



BREAD FROM HEAVEN

1 KINGS 17

1 Kings 17 Background

- Ahab is king of Israel - a very wicked king (**1 Kings 16:33**) - Baal worshipped, married Jezebel
- We are also introduced to Elijah (**1 Kings 17:1**) - one of God's more prominent prophets (recorded). He was rejected (**1 Kings 18:17**).
- Mentioned some 30 times in NT - did not see death and met with Jesus (**Matthew 17:3ff**)



Zarephath

Tishbe

Mount Carmel

Abel-meholah

Samaria

Cherith

Bethel

Beersheba



Elijah and the Ravens

1 Kings 17:2-7



1 Kings 17:2-7

Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah:
“Leave here, turn eastward and hide in
the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan.
You will drink from the brook, and I
have directed the ravens to supply you
with food there.” So he did what the
LORD had told him. He went to the
Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan, and
stayed there. The ravens brought him
bread and meat in the morning and
bread and meat in the evening, and he
drank from the brook.

Some time later the brook dried up
because there had been no rain in the
land.

All You Need To Know About Ravens

- Ravens are large black birds closely related to crows
- They can be found from the arctic to the deserts of North Africa to the islands of the Pacific
- Ravens are scavengers.
- Ravens in the Bible
 - **Genesis 8:6-7**
 - **Song of Solomon 5:11**
 - **Proverbs 30:17**
 - **Isaiah 34:11**
 - **Luke 12:24**
- When God gave the Law to Moses, He declared that ravens were unclean birds
 - **Leviticus 11:13-19**



What should we learn from the story of Elijah and the ravens?

- 1) God commanded and the ravens came.
 - ***“I have directed the ravens to supply you with food there.” – 1 Kings 17:4***
 - They did not come by chance nor did they fly from a nearby cave:
 - God sent them
 - God commanded them
 - God directed them
 - They came to the prophet’s aide.
 - For all of us:
 - He knows your name
 - He knows what you need today
 - He knows what you’ll need tomorrow
 - God knows what you need
 - He knows when you need it
 - He will make sure you have it in time

What should we learn from the story of Elijah and the ravens?

- 2) God did not allow Elijah to hoard up a surplus.
 - He sent the ravens to Elijah twice a day
 - Just enough and nothing more
 - This is Jesus meant when he taught us to pray, ***“Give us this day our daily bread” (Matthew 6:11).***
 - He is willing to supply our needs but only on a day to day to day basis.
 - We don’t want to live day to day.
 - Life is uncertain.
 - God wants us to learn to go from self-reliance to fully relying on Him.
 - Live out the words of the song “One Day At A Time”
 - *“God promises His people enough, but not more than enough, and even that enough may not come to us in the way we should choose.” – Charles Spurgeon*
 - Am I saying that we shouldn’t plan ahead? No, I’m not saying that. You should plan ahead. That’s biblical. You should plan ahead but you shouldn’t worry ahead.

What should we learn from the story of Elijah and the ravens?

- 3) God didn't ask Elijah's permission before he sent the ravens.
 - The same God who commanded the ravens made sure that the food they brought Elijah was good for him.
 - In this we see both the creativity and the sovereignty of God.
 - He can take an unclean bird and feed his prophet
 - James 5:17 says that because of Elijah's prayers, it did not rain in Israel for three and a half years.
 - If that's how long he was at Cherith, it means that the ravens served him over 2000 meals.
 - He routinely chooses the despised things of the world in order to confound the mighty, and he uses the foolish to bring the strong down to nothing.
 - Lord has plenty of ravens to supply the needs of His children.



Lessons from a Widow

1 Kings 17:8-24

Lessons From a Widow

- Elijah flees into the wilderness and is sustained by the LORD
Then he is sent to Zarephath (Sidon) where he is told a widow would provide for him (**17:8-9**)



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Lessons from a Widow

- **1 Kings 17:8-16**, we read of this widow woman and her encounter with Elijah. She has nothing but listens to Elijah's instructions to feed him - as a result her flour and oil never ran out until the drought ended.

Lessons From a Widow

- **1 Kings 17:17-24**, the account continues with her son becoming ill and dying. She blames Elijah and the LORD. But Elijah prays and the boy is revived (1st resurrection recorded)
- 1 Kings 17:24, *Now...I know you are a man of God, and His word is*

Lessons to consider

- Concerning God:
- **He is in control - 1 John 4:4, Romans 8:28, Matthew 19:26, Proverbs 19:21**
- **God can still work even in the ungodliest of times** - Sometimes His greatest work.
He can do whatever needs to be done! Consider God's plans

Lessons to consider

- Concerning God:
- **He can take care of you** – sometimes in unusual ways.
He sustained both Elijah and the widow woman
1 Peter 5:7, Philippians 4:19
cf. Matthew 6:25-34

Lessons to consider

- Concerning God:
- **God keeps His word** - again, He took care of Elijah and the widow woman as promised .
Throughout scripture we find this to be so

Numbers 23:19

1 Thessalonians 5:24

Hebrews 10:23

Lessons to consider

- Concerning God:
- He can use unlikely people to accomplish His will - Elijah is sent to the region where Baal worship was prevalent. He can and will use whoever He chooses.
We sometimes turn to Him for help
- How he answers we do not know, but at times it is not as we thought. But it happens!

Lessons to consider

- Concerning the widow:
- **A godly woman is useful** - God needs everyone.

That is why we must not show partiality (**James 2:1, Acts 10:34-35**)

We ALL have something we can (and cannot) do - God needs us -

Galatians 3:26-28

Lessons to consider

- Concerning the widow:
- **Our need for faith** - perhaps the most direct lesson of this account.
- What is faith? Trusting God and believing Him (**Hebrews 11:1**), not mere belief IN Him
This widow had extraordinary faith - why did she trust Elijah and the LORD? (In hostile territory)

Lessons to consider

- Concerning the widow:
- **Our need for faith** -
Hers was an active (obedient) faith -
the ONLY type that God will accept
(**James 2:17**)
- **We have a Gentile who trusted God** -
God cares about EVERYONE! So
should we. Consider **Luke 4:24-27**
where Jesus mentions this
event

Lessons to consider

- Concerning us:
- Sometimes your acts of kindness for another helps them -
Just a small piece of bread and water was enough.
God took note - **Matthew 10:42**
Hebrews 13:2
We are to be kind and loving to all -
even if we think no one else is watching. God is!
Philippians 2:15 - let it shine

Lessons to consider

- Concerning us:
- Don't assume a little help to someone or FROM someone is trivial -
Luke 21:2-4, Jesus knew what those two mites meant!
Be grateful when someone does something little for you - you never know what it will mean.
- Consider our times - are we kind to the clerk at grocery store, or at the takeout counter?

Do we say thank you?
Be different!

Lessons to consider

- Concerning us:
- Finally, our faith is one of our best evangelistic tools - we need to be people of faith and live it! People notice if you live with doubts or are inconsistent. If you show trust in God in words, attitudes and deed - it will be noticed. **1 Kings 17:24**

Do you turn to God and His word
for strength?