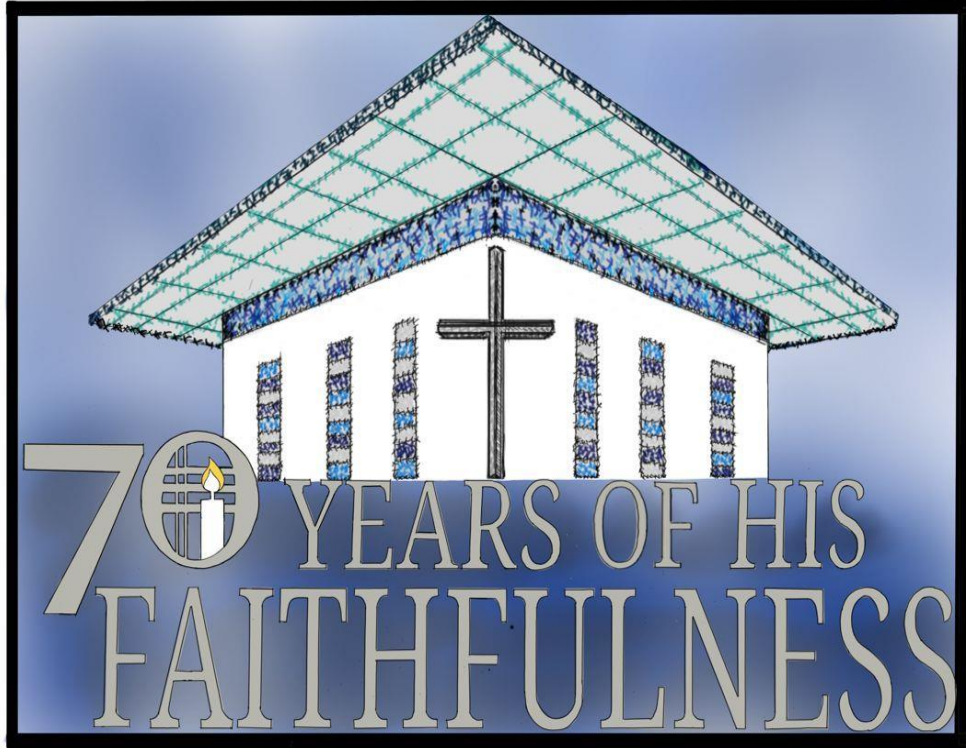


God is faithful

1 kings 17

7th August 2022



**Reflect on God's
faithfulness**

Background



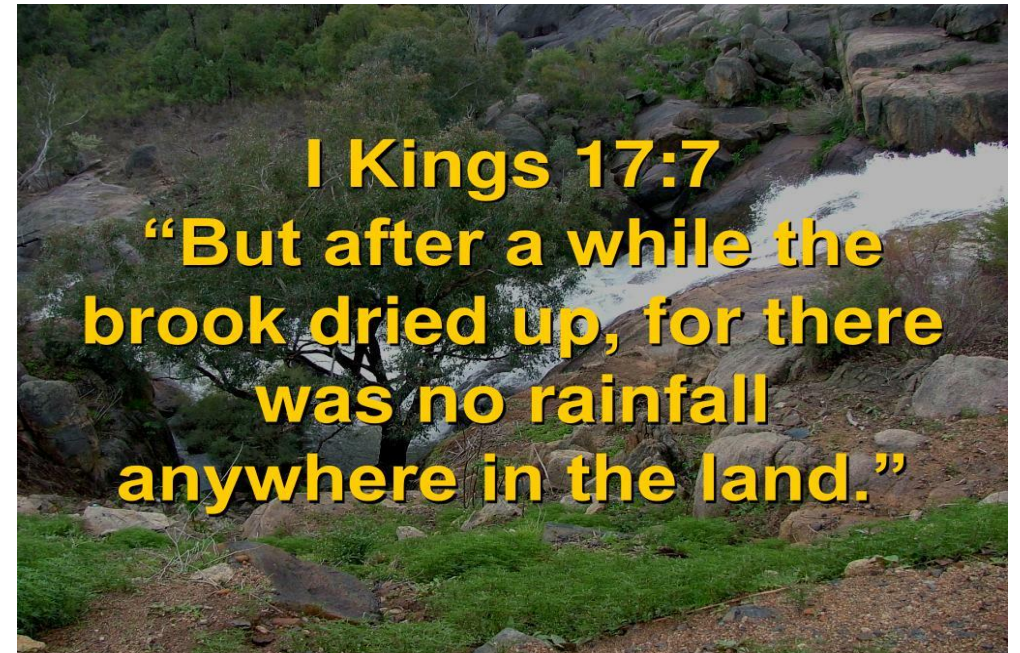
- King Solomon died (11:41-42)
- Divided nation Israel and Judah

Drought announced



- 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."

- ² Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah: ³ “Leave here, turn eastward and hide in the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan. ⁴ You will drink from the brook, and I have directed the ravens to supply you with food there.” ⁵ So he did what the LORD had told him. He went to the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan, and stayed there. ⁶ The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning and bread and meat in the evening, and he drank from the brook.



- ⁸ Then the word of the LORD came to him: ⁹ "Go at once to Zarephath in the region of Sidon and stay there. I have directed a widow there to supply you with food." ¹⁰ So he went to Zarephath. When he came to the town gate, a widow was there gathering sticks. He called to her and asked, "Would you bring me a little water in a jar so I may have a drink?" ¹¹ As she was going to get it, he called, "And bring me, please, a piece of bread."

- ¹² "As surely as the LORD your God lives," she replied, "I don't have any bread—only a handful of flour in a jar and a little olive oil in a jug. I am gathering a few sticks to take home and make a meal for myself and my son, that we may eat it—and die."



¹³ Elijah said to her, "Don't be afraid. Go home and do as you have said. But first make a small loaf of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me, and then make something for yourself and your son. ¹⁴ For this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the LORD sends rain on the land.'" ¹⁵ She went away and did as Elijah had told her. So there was food every day for Elijah and for the woman and her family. ¹⁶ For the jar of flour was not used up and the jug of oil did not run dry, in keeping with the word of the LORD spoken by Elijah.

His faithfulness :

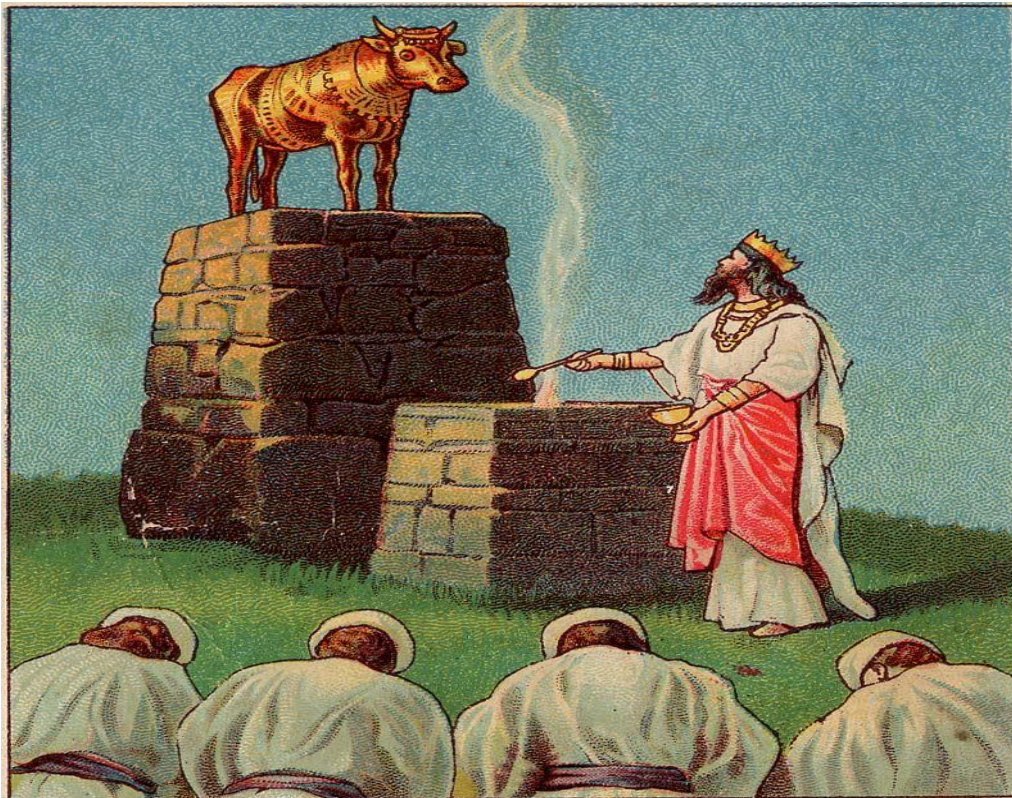
- To His people, Israel
- To His servant, Elijah
- To the widow and son, others (non –Israelites)

