

1 Kings 17

Verses 1 - 7

Now Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the settlers of Gilead, said to Ahab, “As the Lord, the God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall certainly be neither dew nor rain *during* these years, except by my word.”² Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying,³ “Go *away* from here and turn eastward, and hide yourself by the brook Cherith, which is east of the Jordan.”⁴ And it shall be that you will drink from the brook, and I have commanded the ravens to provide food for you there.”⁵ So he went and did *everything* according to the word of the Lord, for he went and lived by the brook Cherith, which is east of the Jordan.⁶ And the ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning and bread and meat in the evening, and he would drink from the brook.⁷ But it happened after a while that the brook dried up, because there was no rain in the land.

Now Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the settlers of Gilead, said to Ahab, “As the Lord, the God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall certainly be neither dew nor rain *during* these years, except by my word.”

See Maps 705 and 710





Ahab had an evil wife that promoted Baal so God sent Israel a prophet that He endowed with great power to fight against this evil.

God used a drought to punish Israel because Israel had been warned that this would be the punishment for national idolatry

See Deuteronomy 11:16-17

¹⁶ Beware that your hearts are not easily deceived, and that you do not turn away and serve other gods, and worship them. ¹⁷ Otherwise, the anger of the Lord will be kindled against you, and He will shut up the sky so that there will be no rain, and the ground will not yield its produce; then you will quickly perish from the good land which the Lord is giving you.

² Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, ³ “Go away from here and turn eastward, and hide yourself by the brook Cherith, which is east of the Jordan.

See map 1705 above

4 And it shall be that you will drink from the brook, and I have commanded the ravens to provide food for you there.”

6 And the ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning and bread and meat in the evening, and he would drink from the brook.

Not only did Elijah get fed by the ravens but they also provided witty conversation and entertainment.

See video 1715

<https://www.levickfamily.com/9.16.html>

Someone snapped a pic of Elijah with their phone during his stay there. 😊

See pics 1720



⁷ But it happened after a while that the brook dried up, because there was no rain in the land.

Elijah was not exempt from the effects of the drought and those who serve God should not expect to have a life of ease while the nation suffers.

The U.S. had a three-year drought from 1927 to 1929 which was a major factor in the stock market crash of 1929. The economic depression that followed lasted for six years.

Verses 8 - 16

Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, ⁹ “Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and stay there; behold, I have commanded a widow there to provide food for you.” ¹⁰ So he arose and went to Zarephath, and when he came to the entrance of the city, behold, a widow was there gathering sticks; and he called to her and said, “Please get me a little water in a cup, so that I may drink.” ¹¹ As she was going to get *it*, he called to her and said, “Please bring me a piece of bread in your hand.” ¹² But she said, “As the Lord your God lives, I have no food, only a handful of flour in the bowl and a little oil in the jar; and behold, I am gathering a few sticks so that I may go in and prepare it for me and my son, so that we may eat it and die.” ¹³ However, Elijah said to her, “Do not fear; go, do as you have said. Just make me a little bread loaf from it first and bring *it* out to me, and afterward you may make *one* for yourself and for your son. ¹⁴ For this is what the Lord, the God of Israel says: ‘The bowl of flour shall not be used up, nor shall the jar of oil become empty, until the day that the Lord provides rain on the face of the earth.’” ¹⁵ So she went and did *everything* in accordance with the word of Elijah, and she and he and her household ate for *many* days. ¹⁶ The bowl of flour was not used up, nor did the jar of oil become empty, in accordance with the word of the Lord which He spoke through Elijah.

Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, ⁹ “Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and stay there; behold, I have commanded a widow there to provide food for you.”

It was a long journey from Gilead to Sidon, about 120 miles, but it was another area beyond the jurisdiction of Ahab.

See map 1725 below



First God commanded some ravens to feed Elijah and then He commanded an extremely poor widow to feed him. Elijah was a humble man so he did not require extravagant accommodations.

¹⁰ So he arose and went to Zarephath, and when he came to the entrance of the city, behold, a widow was there gathering sticks; and he called to her and said, “Please get me a little water in a cup, so that I may drink.” ¹¹ As she was going to get *it*, he called to her and said, “Please bring me a piece of bread in your hand.”

All he requested was a drink of water and some bread.

¹² But she said, “As the Lord your God lives, I have no food, only a handful of flour in the bowl and a little oil in the jar; and behold, I am gathering a few sticks so that I may go in and prepare it for me and my son, so that we may eat it and die.”

In an ungodly country, like Israel was at that time, the poor have no safety net. There were people who had the ability to help but they did not have the desire to do so.

