



# ELIJAH AND ELISHA

MESSENGERS IN WORD AND DEED

# Faithful Followers

- God always preserves a remnant of faithful followers.
- 1 Kings 18:1-19
- Three years had passed since the drought had begun and the famine was severe in Israel.
- Ahab, king of Israel, asked his second-in-command, Obadiah, to split the kingdom.

# Faithful Followers

- Obadiah means “servant of Yahweh,” and this Obadiah truly was.
- When Jezebel massacred the Lord’s prophets, Obadiah hid 100 of them in a cave and fed them, putting himself in grave danger.
- Even though Elijah thought he was alone and felt very alone, he was not the only faithful prophet left.

# The Two Kingdoms

Mt. Carmel

Zarephath

Sea of Galilee

Jerusalem



Kingdom of Israel

Kingdom of Judah

EDOM

MOAB

MISHOR

AMMON

BASHAN

UPPER GALILEE

LOWER GALILEE

PHOENICIA

# Faithful Followers

- He was alone when he challenged the 450 prophets of Baal.
- Afterward, when he ran from Ahab and Jezebel, he told Yahweh he thought he was the only prophet left.
- But God told him there were 7,000 who had remained faithful to Him.

# Faithful Followers

- The text doesn't say why God didn't bring those other 100 prophets out of hiding to help Elijah.
- However, one man defeating 450 prophets is far more dramatic than 101 defeating 450, and it highlights God's extraordinary power.
- This placed a heavy emotional burden on Elijah, but the Lord gave him the strength to persevere.

# Faithful Followers

- While Obadiah was searching for grass for the animals to eat, he ran into Elijah, who was on his way to Ahab's palace.
- God had told Elijah it was time to end the drought and to come out of hiding and show himself to Ahab.
- This put Elijah in danger, but because God had commanded him to do it, he trusted God to protect him.

# Faithful Followers

- He had been in hiding throughout the three and a half years of the drought – first by the brook, then with the widow in Zarephath.
- Ahab had been looking for him to kill him the entire time; Obadiah said there was no kingdom where Ahab had not looked for him. He even made every nation swear an oath that they had not found him.

# Faithful Followers

- When Obadiah saw Elijah, he bowed before him and called him “my lord.”
- Yet he didn’t want to go tell Ahab to go meet Elijah.
- He was worried that if he did, Elijah would be taken away by the Holy Spirit and Ahab would kill him when he couldn’t find Elijah.

# Faithful Followers

- Elijah promised he would not disappear, so Obadiah went.
- When Ahab came out to meet Elijah, he called him “you troubler of Israel,” but Elijah said it was Ahab who had brought trouble on Israel by his idolatry.
- Elijah asked him to send for the prophets of Baal (450) and Asherah (400) to meet him at Mount Carmel, along with all of Israel.



# Faithful Followers

- This was a total of 850 prophets and the detail that they “ate at Jezebel’s table” tells us they were financially supported by the royal household, under royal protection, and officially endorsed as the state religion.
- It’s also noteworthy that the king/queen still had enough food to feed their whole royal household and 850 prophets, even during a famine.

# Faithful Followers

- This would have meant they were hoarding food and the regular people were even more destitute than they would have been. Jezebel had killed all the prophets of Yahweh, except Elijah and the 100 who were in hiding.
- So Baal and Asherah worship was the state religion at this point. It wasn't even syncretism (blending Yahweh worship with other religions) anymore.

# Faithful Followers

- Elijah came out of hiding and confronted Ahab directly, issuing a challenge: Yahweh against Baal/Asherah. One prophet who had been living in the wilderness with a poor widow, sustained only by the supernatural power of God, versus 850 prophets who had been living large at the table of the queen.
- This was a stark contrast, intentionally so. God was about to show that He alone is the Lord of all.

# Yahweh is the Only God

- Yahweh is the only God.
- 1 Kings 18:20-29
- Ahab had become king and married Jezebel.
- They had kicked out the prophets of Yahweh and established Baal worship as the national religion.

