

# CHOOSING THE *Extraordinary* LIFE

ELIJAH'S 7 SECRETS FOR  
SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

CHOOSING THE EXTRAORDINARY LIFE  
SELECTED SCRIPTURE

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**Introduction:** Everyone wants to live a life that transcends the ordinary. Today we are going to begin our study of one of the most remarkable characters in all of the Bible. Elijah discovered seven secrets for living a truly extraordinary – and spiritually significant – life.

## I. The Downward Spiral Of Israel

### A. It Began with Solomon (1 Kings 11:1-8)

1 Kings 11:1-8 <sup>1</sup>“Now King Solomon loved many foreign women along with the daughter of Pharaoh; Moabite, Ammonite, Edomite, Sidonian, and Hittite women, <sup>2</sup> from the nations concerning which the LORD had said to the sons of Israel, ‘You shall not associate with them, neither shall they associate with you, or they will surely turn your heart away after their gods.’ Solomon held fast to these in love. <sup>3</sup> And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines, and his wives turned his heart away. <sup>4</sup> For it came about when Solomon was old, his wives turned his heart away after other gods; and his heart was not wholly devoted to the LORD his God, as the heart of David his father had been. <sup>5</sup> For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians and after Milcom the detestable idol of the Ammonites. <sup>6</sup> And Solomon did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, and did not follow the LORD fully, as David his father had done. <sup>7</sup> Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the detestable idol of Moab, on the mountain which is east of Jerusalem, and for Molech the detestable idol of the sons of Ammon. <sup>8</sup> Thus also he did for all his foreign wives, who burned incense and sacrificed to their gods.”

### B. It Intensified Under Ahab (1 Kings 16:33)

#### 1. Ahab's ungodly heritage (1 Kings 16:25)

1 Kings 16:25 “Omri [Ahab's father] did evil in the sight of the LORD, and acted more wickedly than all who were before him.”

2. **Ahab's ungodly wife** (1 Kings 16:31)

1 Kings 16:31 “It came about, as though it had been a trivial thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he married Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Sidonians.”

C. **It Culminated in the Worship of Baal** (1 Kings 16:32-33)

1 Kings 16:31a “It came about, as though it had been a trivial thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat,”

1 Kings 16:32-33 <sup>32</sup>“So he erected an altar for Baal in the house of Baal, which he built in Samaria. <sup>33</sup> And Ahab also made the Asherah. Thus Ahab did more to provoke the LORD God of Israel than all the kings of Israel who were before him.”

II. **The Arrival Of Elijah** (1 Kings 17:1)

A. **Elijah Was a Man of Passion**

1 Kings 17:1 “Now Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the settlers of Gilead, said to Ahab, ‘As the LORD, the God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, surely there shall be neither dew nor rain these years, except by my word.’”

B. **Elijah Was a Man of Purpose**

C. **Elijah Was a Man of Prayer**

James 5:17-18 <sup>17</sup> “Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain; and it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months. <sup>18</sup> And he prayed again, and the sky poured rain, and the earth produced its fruit.”

**III. Elijah's Seven Secrets For Spiritual Significance**

- A. Discover Your Unique Purpose**
- B. Determine to Influence Your Culture**
- C. Wait on God's Timing**
- D. Decide to Burn the Ships**
- E. Practice the Principles of Powerful Praying**
- F. Learn How to Handle Bad Days**
- G. Live With the End in Mind**

Conclusion