¹³ However, Elijah said to her, “Do not fear; go, do as you have said. Just make me a little bread loaf from it first and bring *it* out to me, and afterward you may make *one* for yourself and for your son. ¹⁴ For this is what the Lord, the God of Israel says: ‘The bowl of flour shall not be used up, nor shall the jar of oil become empty, until the day that the Lord provides rain on the face of the earth.’”

It took a person of faith to use the small amount of flour and oil that she possessed to feed Elijah before she feed herself and her son.

See Pic 1730



Because of her faith she received a miracle that many widows in Israel did not experience.

See Luke 4:24-26

²⁴ But He said, “Truly I say to you, no prophet is welcome in his hometown. ²⁵ But I say to you in truth, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the sky was shut up for three years and six months, when a severe famine came over all the land; ²⁶ and yet Elijah was sent to none of them, but only to Zarephath, in the land of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow.

¹⁵ So she went and did everything in accordance with the word of Elijah, and she and he and her household ate for many days. ¹⁶ The bowl of flour was not used up, nor did the jar of oil become empty, in accordance with the word of the Lord which He spoke through Elijah.

The widow followed Elijah’s instructions and she was saved by her faith. We don’t know for sure how many people were blessed by this but we know it was the widow, Elijah and her household (this may have been more than just her son). This miracle took place over a period of about 3½ years; 3800 times if they ate 3 times per day.

Verses 17 - 24

¹⁷ Now it happened after these things that the son of the woman, the mistress of the house, became sick; and his condition became very grave, until *at the end* he was no longer breathing. ¹⁸ So she said to Elijah, “Why is my *business any of yours*, you man of God? Yet you have come to me to bring my wrongdoing to remembrance, and to put my son to death!” ¹⁹ But he said to her, “Give me your son.” Then he took him from her arms and carried him up to the upstairs room where he was living, and laid him on his own bed. ²⁰ And he called to the Lord and said, “Lord, my God, have You also brought catastrophe upon the widow with whom I am staying, by causing her son to die?” ²¹ Then he stretched himself out over the boy three times, and called to the Lord and said, “Lord, my God, please, let this boy’s life return to him.” ²² And the Lord listened to the voice of Elijah, and the life of the boy returned to him and he revived. ²³ Elijah then took the boy and brought him down from the upstairs room into the house and gave him to his mother; and Elijah said, “See, your son is alive.” ²⁴ Then the woman said to Elijah, “Now I know that you are a man of God, and that the word of the Lord in your mouth is truth.”

¹⁷ Now it happened after these things that the son of the woman, the mistress of the house, became sick; and his condition became very grave, until *at the end* he was no longer breathing.

The death of a child is the worst disaster that can happen to a parent and in this case it would have an even greater effect because a widow without a son would have no hope of being taken care of financially.

¹⁸ So she said to Elijah, “Why is my *business any of yours*, you man of God? Yet you have come to me to bring my wrongdoing to remembrance, and to put my son to death!”

This thought that any kind of hardship or disaster was due to some sin committed by the person afflicted has persisted throughout the history of mankind despite the fact that God declared this idea to be false in the book of Job which was written about 4,500 years ago.

Jesus also declared it to be false in the Gospel of John

See John 9:1- 3

As Jesus passed by, He saw a man *who had been blind from birth*. ² And His disciples asked Him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he would be born blind?” ³ Jesus answered, “*It was neither that this man sinned, nor his parents; but it was so that the works of God might be displayed in him.*

²⁰ And he called to the Lord and said, “Lord, my God, have You also brought catastrophe upon the widow with whom I am staying, by causing her son to die?”

For those who might try to deny this miracle by saying the boy had just fainted it should be noted that the prophet specifically says the boy died.

²² And the Lord listened to the voice of Elijah, and the life of the boy returned to him and he revived.

Only 5 prophets raised someone from the Dead. These five include Elijah, Elisha, Jesus, Peter and Paul.

See Sheet 1735

Prophets who raised people from the dead

1. Elijah raised the son of the Zarephath widow from the dead

1 Kings 17:17-22

2. Elisha raised the son of the Shunammite woman from the dead.

2 Kings 4:32-35

A man was raised from the dead when his body touched Elisha's bones.

2 Kings 13:20, 21

3. Jesus raised the son of the widow of Nain from the dead.

Luke 7:11-15

He raised the daughter of Jairus from the dead.

Luke 8:41-55

He also raised Lazarus from the dead

John 11:1-44

4. Peter raised Dorcas from the dead.

Acts 9:36-41

5. Paul raised Eutychus from the dead

Acts 20:9, 10

²⁴ Then the woman said to Elijah, “Now I know that you are a man of God, and that the word of the Lord in your mouth is truth.”

You would think that the 1st miracle would have been sufficient but it is not uncommon for God's people to be blind or numb to the miracles that He has done for us.