

Following is the outline from a message by Pastor Dave Tietjen at Evangel Baptist Church, Wheaton IL
www.ev bapt.org, with the resumption of his series on Elijah from 1 Kings.
Also available are the pdf file of the [PowerPoint® version](#) of the notes, as well as an [audio podcast](#)

Message Notes

“Top to Bottom”

1 Kings 19:1-7 (ESV)

February 19, 2017

Despair Exemplified – The Life of William Cowper (1731-1800)

- ◆ **The Poet**
 - ◆ **“God Moves in a Mysterious Way”**
 - ◆ **“There Is a Fountain . . .”**
 - ◆ **“O for a Closer Walk with God”**
- ◆ **The Pain**

“The poet’s life seemed to be one long accumulation of pain.” (John Piper)

 - ◆ **Disaster**
 - ◆ **Despondency**
 - ◆ **Deliverance (John 11; Romans 3:25)**

“I received the strength to believe it, and the full beams of the Son of Righteousness shone upon me.” (William Cowper)
 - ◆ **Doubt**

Despair Examined – The Lessons with Elijah

- ◆ **In Scripture, Honesty Is Obvious**
 - ◆ **Spiritual Feats and Sinful Failures**
 - ◆ **Noah**
 - ◆ **Abraham**
 - ◆ **Jacob**
 - ◆ **Moses**
 - ◆ **David**
 - ◆ **Peter**
 - ◆ **An Epic Feat and (Sense of) Failure**

Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt offering and the wood and the stones and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench. And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces and said, “The LORD, he is God; the LORD, he is God.” And Elijah said to them, “Seize the prophets of Baal; let not one of them escape.” (1 Kings 18:38-40a)
- ◆ **Compare and Contrast (1 Kings 17-19)**
 - ◆ **His Weakness**
 - ◆ **His Productivity**
 - ◆ **His Attitude**
 - ◆ **His Focus**

- ◆ **Conclusion – Look Correctly**
 - ◆ **Hopeful Insight – Magnify the Lord**
 - ◆ **Helpful Illustrations (Numbers 13, 1 Samuel 27; Matthew 14)**
- ◆ **In This Scripture, the Hero Is Overwhelmed**

And in a little while the heavens grew black with clouds and wind, and there was a great rain. And Ahab rode and went to Jezreel. And the hand of the LORD was on Elijah, and he gathered up his garment and ran before Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel. Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. 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.” 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.

(1 Kings 18:45-19:3)

 - ◆ **Hope Retreated for Elijah**
 - ◆ **Fear Resulted in Elijah**
 - ◆ **He Felt Unlikely to Live**
 - ◆ **He Felt Unlikely to Succeed**
 - ◆ **He Felt Unlikely to Continue**

“The fears that Elijah faced are the same fears that confront you and me. We fear death and physical suffering. We fear failure and futility of life. We fear uselessness and an uncertain tomorrow.”

(William Peterson)
- ◆ **In Our Story, Help Is Offered**
 - ◆ **We Identify with Trials . . .**
 - ◆ **To Draw Upon God’s Resources**
 - ◆ **We Are Instructed with Truth . . .**
 - ◆ **To Develop God’s Perspective**

“For my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water.”

(Jeremiah 2:13)

“Simply put, lies are beliefs, attitudes or expectations that don’t fit reality . . . We learn our lies from a variety of sources – parents, our friends, the culture we live in, even the church we attend – and they make life emotionally miserable, even unbearable.”

(Chris Thurman)

*But we have this treasure in jars of clay,
to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.
We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed;
perplexed, but not driven to despair;
persecuted, but not forsaken;
struck down, but not destroyed.*

(2 Corinthians 4:7-9)