

1. The downfall of Israel began with Solomon's bad decisions and each successive poor choice led to greater rebellion, bringing us to Ahab, the king of the northern tribes.
2. God condemns Ahab as the worst of the worst. He allows cult practices to continue, and his wife Jezebel is a Baal worshipper. The leadership institutes laws endorsing rebellion against God, and God's righteous judgment is just around the corner.
3. Despite the national sins, God is still working His plan. The prophet Elijah enters the scene and declares that God is alive and that there will be a drought.
4. The drought is a direct attack against Baal because it was believed that their 'god' was in control of rain. If Baal can't bring rain, then he must be a false god, and Yahweh is the one true God.
5. The drought triggers famine, and God calls Elijah into hiding, where He will provide resources delivered by ravens. God will take care of him.
6. The starving widow with a child makes the difficult choice to trust Elijah and have faith that God will provide. Elijah promises that if she feeds him with the last of their food, her flour and oil will never run out until God brings rain. Despite her limited knowledge, she trusts that God will provide.
7. The widow's son is so sick that he stops breathing. God is at work, and He uses Elijah's faith to bring the boy back to life. From this point forward, no one doubts that Elijah is sent by the Lord because Yahweh is the God of life.
8. People in modern times often find it difficult to accept that the fabric of history is not built on economics or national expansions. Rather, it is forged through personal faithfulness to God and hearing His Word and responding.
9. Elijah's prayer for God to bring judgment is a mature and admirable example to follow. He asks God to do whatever it takes for His purposes to be fulfilled, regardless of how it may impact him.

## GREEK & HEBREW WORDS

**Ma'owg** (maw-ogue´) - cake of bread, :- cake, curved bread – (round cake/bread)

## TODAY'S WORSHIP

Mama Mama  
Better Than Life  
The Blessing

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

The successive generations after David turn and rebel against God to the point that God condemns Ahab as doing “evil in the sight of the Lord more than all who were before him.” (1 Kings 16:30)

- What patterns of spiritual decline do we see from Solomon and Ahab?
- How do we guard ourselves and others from the slow drift into compromise?

God commands Elijah to go and hide and then provides for him in miraculous ways through ravens and the widow in Zarephath.

- What does this teach us about God?
- How have you experienced God’s provision in surprising or unexpected ways?

In the midst of judgement, Elijah’s story is full of God’s mercy.

- How does Elijah’s journey hold judgment and mercy in perfect tension?
- How do we maintain the faith that God will provide when we’re facing “droughts” in our lives?

In 1 Kings 17, we see God use unexpected people, like the widow, to accomplish His purposes.

- How does this challenge our understanding of who God might use in His kingdom?

**Challenge:** Elijah’s obedience was not based on convenience, but on trusting God’s direction, even when it led him to difficult or dangerous places. Think about areas in your life where God may be calling you to act in faith, even if the path is uncertain or uncomfortable. Are there steps of obedience that you’ve been delaying?