

November 22/23, 2025

"Elijah"

Pastor Aaron Buer



**Beyond the
Weekend**

SPEND DAILY TIME WITH GOD AS YOU READ, THINK, PRAY + ACT.

2025 Focus: 50 Key Truths

Each Friday, explore a key truth about our Christian faith and how we can live in light of this truth.

Day 1 [1 Kings 18:1-19](#) | Your Heart

Now Elijah the Tishbite, from Tishbe in Gilead, said to Ahab, "As the LORD, the God of Israel, lives, whom I serve, there will be neither dew nor rain in the next few years except at my word." 1 Kings 17:1

Many years have passed since Rehoboam's actions divided Israel. David's lineage still rules over the Southern Kingdom of Judah. However, ten of Israel's twelve tribes now associate with the Northern Kingdom. Things couldn't be worse. Ahab, Israel's seventh king, has led the people away from God and into idol worship. God, who is faithful, will not let unfaithfulness linger. He sends his prophets to speak his word and bring the people back to the covenant. It's in this tension that the prophet Elijah enters the story. He receives a message from God that there would be no rain. God wants their hearts, and he is willing to go through great lengths to get them back. He is even willing to use the circumstances surrounding their disobedience.

The same is true for us today. God is jealous for our hearts. He wants *more* for us than comfort or happiness, or even health or wealth. Those things linger for a moment and then fade like a vapor. God wants us to rest secure in a relationship with him that lasts. He desires our whole being and will use whatever means necessary to get us back, even the unexpected hardship or pain. As he did with Israel, God will fight for our hearts.

TODAY: Prayerfully consider if God has all of your heart. Make this your prayer for the week: "Heavenly Father, reveal to me the places where I've given my heart away. Show me how to return and give my heart back to you."

Day 2 [1 Kings 18:20-21](#) | Jumping

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." 1 Kings 18:21

The grass that once covered the hills of northern Israel is frayed and dry. Three years have passed since rain nourished the ground. Three years since crops grew and cattle grazed. The people are destitute. They still worship Yahweh, the God of their ancestors, the one who promised to bless Abraham and freed them from slavery in Egypt. Yet, King Ahab leads them to Baal, a god with the reputation for sending rain and blessing crops. So, they jump to worship Baal too. Elijah exposes Israel's wavering. He challenges King Ahab and the Baal worshippers to prove which god is true. In doing so, he challenges Israel to stop jumping back and forth between Yahweh and Baal.

It's unlikely that we have idols of stone tucked away in our homes. But our hearts share the same fallen tendencies with Israel. We have the propensity to jump between Jesus and something else. It's easy to miss because idolatry is rarely ever total abandonment. We jump to Jesus for forgiveness and heaven. But when we feel insecure or powerless, we jump to something else to help us forget or gain control. It could be a substance, a relationship, an achievement and more. All our jumping is futile. God calls us to stay with him. He alone can provide security, identity and approval.

TODAY: Use this fill-in-the-blank prayer to confess your idols to God. "Father, I admit when I feel _____ I tend to jump to _____. Help me trust you alone for my needs."

Day 3 [1 Kings 18:22-29](#) | Powerless Idols

Midday passed, and they continued their frantic prophesying until the time for the evening sacrifice. But there was no response, no one answered, no one paid attention. 1 Kings 18:29

Everyone is in agreement. The stage is set. Let's find out who the real god is. Elijah, King Ahab, the prophets of Baal and the people of Israel meet on Mt. Carmel for a decisive confrontation. An altar is built as two sacrifices are prepared. Whoever sends the fire—he is God. On paper, this is a favorable matchup for Baal. As the god of storms, lightning is his specialty. Baal also has four hundred and fifty prophets representing him. The God of Israel? Only Elijah. But something isn't working. Baal's prophets cry out. Silence. They cut themselves and scream as hours pass. Still nothing. Elijah begins to taunt them. Their efforts aren't working. Israel and Baal's worshippers learn what Elijah already knows. Their idol is powerless.

The idols we pursue are also powerless and let us down. Our appearance is fleeting with age. Approval disappears as soon as we have it. Athletic ability, financial security, popularity—all of it can disappear in a moment. The journey to security and wholeness is the road back to God. The journey begins with the often-painful realization that these idols are not working; they're transparent and powerless. They have disappointed us and let us down.

TODAY: In your journal or mobile device, write a note of gratitude for God's mercy. Thank him that he has the power to meet us in our circumstances, free us from idols and that he welcomes us back home. Explore Rehoboam's story further on the *Beyond the Weekend Podcast*—find it wherever you listen to podcasts or on [YouTube](#).

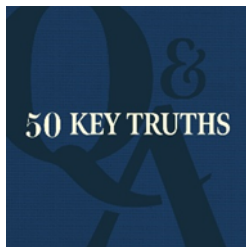
Day 4 [1 Kings 18:30-39](#) | Remember

When all the people saw this, they fell prostrate and cried, "The LORD—he is God! The LORD—he is God!" 1 Kings 18:39

The epic showdown continues as Baal's prophets fail. Their sacrifice remains untouched. Now it's Elijah's turn. Inviting the people to come close, he rebuilds the altar to Yahweh using twelve stones. Each one represents the twelve tribes of Israel and serves as a reminder of who God is and what he has done for them. Elijah soaks the altar in water and prays. He calls to the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, again reminding Israel of their calling and of their faithful, promise-keeping God. Immediately, the fire of God falls and consumes everything. As the hearts of the people turn back to Yahweh, rain begins to fall.

We also need to remember who God is and what he has done for us. We are guaranteed to forget God when idols take up real estate in our hearts. The only way to evict them is to keep our hearts aligned with Jesus. We do that by remembering how God has met our needs. The greatest way he meets our needs is through Jesus. Through belief in Jesus's life, death and resurrection we regain right standing with God. Through Jesus, we find the approval we long for and the security we crave. Like Israel, we are invited to remember and respond in worship.

TODAY: Return to God. If you have never accepted the gift of salvation and made Jesus the Lord of your heart, you can pray to him now. Ask for forgiveness and invite him into your life. If you have already made him the Lord of your life, join Ada Bible Worship in remembering God's goodness by singing "[Goodness of God](#)."



Day 5 [2 Corinthians 5:6-10](#) | Question 46: Final Judgment

Question: Will there be a final judgment?

Answer: Yes, all people will appear before Christ for judgment, with believers receiving rewards based on their earthly lives.

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad. 2 Corinthians 5:10

Paul writes to believers about a sobering reality—everyone will stand before Christ's judgment seat. For believers, judgment isn't about salvation, which is secured through grace by faith ([Ephesians 2:8-9](#)). Paul previously taught the Corinthian believers about judgment using a metaphor—we build on Christ's foundation with gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw. Fire will test the quality of what believers build. What survives receives reward ([1 Corinthians 3:11-14](#)). Jesus also declares he will reward each person according to what they have done ([Matthew 16:27](#)).

Our choices matter for eternity. While salvation is God's free gift through grace, our eternal lives connect to our earthly lives, shaping who we will always be. Final judgment, for believers, is about our stewardship of what God entrusted to us. Scripture calls us to build on the reality of God in Christ and to treat our time on earth as an investment in God's eternal kingdom. For example, Jesus teaches that whatever we do for the least fortunate, we do for him (Matthew 25:40). Final judgment motivates us to make a difference in this life and invest our time and energy in things that glorify God and earn eternal rewards.

TODAY: Consider how you're investing your life. Ask God to help you live with eternity in mind. Thank him that your salvation is secure and pray for wisdom to serve faithfully in ways that will matter forever. Learn more about eternity in our [We Believe document](#).