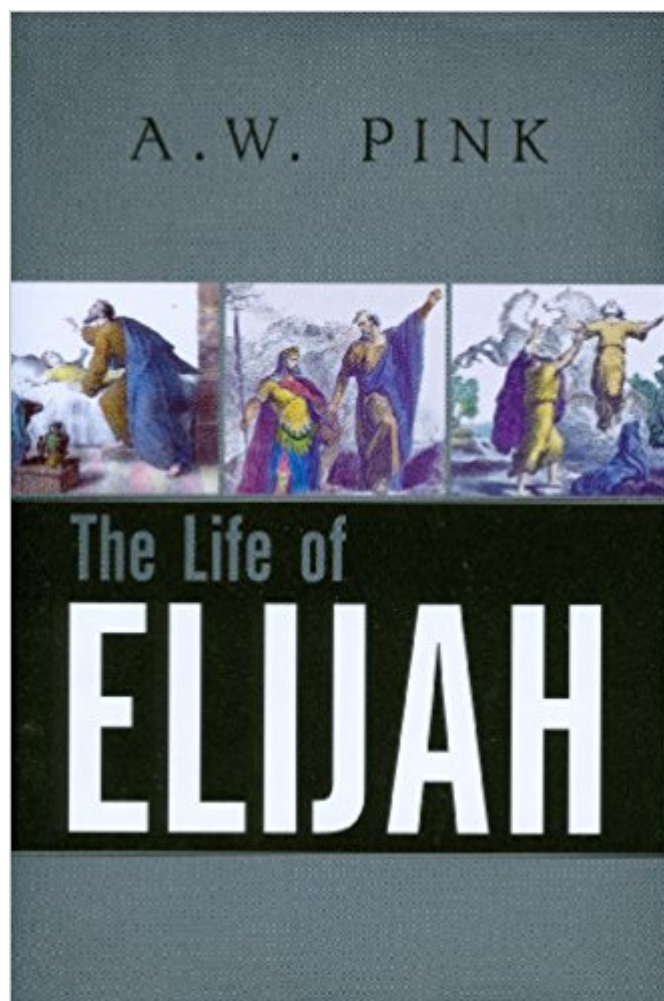


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The Life Of Elijah



Synopsis

The life of Elijah has gripped the thought and imagination of preachers and writers in all ages. His sudden appearance out of complete obscurity, his dramatic interventions in the national history of Israel, his miracles, his departure from the earth in a chariot of fire all serve to that end. He comes in like a tempest, who went out like a whirlwind, says Bishop Hall; the first we hear from him is an oath and a threat. Judgement and mercy were mingled throughout Elijah's astonishing career. It is fitting that the lessons which may be drawn from Elijah's ministry should be presented afresh to our generation. History repeats itself. The wickedness and idolatry rampant in Ahab's reign live in our gross 21st century's profanities and corruptions. False prophets occupy large spheres of influence and truths dear to our evangelical forefathers have been downtrodden as the mire in the streets. A.W. Pink clearly felt called to the task of smiting the ungodliness of the age with the rod of God's anger while at the same time encouraging the faithful remnant. With these objects he undertakes the exposition of Elijah's ministry and applies it to the contemporary situation.

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Customer Reviews

Born in Nottingham, England in 1886, Arthur Walkington Pink was converted to Christ while a spiritualist medium. He briefly attended the Moody Bible Institute in Chicago, Illinois, in 1810, before taking up his first pastorate at Silverton, Colorado. Little-known to the outside world, he pastored other churches in the United States and Australia before finally returning to his homeland in 1934. Settling in Stornoway on the Isle of Lewis, Scotland, there he died almost unnoticed in 1952. By that

date, however, the magazine he had started in 1922 *Studies in the Scriptures* was feeding several of the men who were leading a return to doctrinal Christianity, including Martyn Lloyd-Jones and Douglas Johnson (founder of Inter-Varsity) and, in book form after his death, his writings became very widely read across the world. The Trust publishes his *The Sovereignty of God*, *Gleanings from Paul*, *Profiting from the Word*, *The Life of Elijah*, and a number of titles which have been translated into Spanish.[See also Iain H. Murray's biography of Pink *The Life of Arthur W. Pink*.]

Extremely well written book, pulling in from all parts of the Bible to explain the ways of God and their application in Elijah's (and every devout Christian's) walk with God. Most chapters are only 7-8 pages, but it would take several hours to study what Pink has written in each chapter if one proposes to allow Pink's writings to sink in and have future application in one's own life. Pink shows how Elijah had to move from faith to faith and God proved his provisions and protections for Elijah. If one wonders why God chose ravens to feed Elijah, Pink explains. If one wonders why God doesn't just deliver one from trouble, one can see God's reasons why herein. I have only read the first half so far and look forward each day to the change to find what of God's ways Pink will unfold in the next chapter. I choose carefully which Christian books I read, for there are many. I have always loved the prophet Elijah, but I don't really know why. I still don't have a particular reason, but I do know why I love this book. Pink brings so many things I have learned regarding the ways of God into memorable form through the life of Elijah. If you want a life-changing book to be remembered for its impact, this is it if you study it. It has my highest endorsement.

