

# FIRESTARTERS 5

## PRAYER TOOL

Igniting Prayer for Revival in our City • 5 Minutes to Read • 5 Minutes in Prayer

**FOR THE WEEK OF Sept 27th - Oct 3rd, 2020 - Vol 22**

### THEME VERSE:

*If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.*

Matthew 21:22

### THE GOD OF REVIVAL:

#### Revival under the Prophet Elijah in 870 B.C. (1 Kings 17-18)

After the time of King David and King Solomon, the nation of Israel split into a northern kingdom and southern kingdom, with Israel in the north and Judah in the south. The capital of the northern kingdom was Samaria, and in 874 B.C. King Ahab came to the throne. Ahab's father had built up the economic and political strength of Israel during his reign, but it was a time of great spiritual decline as the king and his citizens lost sight of God. Under King Ahab, things became immeasurably worse. Ahab would not only pull people away from the true worship of God, but he also introduced all kinds of false gods and then commanded the people to worship them too. He set up pagan altars to Baal, and then he married Jezebel, the princess from a nearby nation, who was completely committed to Baal worship. Soon, Ahab would violently persecute anyone who served or worshiped the one true God. In these things, King Ahab did more evil in the eyes of God than any of the vile kings before him.

So, God raised up a prophet named Elijah to confront King Ahab. Following God's lead, Elijah declared that no more rain would come upon the land because of its sins. Subsequently, Israel entered a time of blistering drought, and Ahab blamed Elijah and hated him for it. For years, Ahab hunted Elijah throughout the kingdom, but time and again God would protect his prophet. After 3 years, God commanded Elijah to directly face Ahab again. Elijah told Ahab to gather all of Israel at Mount Carmel and to invite 850 prophets of Baal and Asherah. There, Elijah asked all the people, "How long will you waver between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him!" The people were silent, so Elijah offered this challenge: Bring two bulls. Set up two altars and put wood upon them. Then call upon your god. The one who answers with fire on the altar is the true God!"

The people agreed to this. The 450 Baal worshipers went first. For the whole morning and afternoon, they danced around, cut themselves with knives, and cried out to Baal to set their sacrifice on fire. Nothing happened. The frenzied chanting and prancing increased. Still nothing. As evening drew near, Elijah called the people around the Lord's altar. He surrounded it with 12 stones to remind the people that the 12 tribes of Israel were chosen by God Himself. He then upped the stakes. He dug a trench around the altar, poured on tons of water to drench the sacrifice. Nothing short of a miracle would ignite this mess. Then, Elijah prayed. And on cue, God answered in the blink of an eye with fire from heaven. Everything on the altar and around it were burnt up. When the people saw this, they fell to the ground, crying, "The LORD, He is God!" On that day, as Elijah continued to pray, God opened the heavens and ended the long drought with a deep and heavy outpouring of rain. Revival had come to the land!

### THE GOD WHO ANSWERS PRAYERS:

- Praise God for increased awareness of the needs and challenges within the African-American communities. Pray that new initiatives and funding would let our country solve this together.
- Thank God that North Carolina trooper Lopez-Alcedo who was seriously injured by a car on I-485 on July 4th while on duty has recovered enough to return home after 84 days of treatment.
- Praise God for increasing concerts of prayer and worship here in Charlotte and nationwide.

## **PRAYER REQUESTS THIS WEEK:**

### FOR THE NEEDS OF THE CITY:

- **HEALTH.** Thursday marked the lowest “percent positive per day” that we’ve seen in COVID-19 testing in the Charlotte Mecklenburg area since its peak back in May. Pray this trend continues!
- **SCHOOLS.** Charlotte’s school system is planning to increase the number of days for students to attend school in person. Pray for God’s continued protection over teachers and students alike.
- **POLICE.** The Charlotte Police will be releasing body camera footage next week regarding the death of a man, Harold Easter, who was in their custody. Pray for the truth to be made clear, for justice to be pursued, and for safety and no violence in our city in response.

### FOR THE NEEDS OF THE WORLD:

- **BEIRUT.** Continue to pray for the people of Beirut. Almost 300,000 people are homeless after the devastating explosion. Pray people will turn to the Lord in the midst of this tragedy.
- **TV MINISTRY.** Pray for SAT-7, a Christian satellite ministry which has more than 30 million regular viewers, the majority of whom are Muslim. SAT-7 ACADEMY teaches children, with many now hearing the Gospel for the first time. Pray many will be saved through this ministry.

### FOR LOCAL MINISTRIES AND REVIVAL:

- **PRO-LIFE.** Pray that the next Supreme Court Justice appointed will demonstrate God’s wisdom and justice and concern for the lives of unborn children.
- **LOCAL CHURCHES.** Pray for churches as they open up to worship together live on Sundays. Pray also that churches would find ways to courageously step up to minister to the most vulnerable and needy in our city during the pandemic. May God grant us supernatural power & boldness.
- **REVIVAL.** Press in to the Lord and ask Him to raise up more modern-day Elijahs in our midst. May people everywhere be given the opportunity to choose Jesus or to reject Him. Pray that God would release a clear display of His love and mercy and miraculous power. May the church and our communities turn to God as He stirs up revival in our hearts.

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