



**What kind of God do
you serve?**

**“God of the second
chance”**



**Prepared and presented by
Abraham Sackey
04 October 2020**

Introduction ~ 1



- This is a continuation under the theme “What kind of God do you serve?”
- This is a theme that should be part of our checklist in everything we do as Christians.
- It should be at the back of our minds as it is a testimony for both Christians and unbelievers alike.
- What kind of God do you serve?
 1. How does it inform your conduct?
 2. How does that inform your prayer life?
 3. Does it make you joyous or sad?
 4. Does it empower you?





- **James 5:13 - 18**

13 Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms.

14 Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.

15 And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.

16 Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.





- **James 5:13 – 18 (continued)**

17 Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months.

18 And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.



Approach and aim



- I would like to use some of the experiences of Elijah, his encounters with Ahab and Jezebel to address certain aspects of this theme.
- Whenever an Old Testament character is used to instruct New Testament Christians one should find out the distinguishing features of that character.
- We will use the admonishment of James to learn vital lessons on how not to use our human frailties as excuses from doing exploits.
- We should not forget these phrases “The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.”
- “Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently”



Who was Elijah?



- **Elijah is introduced in the Bible in a rather abrupt way.**
- **I use the description “abrupt” because unlike Samson or John the Baptist angels did not announce his birth, we are not told of the work he was going to do etc. He just steps into the narrative of God’s dealing with Israel in the days of King Ahab.**



Meet Elijah according to James



- 1. Elias (Elijah) was a man. He was not angel, not special.**
- 2. Elijah was subject to like passions as we. This means he was subject to the same problems as the rest of humanity. Again, he was not special.**
- 3. Elijah prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. This means God answered the prayers of Elijah.**



The Elijah with a nature like us ~ 1



- **1 Kings 19:1 - 8**

1 ¶ Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword.

2 Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, “So may the gods do to me and more also, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by this time tomorrow.”

3 Then he was afraid, and he arose and ran for his life and came to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and left his servant there.

4 But he himself went a day’s journey into the wilderness and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he asked that he might die, saying, “It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life, for I am no better than my fathers.”



The Elijah with a nature like us ~ 2



- **1 Kings 19:1 - 8**

5 And he lay down and slept under a broom tree. And behold, an angel touched him and said to him, “Arise and eat.”

6 And he looked, and behold, there was at his head a cake baked on hot stones and a jar of water. And he ate and drank and lay down again.

7 And the angel of the LORD came again a second time and touched him and said, “Arise and eat, for the journey is too great for you.”

8 And he arose and ate and drank, and went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb, the mount of God.



Elijah - Common denominator?



- Those of us who still remember our days in school will remember LCD?
- LCD stands for Lowest common denominator.
- In mathematics, the lowest common denominator or least common denominator is the lowest common multiple of the denominators of a set of fractions. It simplifies adding, subtracting, and comparing fractions.
- I trust that the example of Elijah will simplify (if that is ever possible) your experiences in prayer and your relationships with the Lord.



The passions of Elijah ~ 1



- In a time as this, when the faith of even the so called champion Christian is being tested, Elijah serves as a classic example of one whose faith was tested but came through eventually because he obeyed God.
- One unique thing about Elijah was that he valued his calling and anointing. Just listen to these statements from him.
 - The God before whom I stand – 1 Kings 17:1
 - If I am a man of God - 2 Kings 1:12



The passions of Elijah ~ 2



- The passions that we share with Elijah in one degree or the other are these:
 1. In the face of a severe challenge he could take a dig at his opponents.
- 1 Kings 18:27 (English Standard Version)
And at noon Elijah mocked them, saying, “Cry aloud, for he is a god. Either he is musing, or he is relieving himself, or he is on a journey, or perhaps he is asleep and must be awakened.”

The passions of Elijah ~ 2



God of the second chance

- 2. Elijah became fearful, felt sorry for himself, had a well rehearsed story, and asked to die. Some say he was depressed. It took the word of God, some correction, some sleep and good old food to overcome his depression.**
- 3. We must not forget that he became self righteous (I could be terribly wrong on this)**



Elijah's well rehearsed story



- **1 Kings 19:1 - 4**

1 ¶ Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword.

2 Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, “So may the gods do to me and more also, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by this time tomorrow.”

3 Then he was afraid, and he arose and ran for his life and came to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and left his servant there.