# Yahweh is the Only God

- Elijah declared that Yahweh was giving them a drought and then disappeared for more than three years.
- Baal was the storm god, the god of rain and therefore fertility for the crops.
- But they had been worshipping Baal this whole time and there was still a terrible drought.

# Yahweh is the Only God

- Then Elijah suddenly reappeared, gathered the people together, and told them to stop going back and forth between Yahweh and Baal.
- He didn't just say, "Choose one." He said, "If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him."
- He was challenging them to follow whichever one is real.

# Yahweh is the Only God

- At this point, you might think people would say, “Hey, maybe Baal isn’t real, considering he hasn’t given us rain in three years. Maybe Elijah’s God is real, because he prophesied the drought and it actually happened.”
- But they didn’t. The people did not answer him.
- Was it fear of going against Ahab and Jezebel? Doubt? Elijah offered to prove to them which God was real.

# Yahweh is the Only God

- The prophets of Baal prepared their altar and called on Baal, but nothing happened.
- Elijah began to mock the prophets of Baal: Maybe he is asleep, or on a journey, deep in thought, or even relieving himself.
- These are human limitations, not divine. Elijah was minimizing Baal's deity.

# Yahweh is the Only God

- They leaped on the altar and cut themselves in an ancient ritual; they believed the blood would awaken the gods or coerce them to do what humans wanted.
- This practice of self-laceration was forbidden in Israel because of its association with magic and pagan gods (Deuteronomy 14:1).

# Yahweh is the Only God

- Deuteronomy 32 is a song.
- God had just renewed His covenant with the second generation to come out of Egypt, after their parents' generation had failed to trust in Him.
- God told them that when they entered the land they would worship other gods, so He would turn His face away from them and they would have many troubles.

# Yahweh is the Only God

- God gave Moses this song and told him to teach it to the people so when those troubles came upon them, the song would convict them.
- The song says these other “gods” are not gods, but demons. Yahweh is the one who cared for them, guided them, and provided for them.
- Demons do have supernatural power, but less than God.

# God is the Source of Life

- Only God is the source of life, provision, and flourishing.
- 1 Kings 18:30-46
- When Baal didn't respond, Elijah gathered the people to him.
- He rebuilt the altar to Yahweh that had been torn down, using 12 stones for the 12 tribes of Israel.

# God is the Source of Life

- He used 12 stones even though the kingdom was divided.
- This northern nation (10 tribes) was the rebellious group that had split off, but Elijah was calling them to repent and return to the Lord, to restore the kingdom of God.
- This wasn't a political statement about the physical kingdom of Israel; it was a covenant statement.

# God is the Source of Life

- By using 12 stones, Elijah was saying God had not abandoned His promises to all Israel even though the kingdom was divided.
- He was calling the rebellious northern tribes back to their true identity.
- Reminding them they were the same people God had redeemed from Egypt.

# God is the Source of Life

- Jesus also chose 12 disciples, even though at His time in history, the Jewish people were the remnant of Judah.
- Jesus was rebuilding the people of God, completing the work of the covenant.
- The disciples were the living stones that became the new covenant community.

# God is the Source of Life

- Elijah poured 12 jars of water over the wood of the altar – it would never have caught fire through natural means.
- They would know this was THE God, so they would know he was God's prophet, doing what God commanded.
- Fire immediately came down. He didn't have to wait all day. He didn't have to cut himself, do any magic tricks, or recite incantations. He simply called on the Lord.



# God is the Source of Life

- The fire was so great it not only consumed the wet wood and the bull but even the stones and all the water.
- The people responded in worship and declared, “Yahweh, He is God!” Not Baal, only Yahweh.
- Elijah slaughtered all the prophets of Baal. Then the rain came. The drought had begun with Elijah announcing it as a punishment for their idolatry.

# God is the Source of Life

- Now that the people had repented and turned their hearts back to God, the rain came. They had to see clearly and explicitly that Baal could not answer. Baal could not control the rain. Baal was not real.
- Yahweh alone is God. The rain came only after Yahweh was honored, when His prophet said so. As rain brings life, food and flourishing, Yahweh is the only One who can bring life, provision and flourishing.

