LIFE OF ELIJAH: A study by Bill Jones

"Raising a Son, Revealing Truth to a Woman, Refining a Prophet"

1 Kings 17:7-24

- I. Refinement: God's training methods
 - A. God's method and leading is often not what we would want or expect.

(1 Kings 17:7, Hebrews 12:11)

B. We must first be emptied to be filled; we must be melted and remolded for His purpose.

(1 Kings 17:9, Numbers 31:22-23, Isaiah 29:16, 45:9, 48:10, 64:8, Jeremiah 18:1-6, Zechariah 13:9, Malachi 3:2-3)

C. A true man of God is a man of God in all facets of life.

(1 Kings 17:8-24, Isaiah 47:10)

II. Redirection: God calls us, sends us and directs out path.

At times the Lord keeps us on the edge of uncertainty to develop (strengthen) our faith in Him.

A. God knows where you are. Don't panic, don't rush Him!

(1 Kings 17:8, Psalm 37:4-5, Isaiah 41:10, 49:15-16)

B. God shows us one step at a time. Wait on Him!

(1 Kings 17:7-9, Psalm 130:5, Lamentations 3:22-24, Matthew 6:25-33, Romans 8:32, Hebrews 13:5)

C. God knows where He is taking us. Trust Him!

(1 Kings 17:9, Psalm 18:30, 31:14-15)

- III. Rejecting or Responding: We reject or obey, moving out in faith.
 - A. God's word has sovereign authority. Israel's rejection versus widow's obedience.

(1 Kings 17:9, Amos 8:11-12, Matthew 10:32-33, Luke 4:24-26, 1 Corinthians 1:21)

B. Getting started, taking that first step is often the most difficult.

(1 Kings 17:10)

C. God responds to people who are seeking to know Him, no matter what their status in life. God is concerned about all people.

(1 Kings 17:12, Isaiah 45:22, Matthew 15:21-28, 18:14, John 3:16, Acts 1:8, 1 Corinthians 1:27-31, 1 Timothy 2:3-4, 2 Peter 3:9)

D. God's promises often require trust which is demonstrated by obedience.

(1 Kings 17:13-16, John 14:15,21,23,24, 15:10)

E. We must give our all. God's word demands our all.

(1 Kings 17:13, Matthew 6:33, 16:24-26, Mark 8:34-38, Luke 9:23-26, 14:25-33)

F. God honors those who put other first.

(1 Kings 17:13, Philippians 2:3-4, Luke 21:1-4)

G. God's provisions are often just enough, and we need to thank Him for them. Elijah teaches us contentment.

(1 Kings 17:15-16, Lamentations 3:22-24, Matthew 6:19-21, Romans 8:32, 2 Corinthians 12:9, Philippians 4:11-14)

IV. Running the Race: God using us.

A. God's word will multiply in our lives like the oil if we use (read) it.

(1 Kings 17:16, Deuteronomy 8:3, Jeremiah 15:16, Matthew 4:4, Luke 4:4, John 1:1, 4:13-14, 6:35,48,57)

B. Likewise God delights in taking what we have—our talents, our time, our resources, even our weaknesses—and multiplying their effectiveness.

(1 Kings 17:16, Isaiah 40:29-31, Matthew 25:29, Mark 10:29-31, 2 Corinthians 12:7-10, Philippians 4:12-13)

C. God reassures us through Elijah of His continual presence and power.

(Deuteronomy 31:6, John 15:5, Hebrews 13:5)

D. God teaches us through Elijah to continually rely upon Him.

(Proverbs 3:4-6, John 15:4-8)

- E. God's provision of the multiplied flour and oil only continued until it began to rain. (1 Kings 17:14, 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13)
- F. Elijah teaches us to get alone with God.
 - 1. We need to pray according to God's will.

(1 Kings 17:14, 20-21, Genesis 32:11-12, Nehemiah 1:8-11, Daniel 9:2-19, Matthew 7:7-12, 21:22, Luke 11:9-13, James 4:2-3, 5:17-18 [compare with Deuteronomy 28:1-4,12,15-18,22-24], 1 Peter 3:12, 1 John 5:14-15)

2. We need to persevere and be persistent in prayer.

(1 Kings 21:21, Luke 11:5-10, 18:1-8)

G. Elijah teaches us to get involved in other's needs.

(1 Kings 17:19-24, Numbers 5:1-2, 19:11-21, John 15:12-13)

- V. Reflecting His image, Reflecting upon Him.
 - A. People are watching you to see if your life speaks the truth.

(1 Kings 17:24, Romans 12:2, 2 Corinthians 3:18, Galatians 2:20,

B. Developing a higher level of trust.

(1 Kings 17:24, Job 19:25, Matthew 10:41, Luke 4:24-26)

C. God can (will) accomplish His purpose. (Isaiah 55:11)