Israel worship false gods

- King Ahab – wicked king of Israel
- Committed sins – false worship of calves at Bethel and Dan, appointed non-Levites as priests and set up festivals (12:25-33)
- Married Queen Jezebel, daughter of Ethbaal king of the Sidonians. He set up altars/temple for Baal and Asherah poles.
- Did more to arouse God's anger than those before him.



Faithfulness to Israel



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JEROBOAM'S IDOLATRY

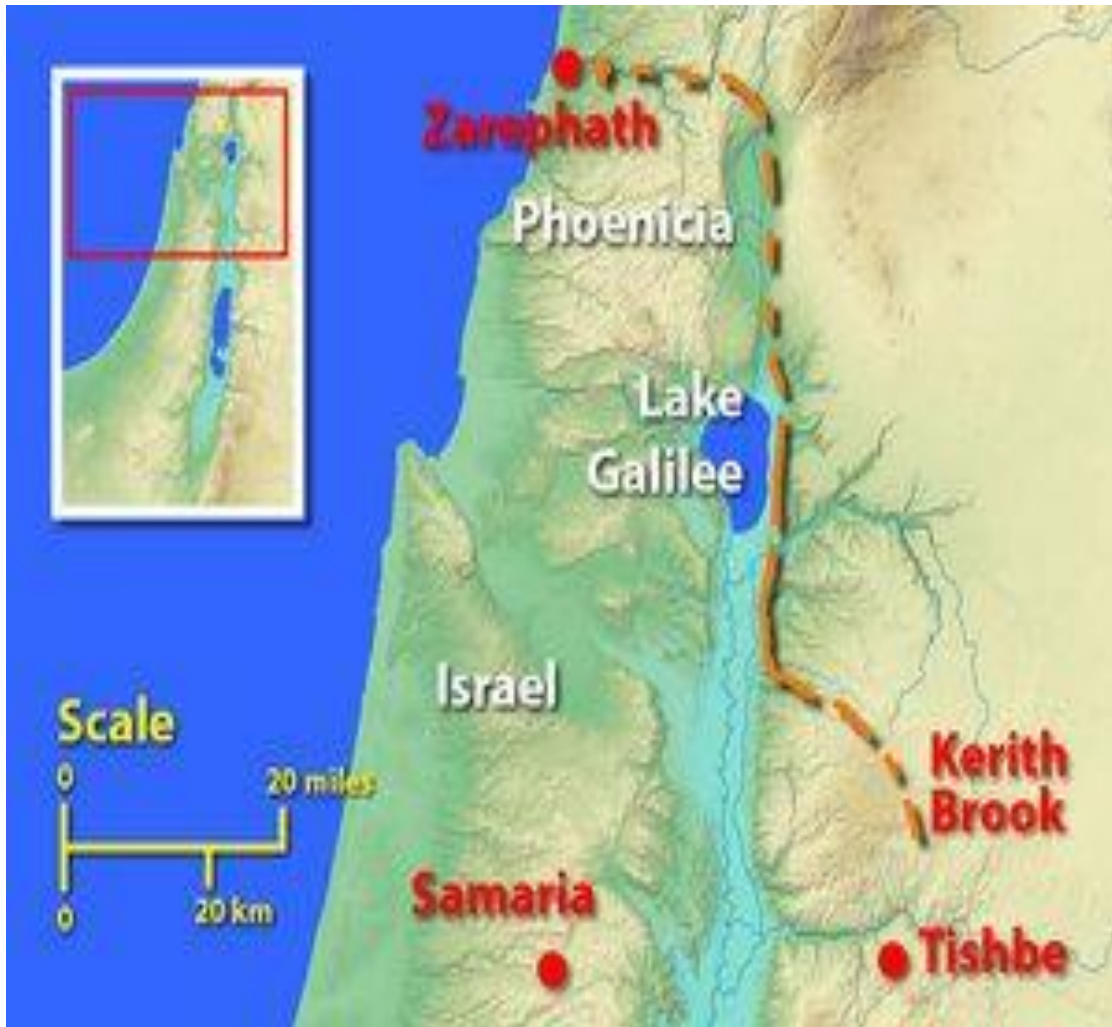
1 Kings 12 : 25-33.

GOLDEN TEXT :—Keep yourselves from idols.

1 John 5 : 21.

- 3 ½ years drought
A warning to repent and turn from their wicked ways
- Faithful to His covenant with Abraham, Isaacs and Jacob

