

Standing Alone in the Gap

Elijah: A Man of Heroism and Humility

Scripture Reading: *Hebrews 1:1-4*

- A. When you think of the word “**hero**,” who or what do you think of?
- B. Those who are **heroic** on the one hand and **humble** on the other are few in number.
- C. A great example of those two invaluable traits in one person? **Elijah** (*1 Kings 17:1*).

I. The Crucible of History

- A. For well over a hundred years, the Israelites had lived under the reign of three kings.
- B. At the end of Solomon’s life, a civil war broke out, resulting in one kingdom becoming two.
- C. Because of the wickedness in the land, God sent various prophets calling for repentance.
 - 1. Jeroboam — first king of the northern kingdom (*1 Kings 13:33*).
 - 2. Nadab — son of Jeroboam (*1 Kings 15:25-26*).
 - 3. Baasha — assassinated Nadab (*1 Kings 15:27-30*).
 - 4. Elah — son of Baasha, killed by his servant Zimri (*1 Kings 16:8-13*).
 - 5. Omri — acted more wickedly than all who were before him (*1 Kings 16:21-26,28*).
 - 6. Ahab — son of Omri, married Jezebel, worshiper of the idol god Baal (*1 Kings 16:31*).

II. The Need for a Prophet

- A. The chasm between God and His people was great (*1 Kings 16:32-33*).
- B. Into this spiritual wasteland, God sends his prophet Elijah (*1 Kings 17:1*).
 - 1. His **name** — “*my God is Jehovah*” or “*The LORD is my God.*”
 - 2. His **land** — from Tishbe in Gilead, a rough and rugged area of Hebrew settlers
 - 3. His **style** — straight and to the point — “*there shall be neither dew nor rain...*”
- C. Elijah was a “stand-in-the-gap” kind of messenger, uniquely prepared and used by God.
- D. Many of our Biblical heroes were “stand-in-the-gap” kind of people.

III. Lessons Learned From This “Stand-in-the-Gap” Prophet

- A. God looks for _____ people at _____ times.

- B. God’s _____ are often _____.

- C. We _____ before _____.