

Week 2 Elijah the Prophet

Wednesday Bible Study

Elijah and the Widow 1 Kings 17:1-24

1. A Bold Prophecy 1 Kings 17:1

Elijah makes it clear that the Lord, the God of Israel whom He serves is in charge of rain and fertility— not Baal or Asherah. God controls all things, including the weather! The withholding of rain was to validate that the God of Elijah, was the true God.

What are your thoughts concerning the situations our nation finds itself in today in regard to the weather even the fires out west? God's Judgement? Warnings?

2. God Provides. Vs. 3-24

A. **Ravens and a Brook. Vs 2-6** Though God is disciplining the nation, he shields Elijah from the full brunt of the drought and the wrath of Ahab and Jezebel (1 Kings

18:10) The Lord always provides for his people! . The Lord is Sovereign over the weather and creatures! God uses a bird that is unclean to bring food to the prophet— and it is received by the prophet. (Lev. 11:15; Deut. 14:14) God has at his disposal all of creation to achieve his purposes. The nation itself because of leadership had become unclean— yet many within its boundaries faithful to God. God provided for them. (Ps.37:23-28)

Why and in what ways can it be difficult to trust God to provide for us?

B. **A Widow, a Jar and a Jug. Vs 7–16** Seasons change. Circumstances change. Elijah must adjust with the changes and put effort into that adjustment. The Lord sends Him to another place— 75 miles northwest to Phoenicia (Jezebel's homeland). This story isn't just about him and Ahab. God is watching over all of his people. And there is a woman in Zerephath that God wants to bless. Elijah, though he is confronting a King, he is to minister to a widow. God has prepared the way for Elijah, commanding the woman to provide for Elijah. (verse 9). Even though from a human standpoint she cannot even provide for herself and her son (verse 12) The widow is going to see God's miracle every day in her life as she will never run out of food as long as the famine lasts. (Vs 13-14). Here we see the very important principle of honoring God with all that we are— including our wealth. She gave first to the LORD and trusted God to provide for her and her son. (verse 15-16, Prov. 3:9-10; Luke 21:1-4). *Why do you think the LORD would choose this poor widow to be HIS instrument of provision for Elijah?*

C. A Resurrection. verse 17-24

1. **Reminded of sin?** Verse 17-18 We are not told what specific sin or sins she is thinking of, but this is a common thought among people who do not fully know God's ways. Those influenced by pagan worship lived their entire lives trying to "please the God's" those whose faith is in the God of the Bible are not in that kind of system — especially one that would kill a child to punish a parent or vice versa. (John 9:1-5; Ps. 103:11-12). We do not serve a God who is cruel or vengeful to HIS people. However, he does carry out his vengeance on those not in relationship with him.

2. **The boy is raised to life.** Vs 19-24 it is interesting that he stretched out over him 3 times. Jesus was raised from the dead on the 3rd day. Elijah prays to God for the life of the boy and God hears Elijah. (1 Peter 3:10-12). *For thought: Is there some point of obedience in your life that could be holding up an answer to your prayers? .*

3. **The Word of the LORD.** Vs 25. It is a phrase that has appeared a number of times in this passage and will continue to appear. (verse 2, 8, 16, 24) It is the Word of the LORD that is sustaining and guiding Elijah! It is obedience to Gods word that is protecting and providing for HIS needs. (Isaiah 46)