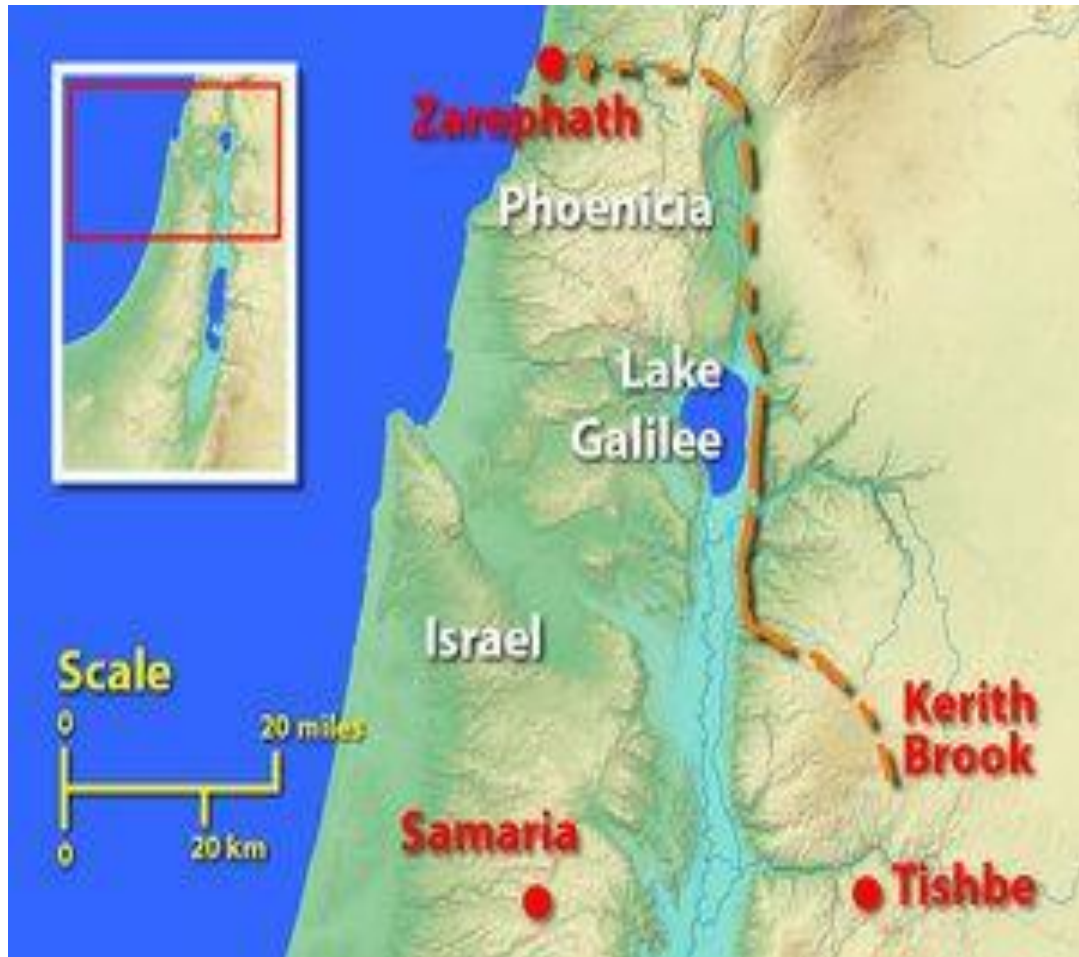
Elijah



Word of the LORD came to him three times:

- Go to King Ahab in Samaria
- Go to Kerith Ravine
- Go to Zarephath in Sidon

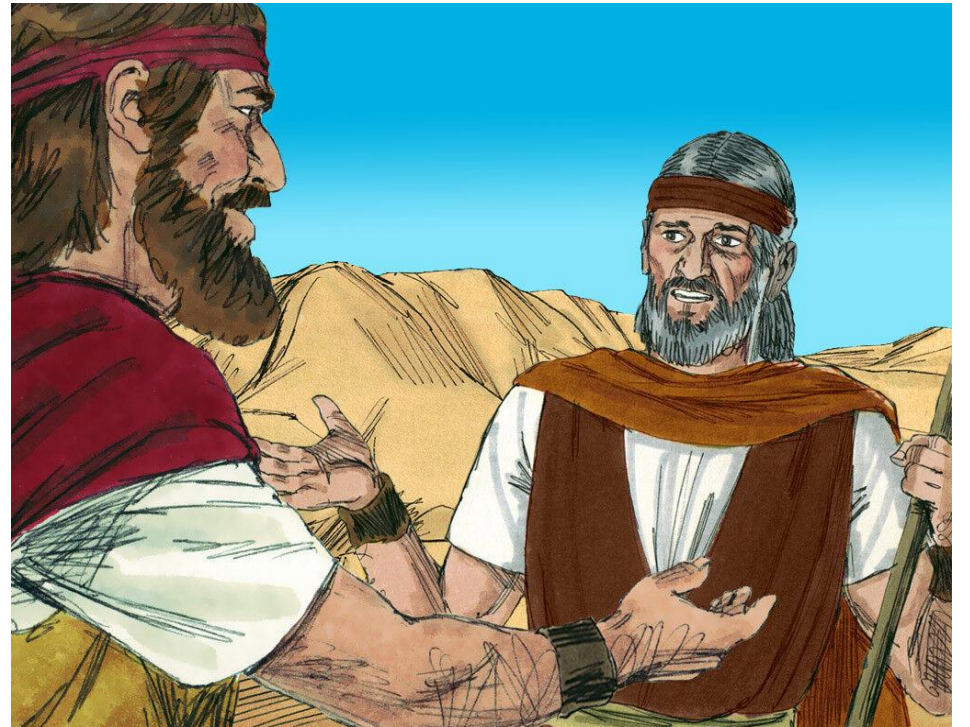
Elijah: Obedience was costly



- Bearer of bad news – danger to his life
- Bad weather – affected Elijah also.
- Relocated to enemy territory, Zarephath in Sidon.

God protected Elijah

- As surely as the LORD your God lives, there is not a nation or kingdom where my master has not sent someone to look for you. And whenever a nation or kingdom claimed you were not there, he made them swear they could not find you. But now you tell me to go to my master and say, 'Elijah is here.' I don't know where the Spirit of the LORD may carry you when I leave you. If I go and tell Ahab and he doesn't find you, he will kill me (18:10-12)
- **Ahab had looked for Elijah in every nation and kingdom but failed to find him..... Spirit kept Elijah hidden.**



God provided for Elijah



- water from the brook
- fed by Ravens with bread and meat twice a day (17:2-6)

Ravens

- Unclean bird (Leviticus 11:15)
- Scavenger bird
- Enough but not excessive.



- Bread /meat unclean
- Was the food safe to consume?
- God made it clean and safe.
- Depended on God's faithful provision.

Situation deteriorated

- ⁷ Some time later the brook dried up because there had been no rain in the land

But God could have miraculously caused the brook to continue to provide water and ravens to bring food, but why He did not?

Faithful to widow/son..



- ⁹ "Go at once to Zarephath in the region of Sidon and stay there. I have directed a widow there to supply you with food."

Miraculous provision



- **13** Elijah said to her..... first make a small loaf of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me, and then make something for yourself and your son.
- **14** The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the LORD sends rain on the land.

Widow of Zarephath



Elijah's word must have sounded strange or even mad, but she followed.

- Why agree to Elijah's request?
- ' I have directed'.

Miracle in enemy territory

The jar of flour will not be used up



and the jug of oil will not run dry until
the day the Lord sends rain on the land

1 Kings 17:14

- What a miracle? What a news it must have caused in Zarephath?
- Seed of faith... in the widow

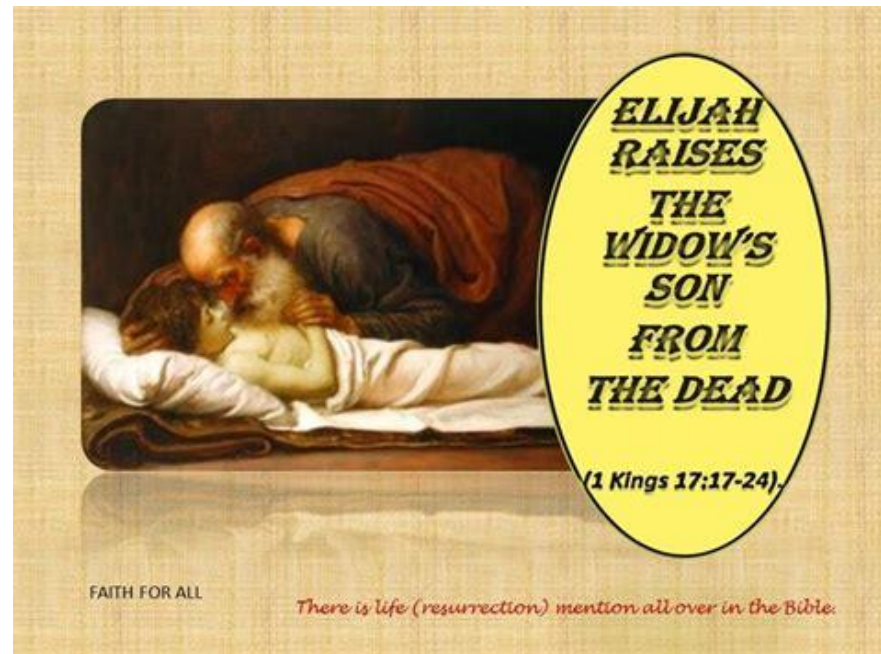
Tragic death of her son



- Widow's son became severely ill and died.
- She accused Elijah of bringing punishment for her sins.

