times

- God gave Israel life & death, blessings & curses of obedience & disobedience
- Long ago Moses warned Israel that God's Words were not idle words: Deut 32:47
- Obedience: bring bounteous supply; disobedience, horrid curses: Deut 28:23-24
- Elijah had the words of God and prayer, and confronted Israel's apostasizing king
- Baal religion: Baal was the God of storm & fertility – the contest would be clear
- Soon Israel would discover which God lives and reigns from on high

III God's Rich Supply in Dark Times (17:3-7)

- Ahab & Jezebel: serving Baal to ensure the fertility of the land. Elijah: serve Yahweh, the God of Israel. Elijah word about the rain was a clear challenge
- Israel begins to experience drought & poverty and Elijah blessing & supply (5&6)
- Elijah becomes an illustration of what Israel was meant to be: devoted to Yahweh
- Elijah lives out the truth: man does not live by bread alone but every word of God
- God provided the birds of the sky to provide for him, the brook to sate his thirst
- Brook would eventually run dry for Elijah, but not for us in Christ (Jn 4:10-14)
- God commanded the prophet to hide: Israel, no food, no water, now no revelation