

1 Kings 17:1-16 **Elijah – The Prophet during reign of Ahab king of Israel**

Elijah Proclaims a Drought

1 And Elijah the Tishbite, of the inhabitants of Gilead, said to Ahab, "As the Lord God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, except at my word."

2 Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, 3 "Get away from here and turn eastward, and hide by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan. 4 And it will be that you shall drink from the brook, and I have commanded the ravens to feed you there."

5 So he went and did according to the word of the Lord, for he went and stayed by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan. 6 The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning, and bread and meat in the evening; and he drank from the brook. 7 And it happened after a while that the brook dried up, because there had been no rain in the land.

Elijah and the Widow

8 Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, 9 "Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. See, I have commanded a widow there to provide for you."

10 So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, indeed a widow was there gathering sticks. And he called to her and said, "Please bring me a little water in a cup, that I may drink." 11 And as she was going to get it, he called to her and said, "Please bring me a morsel of bread in your hand."

12 So she said, "As the Lord your God lives, I do not have bread, only a handful of flour in a bin, and a little oil in a jar; and see, I am gathering a couple of sticks that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die."

13 And Elijah said to her, "Do not fear; go and do as you have said, but make me a small cake from it first, and bring it to me; and afterward make some for yourself and your son. 14 For thus says the Lord God of Israel: 'The bin of flour shall not be used up, nor shall the jar of oil run dry, until the day the Lord sends rain on the earth.'"

15 So she went away and did according to the word of Elijah; and she and he and her household ate for many days. 16 The bin of flour was not used up, nor did the jar of oil run dry, according to the word of the Lord which He spoke by Elijah.

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Facts Revealed:

Elijah Proclaims a Drought

✧ 1 And Elijah the Tishbite, of the inhabitants of Gilead, said to Ahab, "As the Lord God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, except at my word." [1 Kings 17:1]

✧ Elijah was of the inhabitants of Gilead which is the land east of the Jordan River given to the tribes of Reuben Gad and half tribe of Manasseh, that was taken from Sihon king of the Amorites under the command of Moses. [Numbers 32:28-40]

✧ The Promised Land is not a land watered by rivers, but a land entirely dependent upon rain sent by God Whose eyes are always on the land. [Deuteronomy 11:8-12]

- ✧ Flowing from the Sea of Galilee, 686 feet below sea level to the Dead Sea 1,385 feet below sea level, the Jordan River is too low to be used for irrigation of the Promised Land.
- ✧ Receiving rain, was dependent on the occupants of the land keeping the commandments of God faithfully. [Deuteronomy 11:13-17]
- ✧ Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the Lord, more than all who were before him. [1 Kings 16:30]
- ✧ God gave Elijah authority to turn the rain off and on by his spoken word. [1 Kings 17:1]
- ✧ Elijah told Ahab that he was turning off both rain and dew for years at his word.
- ✧ Ahab was reigning in Samaria.
- ✧ 2 Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, 3 "Get away from here and turn eastward, and hide by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan. 4 And it will be that you shall drink from the brook, and I have commanded the ravens to feed you there." [1 Kings 17:2-4]
- ✧ Knowing human nature to blame the messenger of God for judgments he proclaims against the sinner, Yahweh commanded Elijah to return from Samaria, where he informed Ahab of the coming drought, to Gilead his home country east of the Jordan River and a hide-out God had prepared by the Brook Cherith in the hill country to the East.
- ✧ The brook would provide water, and ravens would bring him food at the command of God.
- ✧ 5 So he went and did according to the word of the Lord, for he went and stayed by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan. 6 The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning, and bread and meat in the evening; and he drank from the brook. 7 And it happened after a while that the brook dried up, because there had been no rain in the land. [1 Kings 17:5-7]
- ✧ God provided for His prophet just as He had said until the brook ran dry.

Elijah and the Widow

- ✧ 8 Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, 9 "Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. See, I have commanded a widow there to provide for you." [1 Kings 17:8-9]
- ✧ God watches over His own and provides in ways that benefit those who are His.
- ✧ Zarephath is in the territory between Sidon and Tyre on the Mediterranean coast of Lebanon, so Elijah is moved out of the country of Israel and safe from Ahab.
- ✧ 10 So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, indeed a widow was there gathering sticks. And he called to her and said, "Please bring me a little water in a cup, that I may drink." 11 And as she was going to get it, he called to her and said, "Please bring me a morsel of bread in your hand." 12 So she said, "As the Lord your God lives, I do not have bread, only a handful of flour in a bin, and a little oil in a jar; and see, I am gathering a couple of sticks that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die." [1 Kings 17:10-12]
- ✧ Elijah traveled from the brook Cherith in Gilead, east of the Jordan River, to Lebanon and to the town of Zarephath on the Mediterranean coast.
- ✧ God knows the timing and arranged for the widow woman to be outside the gates of the city gathering sticks for her final meal at the time Elijah arrived so they would meet.
- ✧ The woman was not standing on the road looking for Elijah, nor did she have on a sign to identify herself, she was going about the necessity of life.
- ✧ God's command to her was in the form of a willing and receptive heart at the request of the prophet of Yahweh.
- ✧ When Elijah spoke to her, she expressed her dire situation.
- ✧ 13 And Elijah said to her, "Do not fear; go and do as you have said, but make me a small cake from it first, and bring it to me; and afterward make some for yourself and your son. 14 For

thus says the Lord God of Israel: "The bin of flour shall not be used up, nor shall the jar of oil run dry, until the day the Lord sends rain on the earth." [1 Kings 17:13-14]

✧ Elijah spoke in the name of Yahweh Elohey Yisrael, and assured her that God would take care of them all by a miracle, and the oil and flour would not be used up or fail.

✧ 15 So she went away and did according to the word of Elijah; and she and he and her household ate for many days. 16 The bin of flour was not used up, nor did the jar of oil run dry, according to the word of the Lord which He spoke by Elijah. [1 Kings 17:15-16]

✧ The woman believed the word of Elijah and did as he asked.

✧ God kept His Word, and the flour and oil did not fail throughout the remaining famine.

✧ Jesus referred to this occasion in the New Testament when He said:

25 But I tell you truly, many widows were in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a great famine throughout all the land; 26 but to none of them was Elijah sent except to Zarephath, in the region of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow. [Luke 4:25-26 NKJV]