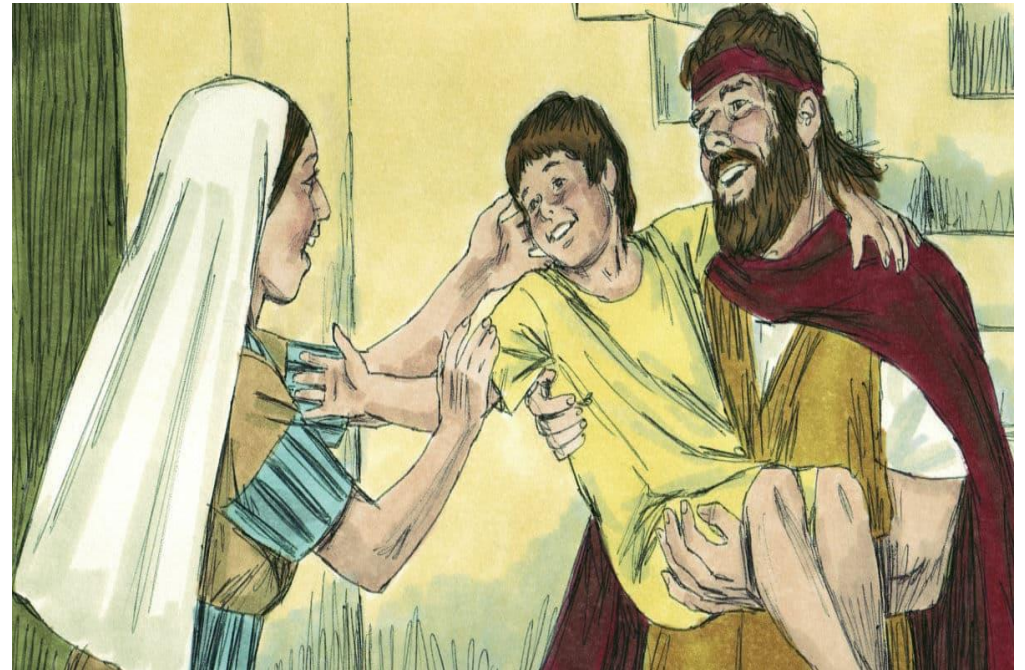
Elijah's response....

- 19 "Give me your son," Elijah replied.
- 20 Then he cried out to the LORD, "LORD my God, have you brought tragedy even on this widow I am staying with, by causing her son to die?" 21 Then he stretched himself out on the boy three times and cried out to the LORD, "LORD my God, let this boy's life return to him!"



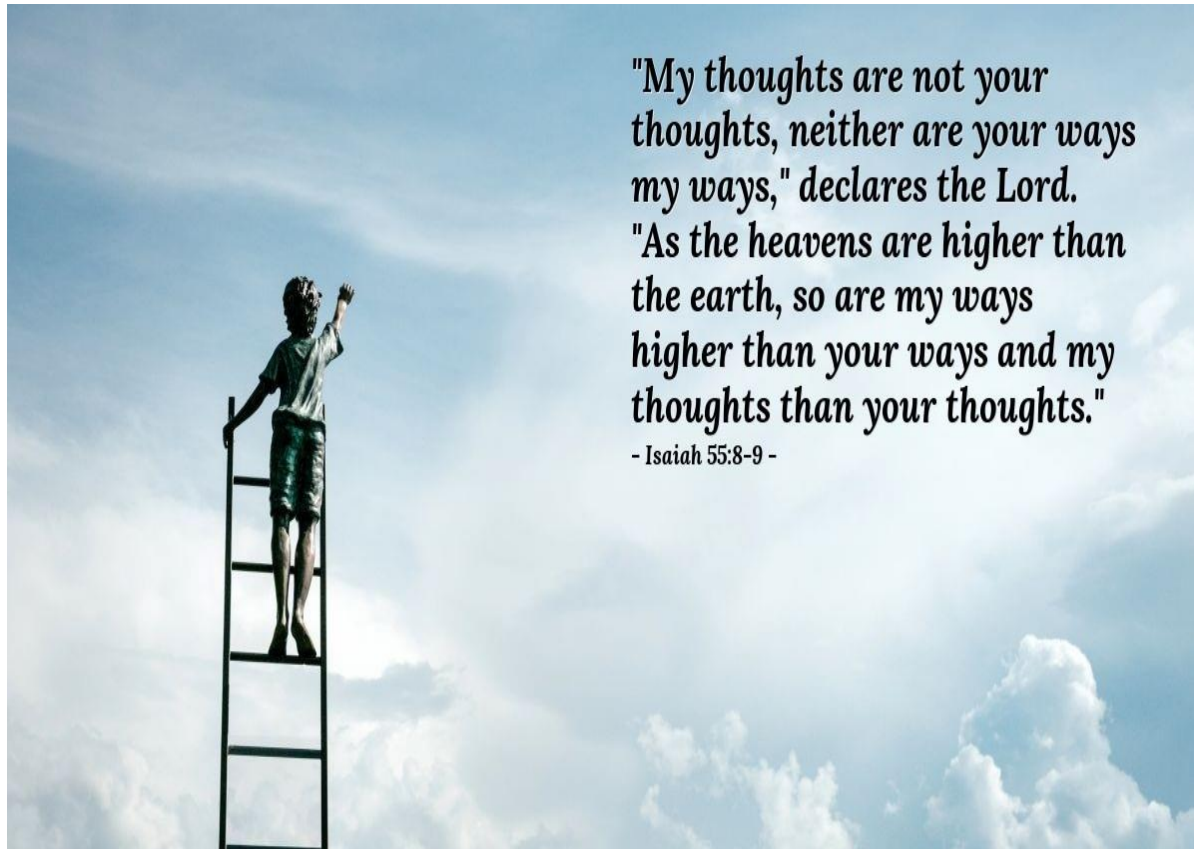
- 22 The LORD heard Elijah's cry, and the boy's life returned to him, and he lived. ²³ Elijah picked up the child and carried him down from the room into the house. He gave him to his mother and said, "Look, your son is alive!" ²⁴ Then the woman said to Elijah, "Now I know that you are a man of God and that the word of the LORD from your mouth is the truth."

The LORD heard....



Now I know.....

Declared her faith after experiencing two miracles.



- God allowed the tragedy... to show His faithfulness to the widow, her son and community.
- God sent Elijah into enemy territory for His good purpose and plan.

Faithful /Faithfulness: Meaning

- Prop up or stay or support (Hebrew)
- Trustworthy/ relied on (Greek)
- God is faithful – absolutely rely on Him / trust Him

God is faithful

Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments. (Deuteronomy 7:9)

- Know this: GOD, your God, is God indeed, a God you can depend upon. He keeps his covenant of loyal love with those who love him and observe his commandments for a thousand generations. (Message)

God is faithful

- Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments

(Deuteronomy 7:9)

- He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he.

(Deuteronomy 32:4)

- He will always act in a fair and just way.
- Not short change us or let us down.

God is faithful

- Faithful in keeping covenant
(Deuteronomy 7:9)
- A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he.
(Deuteronomy 32:4)

- God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

(1 Corinthians 1:9)

He is faithful to save!

God is absolutely
trustworthy (reliable)



Trust Him like a child...