Rarely do I go deep into the Old Testament accounts or learn significant insightful lessons there due to my limited knowledge of their cultural and historical background. Arthur Pink's study on Elijah, therefore, is a great blessing as he combines sound exegesis with hermeneutics that has to do not only with Elijah, but also most importantly God's dealing with His people, His servants, the wicked, and the world in general. In some cases, however, Pink goes too far into some quaint interpretations when he states that Jezebel is a type or prophetic symbol of Rome's Papacy, and Naboth of Christ (p.259). And of course, Pink also carries his cessationist presupposition into the study where after applauding the faith, fervency, definiteness, earnestness and persistence of Elijah's prayer to raise the widow's son from the dead and commending the readers to follow his example, he writes what seems to me sounds like a Warfieldian cessationism that "the age of miracles has ceased" (p.91) which I disagree. So yes, there are some weaknesses, but I agree more than disagree with Pink in this excellent study. He has three groups of audience in mind; Christians, ministers of the gospel and

non-Christians. Pink not only has the gift of teaching, but also hitting his audience's conscience with clear piercing, though sometimes strong words (e.g., "conscienceless rascal," p.260). There are plenty of lessons of practical theology such as the discipline in the exercises of godliness, faith, humility, humiliation, suffering, grace, submission, courage, the dreadful end of the unrepentant wicked, in addition to the sovereignty of God; the unsearchableness of his judgment and the incomprehensibility of his ways as Rom 11:33 says; something I have come to love so dearly. Drawing from Elijah's sermon on Mount Carmel during the showdown with Ahab and a host of Baal's priests, Pink offers among other things such as prayer in private being the source of power in public (p. 24), a helpful concise counsel of right preaching, that "ministers of Christ should address themselves unto the consciences, the understanding and the affections of their hearers, for only thus can the truth be adequately presented, the principal faculties of man's souls be reached, and a definite decision for the Lord be expected from them. A balance must be preserved between the Law and the Gospel. Conscience must be searched, the mind convinced, the affections warmed, if the will is to be moved unto action. Thus it was with Elijah on Carmel" (p. 142-143). Aware that some of his readers might be unbelievers, Pink also sprinkles the study with the gospel implicitly and explicitly in many places (e.g., p.131, "The fire of God's wrath must fall either on the guilty people or on a sacrificial substitute," p. 84, 136, 242, 269). I am more than willing to overlook my disagreement with Pink since I was so encouraged, stung, humbled and happy coming out of this blessed study. If there were only one pattern of godliness to follow in the life of Elijah (there are certainly more as Pink summarizes them in ch.34), to me personally it is this, that Elijah was a man of marked elevation of spirit; a man of heavenly-mindedness, where "the affections being set upon the things above." Faith has God for its object. "The more our hearts are occupied with Him whose throne is in heaven, the more our spirits elevated above the earth. The more our minds are engaged with the perfection of Him who is altogether lovely, the less will the things of time and sense have power to attract us. The more we dwell in the secret place of the Most High, the less will the baubles of men charm us" (p.299).

A very interesting read about a man of God! It can be a "hard read" as Mr. Pink has always been inclined to repeat the same statement many times over in each chapter. His purpose is, I guess, for emphasis. For the Christian reader this is a worthwhile read. But then, only people who are seeking understanding of Holy Writ or are involved in a Bible Study, as I am, would buy this book and spend the time to read it. All of Mr. Pink's books are lessons of the difficult and life-long commitment and understanding of the truth about Faith, which is a Gift offered to all who seek it!

AW Pink died in 1952 but he wrote a lot... He goes through the story of Elijah line by line from the bible and offers amazing insight. I have learned and grown from all his books. He is a true Calvinist - and follows the acronym of TULIP - Total depravity of man... Unconditional election... Limited atonement... Irresistible grace... Perseverance of the saints..so if you don't agree with that orthodoxy, you won't like any of his books. The company selling the book is called "Bottom of the Hill Publishing" and I have found several typos, but it is easy to figure out the correct word or spelling...

Great! Excellent--I love it!

I was delighted to find this book. The life of Elijah offers many lessons for leadership character building. Pink provides insightful study of this ancient prophet who suddenly appears in the narrative of Scripture and leaves the stage just as quickly in a dramatic whirlwind. Pink includes demographic information about Elijah's home region to shed more light onto who this fascinating character was. This book was a key resource in my dissertation research and I was fortunate to find it through such a responsive vendor who provided everything as promised. Thanks.

love it

AW Pink again does not disappoint in his exegesis of the Life of Elijah. True believers would do well to examine the lives of the godly people in the bible and learn by their triumphs and defeats on how to navigate their way through this fallen world. According James 5:16, the effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much. Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and yet his faith in God's word worked many miracles because his prayers were informed by the LORD's very words.

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