

# 1 Kings.

## How long will you waver?

**Key verse:** 1 Kings 18:21.

Elijah went before the people and said, "How long will you waver between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him."



## Study four...

**Big Idea:** God's proven faithfulness demands our zealous holiness.

### Kick Off

Why are addictions so hard to break?

Can you think of some "acceptable" sins Christians happily and thoughtlessly indulge in?

### STUDY

1 Kings 17 and 18 contain four stories and each story has four basic elements to it. The four elements are **Obedience, Provision, Crisis and Control**. The different main character in each story is Elijah, The Widow, Obadiah and lastly Ahab the wicked king of Israel. All four stories are set in the context of the bigger situation of Israel's rebellion against the Lord as their God. In this study we'll look at each story first then draw some application from them for us at the end.

#### 1. Story #1 Elijah. 1 Kings 17:1-15.

- How is Elijah to obey God's word v3?
- How does God provide v4?
- What next becomes the crisis v7?
- How does the Lord prove he is in control vv9-15?

#### 2. Story #2 The Widow. 1 Kings 17:7- 24.

- How is the Widow to obey God's word v11?
- How does God provide vv15-16?
- What next becomes the crisis v17?
- How does the Lord prove he is in control vv19-24?

### 3. Story #3 Obadiah. 1 Kings 18: 1-18.

- How has Obadiah been obeying God's word v3?
- How has God been providing for him v3-4?
- What next becomes the crisis v8-9?
- How does the Lord prove he is in control vv16-18?

### 4. Story #4 Ahab. 1 Kings 18:16- 45

- How is Ahab to obey God's word v19?
- How does God provide for him v21? (think spiritual drought)
- What next becomes the crisis v22-24?
- How does the Lord prove he is in control vv30-39?

***By this stage we have the pattern down pat. Obedience leads to Provision. Faith Crises result in the Lord demonstrating his Control. In the larger context of Israel's apostasy and wickedness it is worth realizing how good the Lord is to provide this double miracle of fire then rain? How terrible and amazing is our Lord's Judgment and his Mercy. And following on from this, Israel was meant to nationally clean up their act. They were meant to get rid of their idols and take holiness seriously.***

## THINK AND APPLY

In the Lord Jesus Christ we have the fullest revelation of God's Judgment and his Mercy. The cross is where Justice and Love meet. It is where we see most clearly both God's FIRE and his RAIN. And flowing out from the cross we who claim to be his people must clean up our act.

- How are you struggling with holiness?
- What are you throwing out that's wicked in your life?
- Where are you compromising and how can you stop it?

## PRAYER

**What can you pray about arising from this study?**



**For next week  
Read  
1 Kings 19.**