God is trustworthy

Elijah trusted God completely

- His obedience... risk death by execution / suffering drought
- His response in tragedy cried to God....

example of this 'child-like' faith



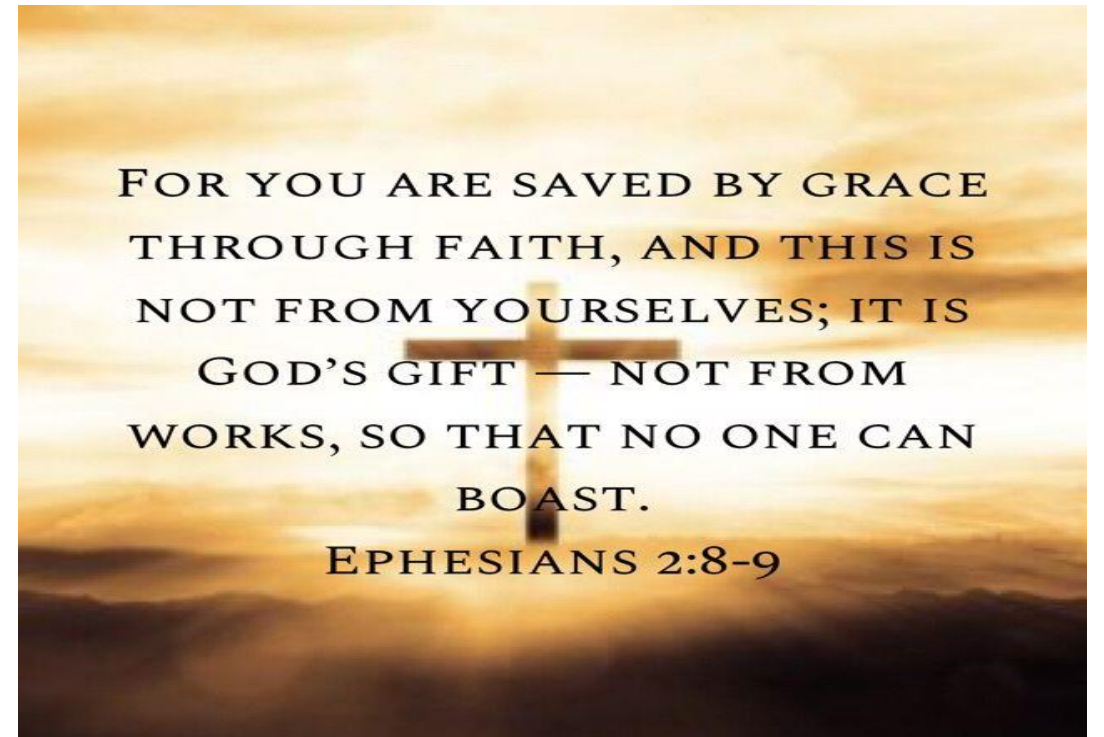
- God was faithful to Israel.
kept His covenant and remained faithful when they were faithless
- God was faithful to His servant, Elijah
protected and provided miraculously
- God was faithful to the widow, her son and community.
evidenced by the miracles in enemy territory

Lessons:

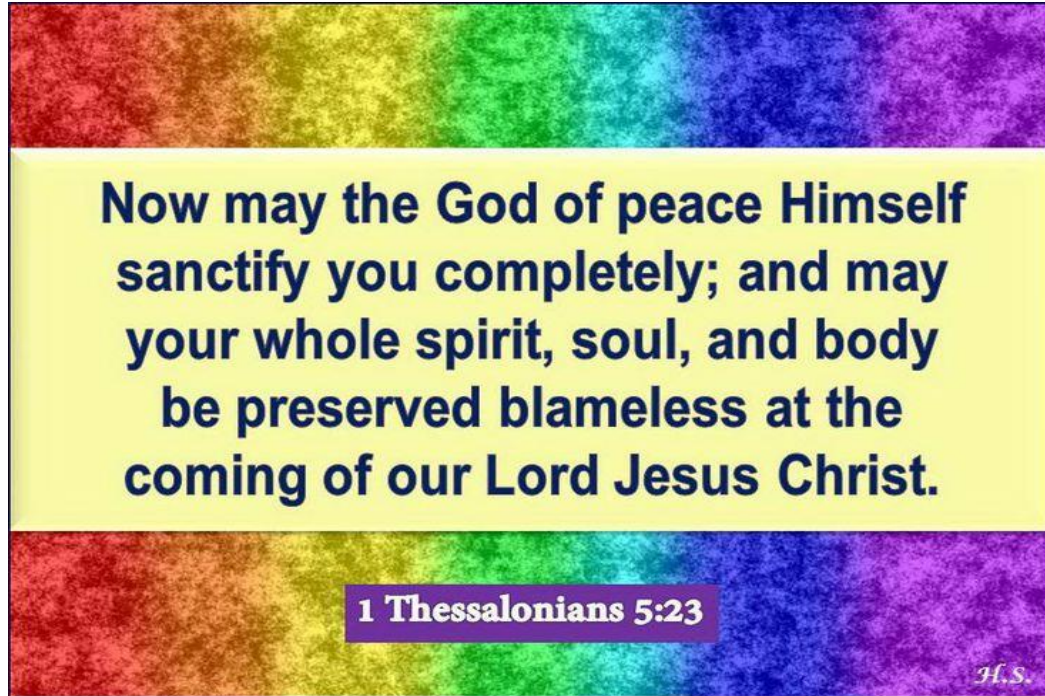
- God is faithful.....
- Call to obedience and trust...