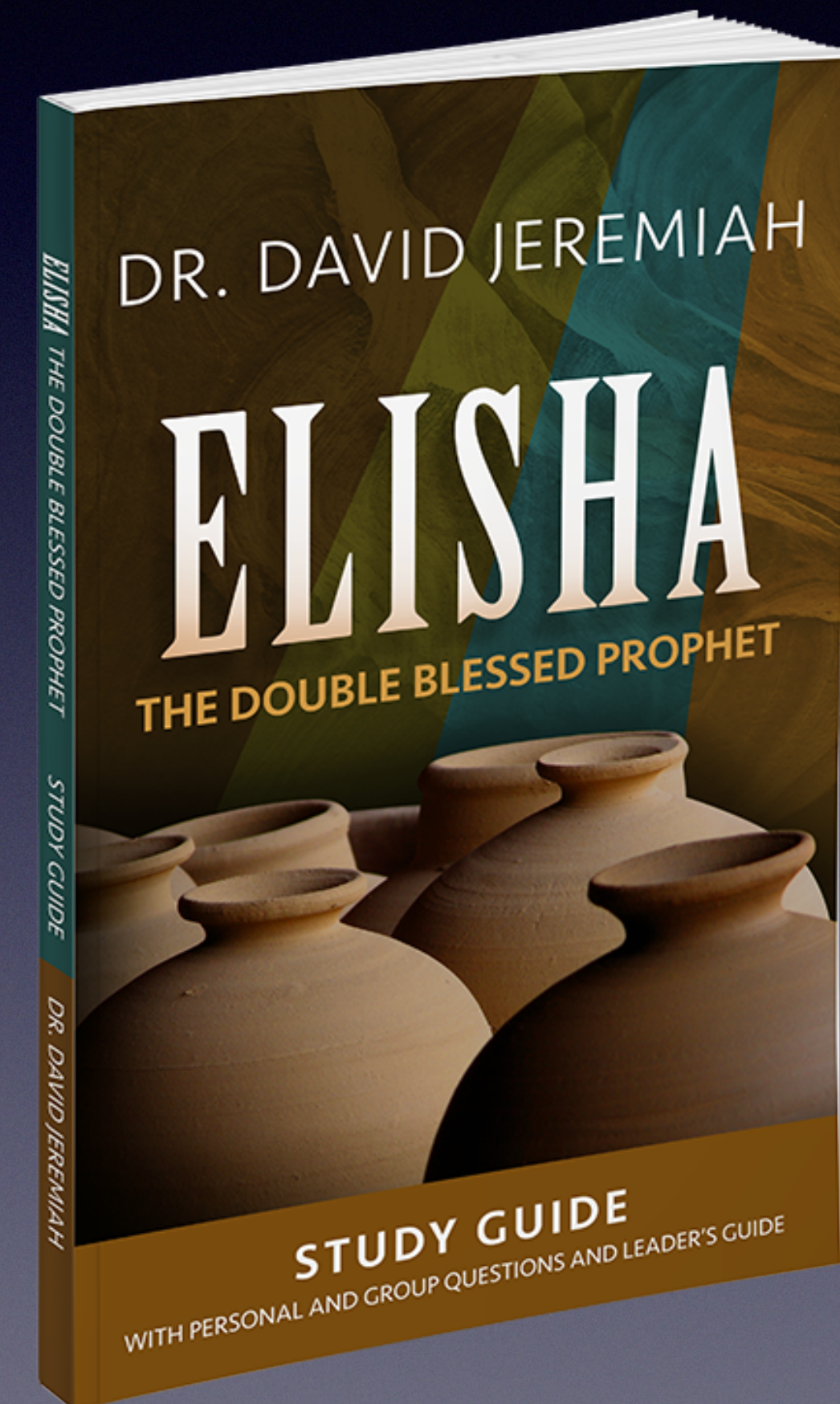
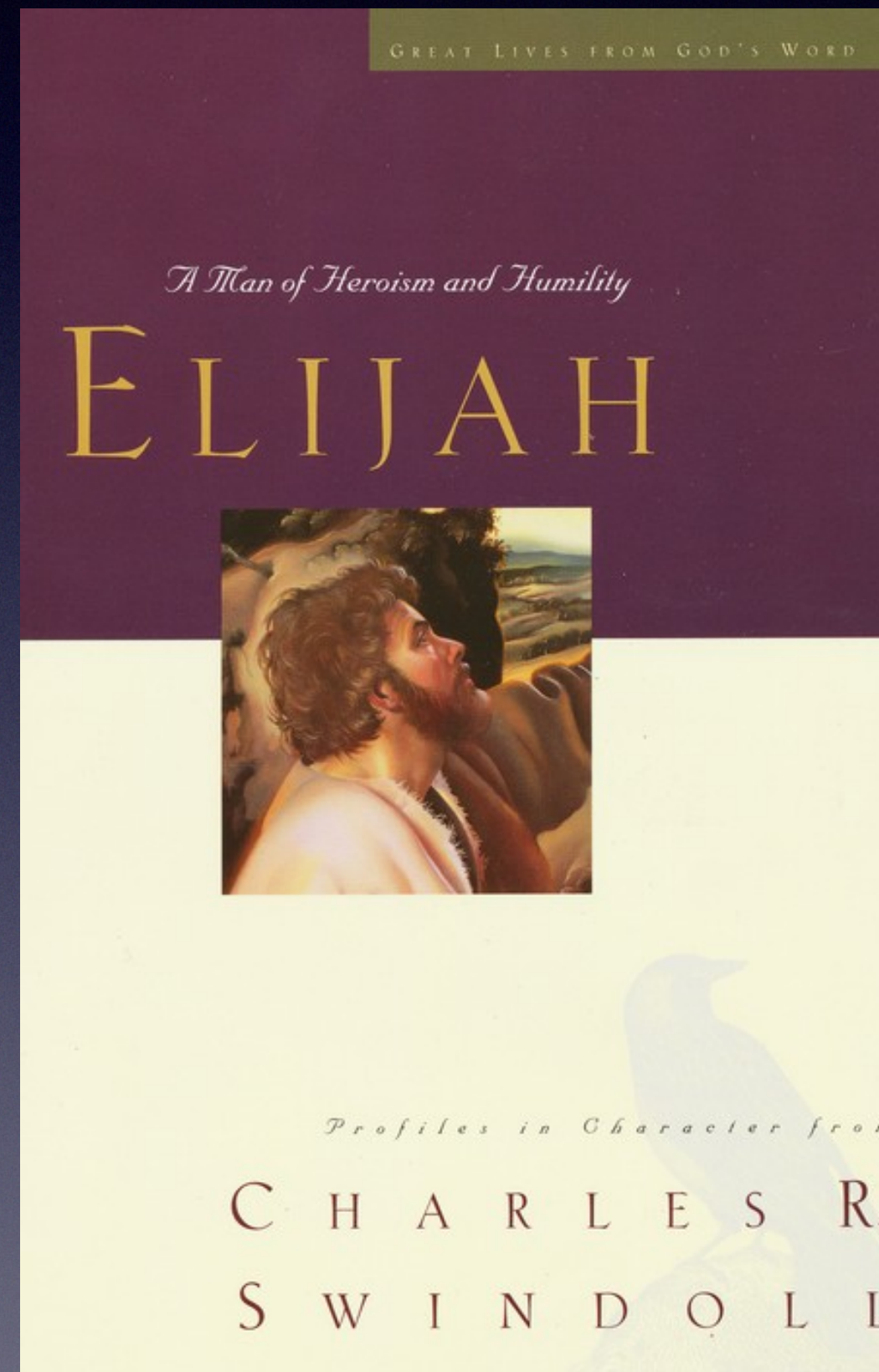
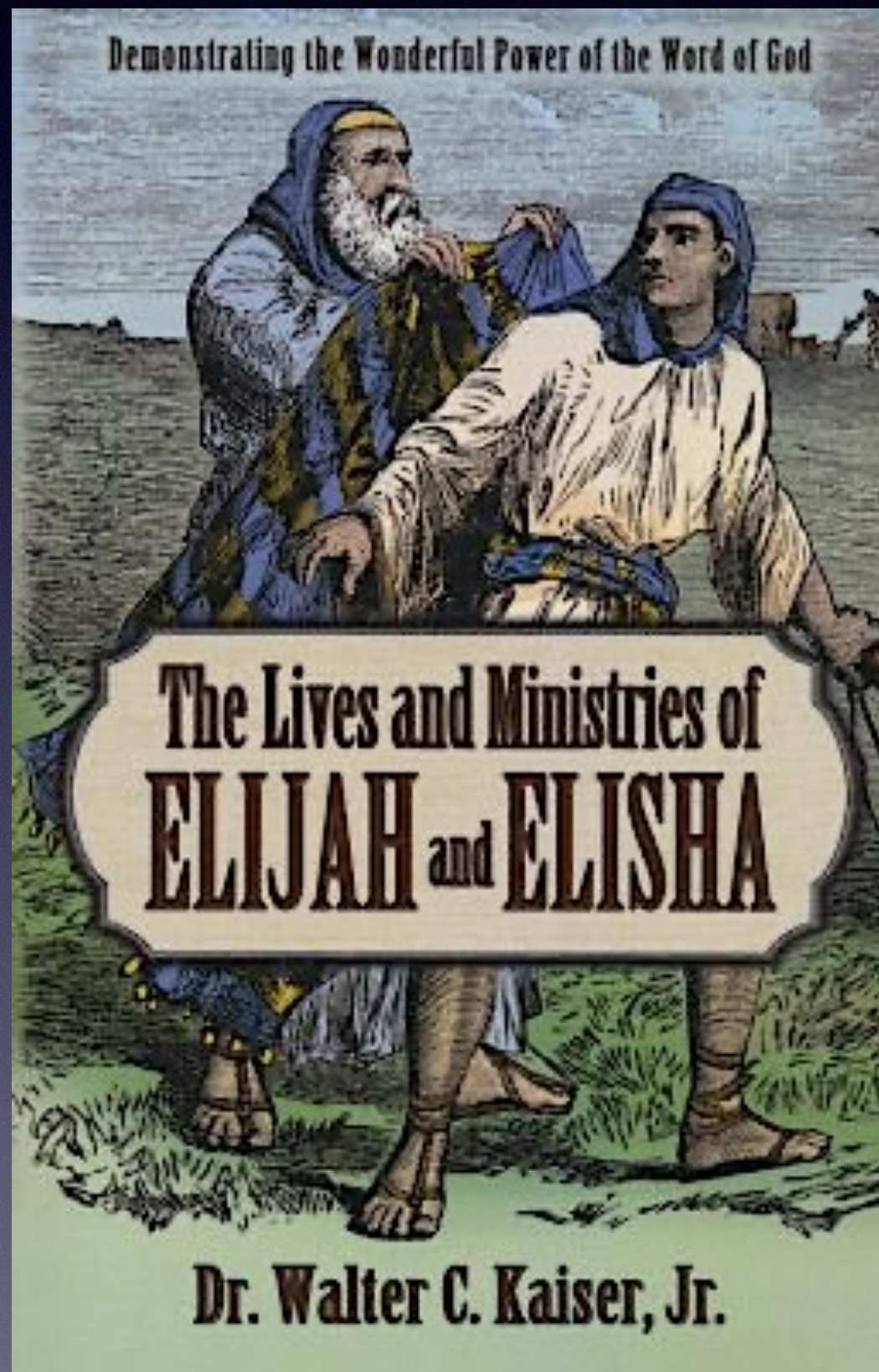
# God is the Source of Life

- In the Gospels, Jesus called Himself the Living Water. He doesn't just bring life; He is life.
- Elijah brought rain, but Jesus is the constant source of water that will never run dry. Whoever trusts in Him will never thirst.
- Baal promised rain but could not give it. The world promises happiness but cannot give it.

# God is the Source of Life

- Only Jesus can truly satisfy. When we repent and turn to Jesus, we will find true life, not only eternal life in heaven but the abundant life of true flourishing here on earth.
- We don't depend on rain that comes and goes, we have a constant source of joy in Jesus by His Spirit.
- Through droughts and storms, we have a spring that does not fail.

# Resources



# Booklets

