

***Standing for God-The Story of Elijah*** by Roger Ellsworth, The Banner of Truth Trust, Edinburgh: 1994 (4 Quotes selected by Doug Nichols)

### *Chapter 3. The Appearance of Elijah*

#### **1. Praying in Faith**

Why pray for something God has already promised to do? There are two answers. First, God has told us to pray for what he has promised. Second, if we pray for what God has promised we can rest assured our prayer will be answered.

Now we are in position to see what true faith is as well as what it is to pray in faith. Faith is simply believing what God has revealed in his Word. Paul says: 'faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God' (Rom. 10:17). And praying in faith means laying hold of the promises of God's Word, pleading them before God, and saying to God: 'do as You have said' (2 Sam. 7:25). [Page 19]

### *Chapter 4. Elijah Goes to Cherith and Zarephath*

#### **2. Little in Today's Preaching to Induce Changed Lives**

...the fact that we are well stocked with churches and preachers is no guarantee that the Word of God is being preached. Even in churches which profess to believe the Bible one can hear very little of God's Word. There are all kinds of sermons on living successfully and coping with life's problems and difficulties, but there is precious little preaching on the depth of man's sin, the reality of judgment before a holy God, the necessity of God's saving grace, and the sufficiency of Christ's death on the cross. There is, I believe, much that is interesting and entertaining in preaching today but little to induce deep conviction and changed lives. [Page 26]

#### **3. When the Jews Rejected Jesus**

[The people of Israel] never seemed to grasp that their call to a special relationship with God was not a call to privileged status but to obedient living. By sending Elijah to Zarephath, God was giving his people notice that their continued rejection of his Word would result in their being replaced by another people. This is, in fact, what finally happened. When the Jews decisively rejected Jesus, God began to engraft into his covenant a new Israel made up of all those who receive Christ. [Page 29]

### *Chapter 6. When God Seems to Fail*

#### **4. We Get Angry at God for Things He Does Not Promise**

... we can always easily find plenty of reasons to blame ourselves for catastrophes, and when we do we forget all about the grace of God. But when we get angry with God, it is usually a matter of wanting to hold him accountable for things he has never promised. We get angry at him if one of our loved ones gets sick or dies, but God has nowhere promised our loved ones would never get sick or die. In fact, the Bible tells us just the opposite. It constantly tells us that this life is a realm of sin with all its attendant woes, and the children of God will never be free from these things until that day in heaven when God wipes all the tears away from our eyes. [Page 40]