Faithful to His covenant

- He is faithful to save



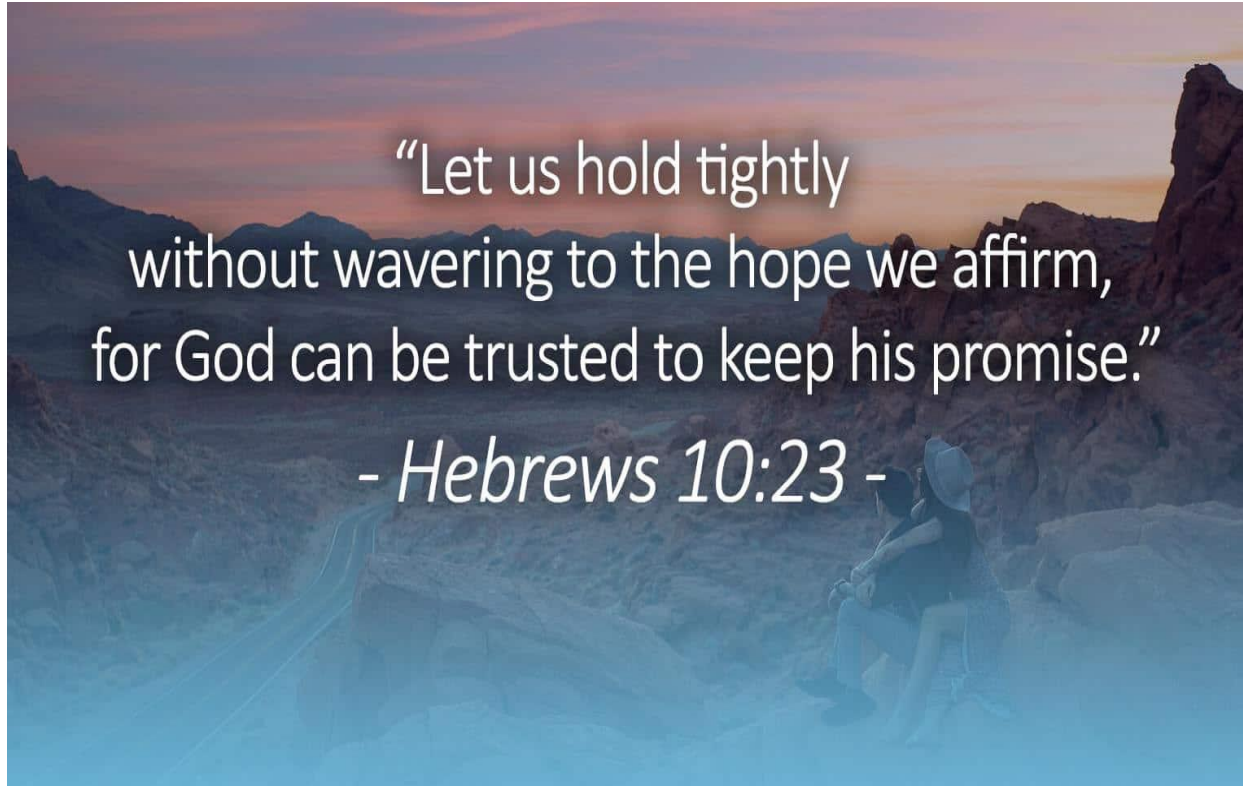
God is faithful... sanctify you



- ²⁴ The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

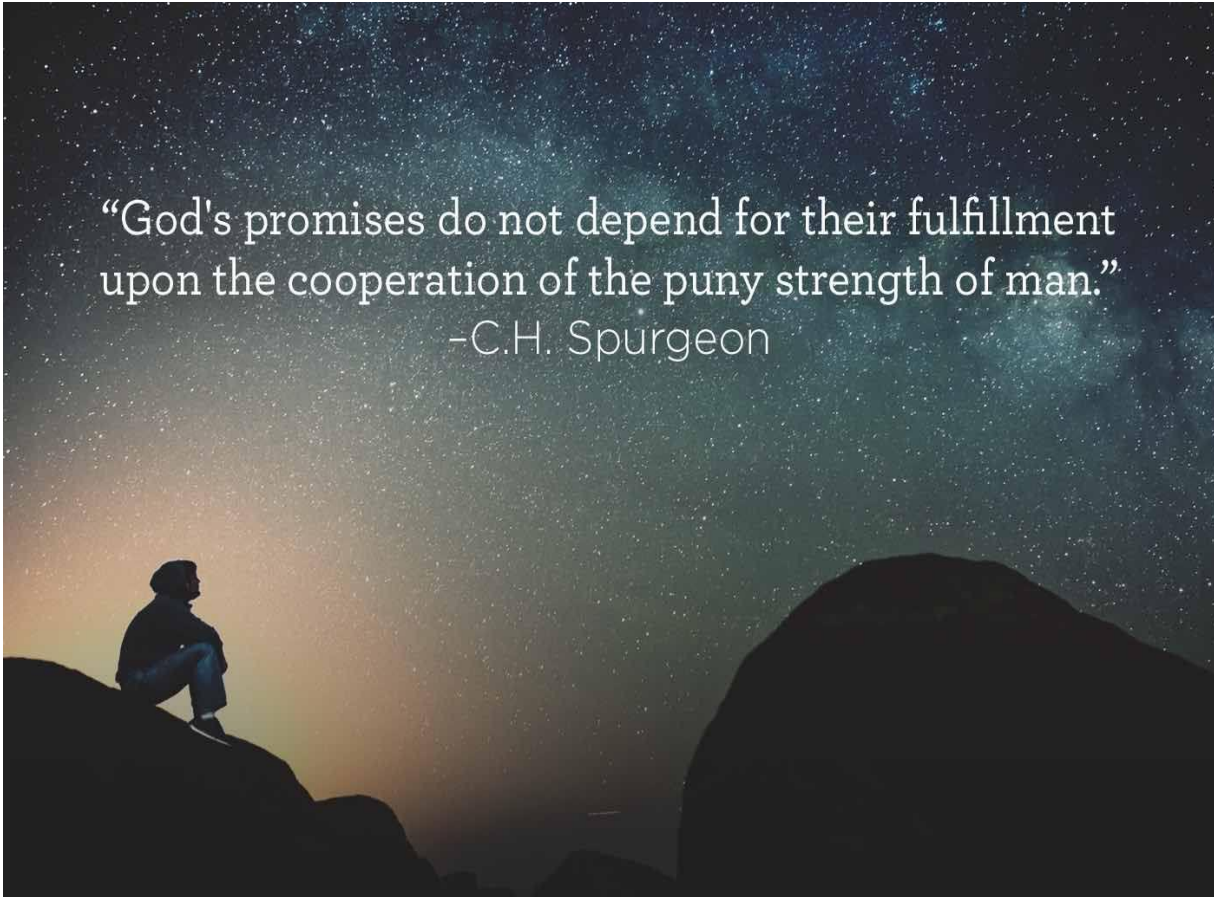
Faithful to His covenant

- He is faithful to save
- He will honor His word and keep His promises.



“Let us hold tightly
without wavering to the hope we affirm,
for God can be trusted to keep his promise.”

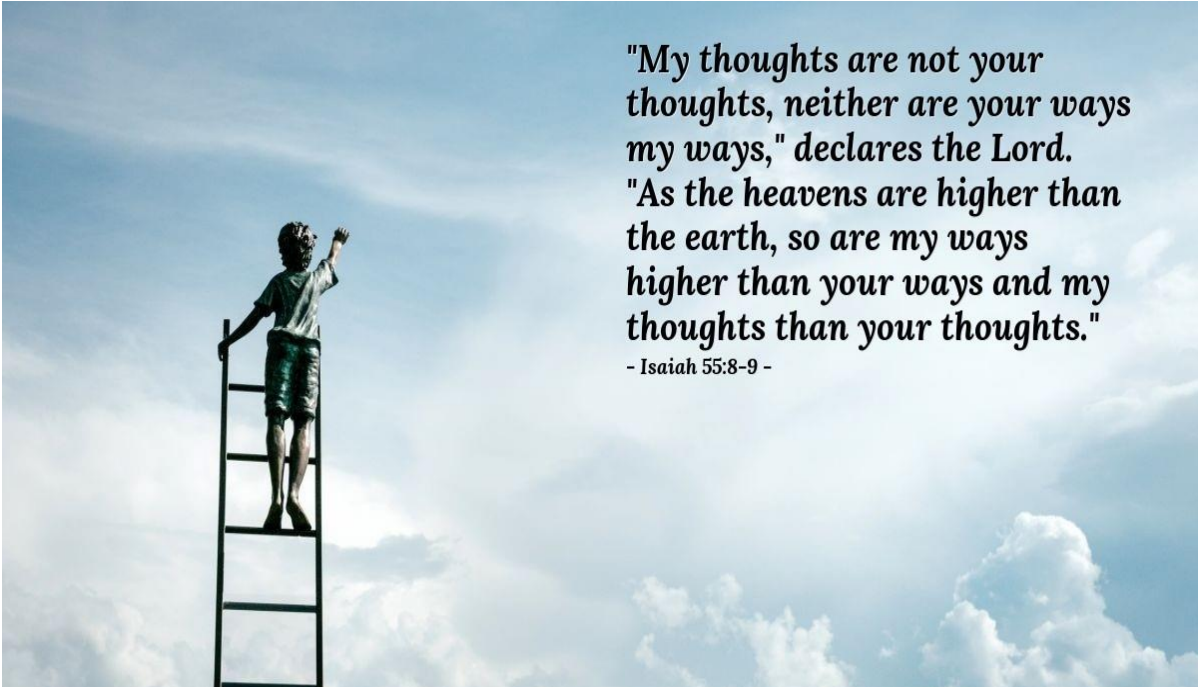
- *Hebrews 10:23* -

A silhouette of a person sitting on a rock, looking up at a vast, starry night sky. The person is positioned on the left side of the frame, and the rock they are sitting on is in the foreground. The sky is filled with numerous stars, and a faint, glowing band of light, possibly the Milky Way, is visible in the background.

“God's promises do not depend for their fulfillment upon the cooperation of the puny strength of man.”

-C.H. Spurgeon

**Only obey and
trust in God's faithfulness.**

A person standing on a tall, thin ladder against a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds. The person is positioned in the lower center of the frame, looking upwards with their right hand raised towards the sky. The ladder extends from the bottom of the frame towards the top, creating a vertical line that draws the eye upwards.

"My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."