Elijah's well rehearsed story



- **1 Kings 19:1 – 4, 9- 10 (Continued)**

4 But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he asked that he might die, saying, "It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life, for I am no better than my fathers."

9 ¶ There he came to a cave and lodged in it. And behold, the word of the LORD came to him, and he said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

10 He said, "I have been very jealous for the LORD, the God of hosts. For the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away."



Does your God answer prayer?



God of the second chance



**What is the view
of your “god” on
the question of
prayer?
Does your God
answer prayer?**



All Nations' Centre
The Apostolic Church

Abraham Sackey - Equipping the saints for the work of the ministry
Tyers Terrace London SE11 5LY Tel: 020-7820-9917

Some questions for Elijah?



- If you had been granted the opportunity to have had audience with Elijah just moments before the chariot took him away – assuming you got past Elisha - what kind of questions would you have asked?
 1. Elijah, are you glad that God did not grant your request to die?
 2. Elijah, how would you characterise the God you serve? What kind of God is He?
 3. Elijah, sir, man of God, why were you so brave with King Ahab and yet you were so scared of Jezebel?
 4. Do you think it was a wise idea to run alongside the chariot of Ahab. You tired yourself out? Do you blame it on the anointing or your over exuberance?



Some answers from Elijah ~ 1



- I am very glad God did not answer my request to die
- Yes, I was very aware of what Jezebel was capable of and I was not going to stand and find out first hand.
- I am so glad that God came looking for me, or was with me in my darkest hours when all I saw was doom and gloom and the painted face of Jezebel sneering at me.
- I know God was with Hagar, Sarai's maid but I am very glad that God was with me too. I was in a state of flux, really confused. (Genesis. 16:1-16; 21:8-21)
- One moment I was mocking and slaying the prophets of Baal and the next moment I was running for my life. I was in a very, very dark place.



Some answers from Elijah ~ 2



God of the second chance

- Had the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel answered my request to die I would have missed calling down fire three times on those men sent by King Ahaziah.
- I thought I was finished but the Merciful God had more work for me to do. Amazing is it not?
- I was a mover and shaker when I was asked to anoint Jehu, Hazael to be king of Syria and best of all I anointed my Elisha, my successor.
- Did I just say best of all? No. Best of all I surely would have missed this chariot ride, wow!
- Elijah, looking forward, what would you like to say to the Christian living in COVID-19? What New Testament scripture comes to mind, sir, man of God?



Another question for Elijah



God of the second chance

- **So Elijah, man of God, from your experiences with God, what kind of God do you serve?**
- **You do ask a lot of questions but I would say that the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob is the God of:**
 - **The much more**
 - **The exceedingly, abundantly above all I can think or ask**
 - **The second chance**
 - **Who cares for His servants no matter what**
 - **Who has more faith in me than I have in myself**
 - **He has a great sense of humour. I asked to die and He gave me a chariot ride. Try beating that!**



Encouragement from Elijah



God of the second chance



**“You serve a God who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that you ask or think, according to the power that works in you.” (Ephesians 3:20)
Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. (Hebrews 10:35)**



A question and encouragement for you



- **To Hagar, the angel asked, “Hagar, servant of Sarai, where have you come from and where are you going?” (Genesis 16:8)**
- **To Elijah, God asked, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” (1 Kings 19:13)**
- **Are you out of place?**
- **Are you lost with depression and sadness for one reason or the other?**
- **Perhaps like Hagar you need to go back home and submit. Just go back and behave yourself.**
- **Or like Elijah, you need to eat some food, rest, eat again and rest and listen to the word of the Lord.**



Is this a reasonable deduction?



God of the second chance



**According to James,
ordinary people can
receive extraordinary
answers and results
when they pray
fervently to the only
true God; the God of
Abraham, Isaac and
Jacob.**



Conclusion and challenge



God of the second chance

- **What kind of God do you serve?**
- **God has more instore for you than you can dare to ask or even imagine.**
- **Cheer up, there are more exploits ahead for you.**
- **What kind of god do you serve?**
- **Serve the God who will look out for you when you are down and depressed because the agents of Satan are after you.**
- **Have you heard the call to rise up and eat and sleep and eat again and then start on the journey?**
- **Our God is the God of the second chance and more therefore do not change gods.**