- Isaiah 55:8-9 -

Faithfully protect /provide

- **ELIJAH SEALS THE HEAVENS AGAINST RAIN, FLEES FROM AHAB AND JEZEBEL, AND IS MIRACULOUSLY SUSTAINED IN THE WILDERNESS**

(1 Kings 17:1-6).



The jar of flour will not be used up



and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the Lord sends rain on the land

1 Kings 17:14

Protect / provide

Do not be anxious, saying, “What shall we eat?” or “What shall we drink?” or “What shall we wear?”

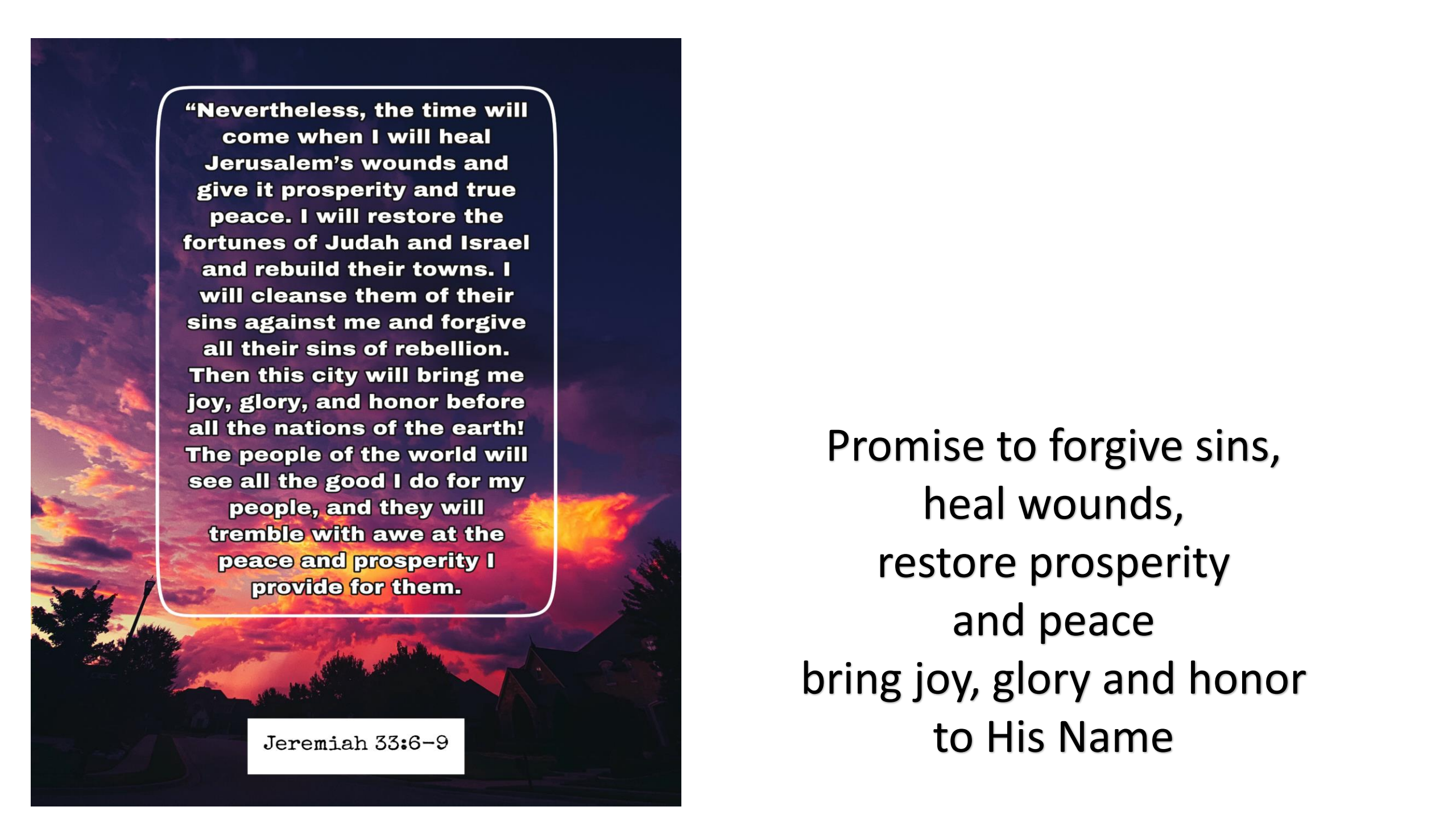
For the Gentiles seek all these things; and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be yours as well.

MATTHEW 6:31-33

Guideposts

I will...
**SHOW YOU GREAT
AND
MIGHTY THINGS,
WHICH YOU
DO NOT KNOW.**

Jeremiah 33:3



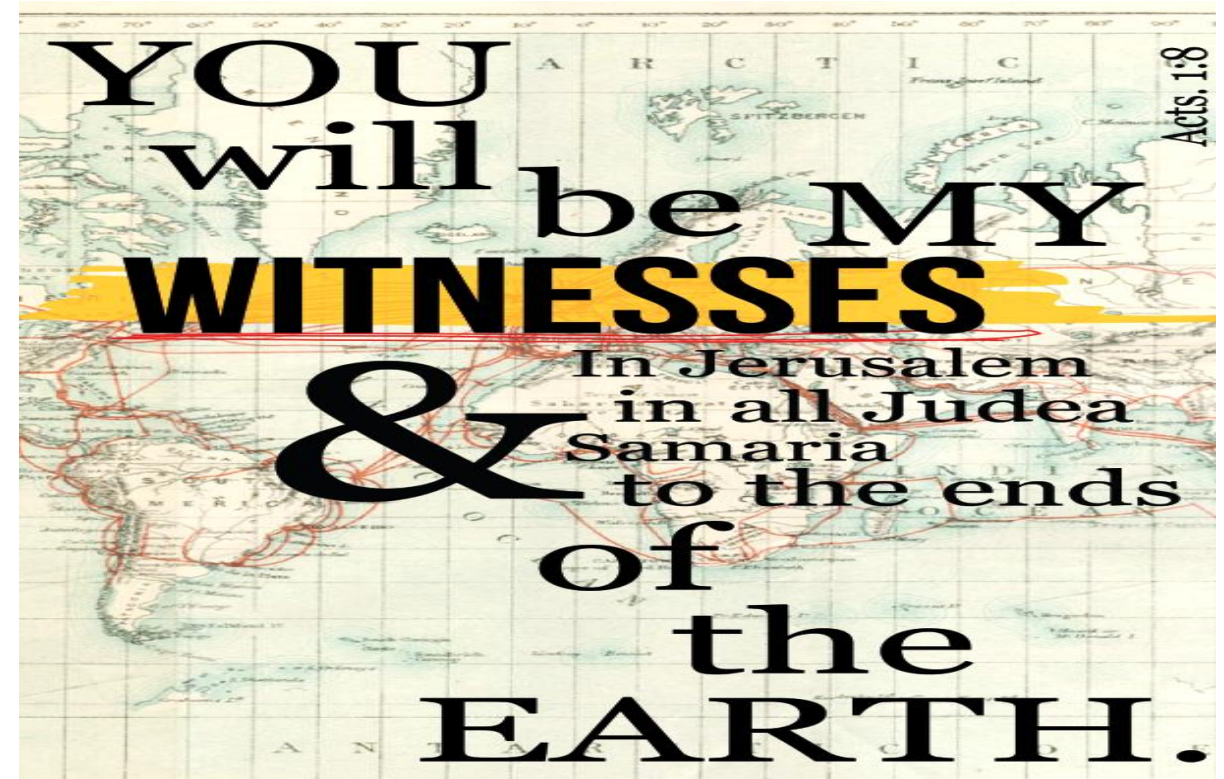
“Nevertheless, the time will come when I will heal Jerusalem’s wounds and give it prosperity and true peace. I will restore the fortunes of Judah and Israel and rebuild their towns. I will cleanse them of their sins against me and forgive all their sins of rebellion. Then this city will bring me joy, glory, and honor before all the nations of the earth! The people of the world will see all the good I do for my people, and they will tremble with awe at the peace and prosperity I provide for them.

Jeremiah 33:6-9

Promise to forgive sins,
heal wounds,
restore prosperity
and peace
bring joy, glory and honor
to His Name

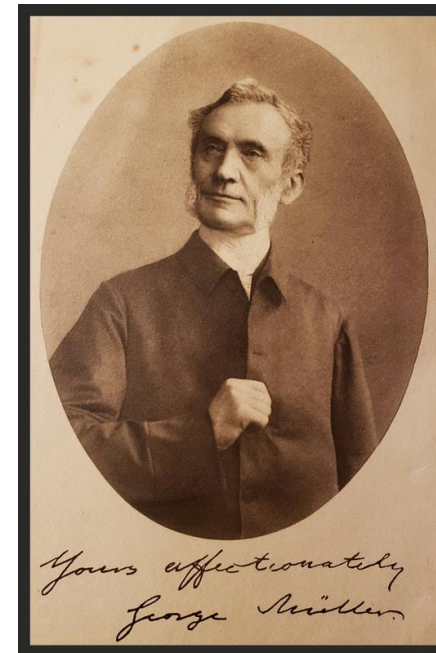
Faithful to others: We are His witnesses

- To show His faithfulness to the others
- Bring God's works into the community around us.



Obedience and trust

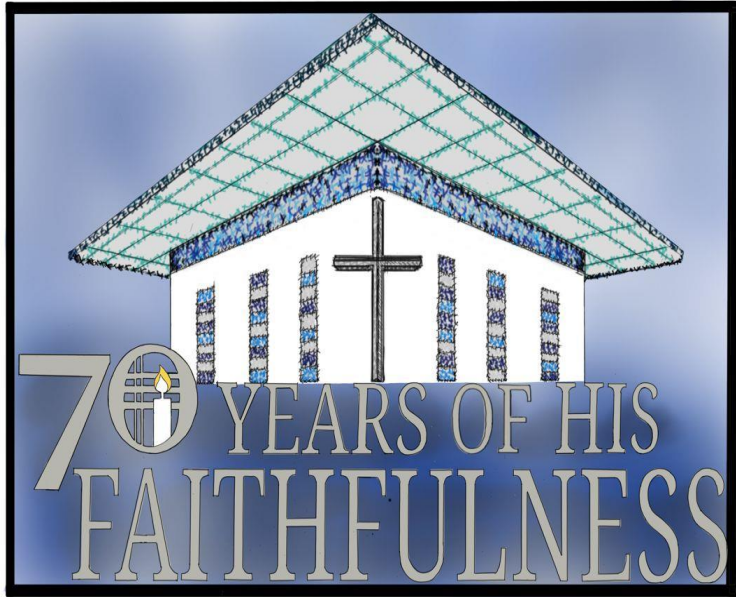
- complete obedience / surrender to Him so that He can show us His faithfulness.
- George Muller, speaking to ministers at the age of 90 years.....



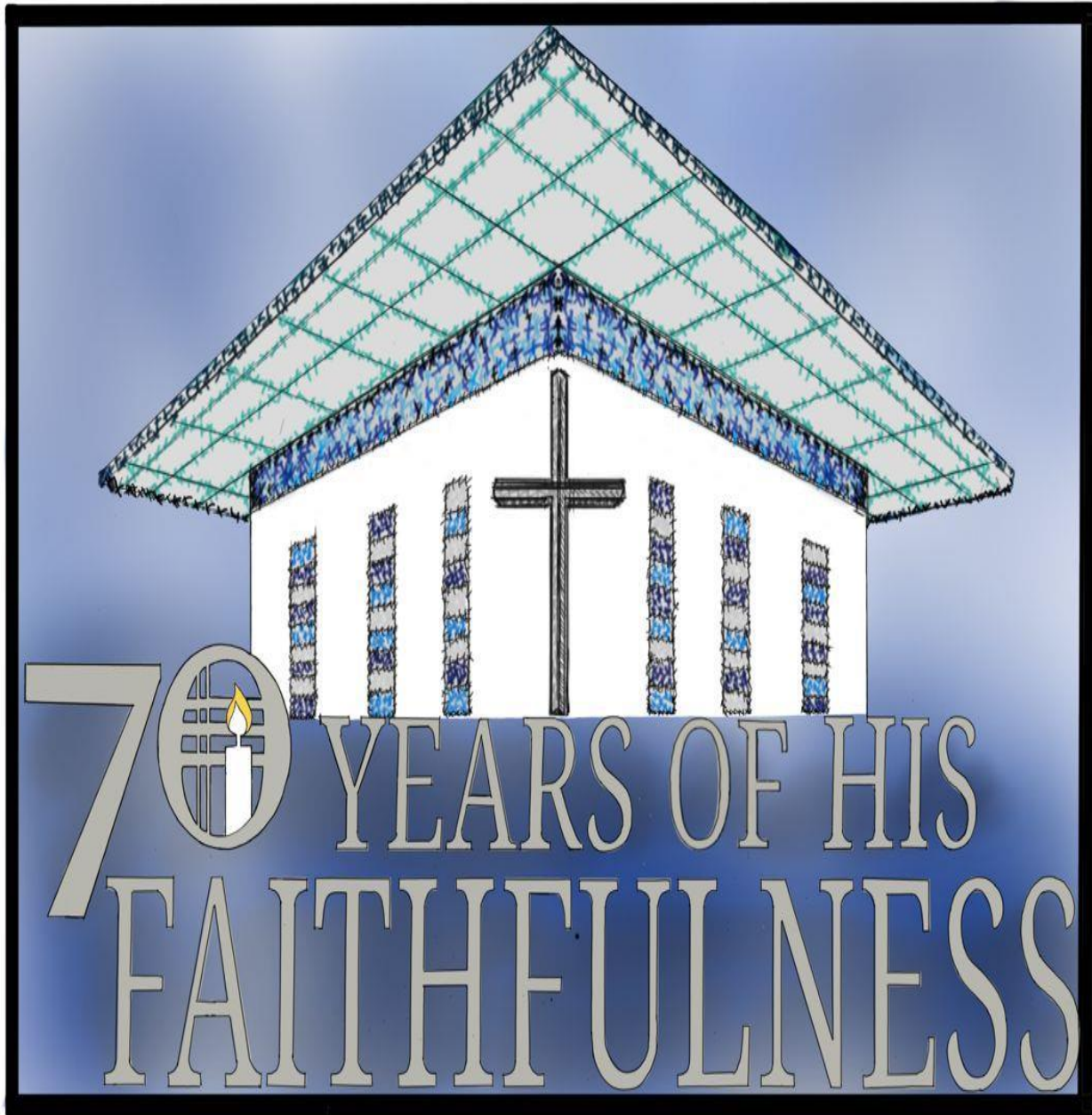
- The point of total surrender of my heart.....my love for money, prominence, position, power, and worldly pleasure was gone.
- God.. alone became my all in all. In Him I found everything I needed, and I desired nothing else...making me an exceedingly happy man.
- It has led me to care only about the things of God

Appeal:

- And so dear believers, I kindly ask if you have totally surrendered your heart to God, or, is there something in your life you refuse to release, in spite of God's call.



- God is faithful and sovereign in Malaysia... **there is hope and future for Malaysia.**
 - God is faithful to His church **He will protect and provide for us.**
 - God is faithful to those who do not know Him....
- we must share the message of the gospel and Christ's love.**



**To God be
all Glory**