

The Providence of God

In This Series...

1. We are reminded that no matter how godly we may be, there are still times of growing and stretching in our faith. (Even Biblical giants have problems!)

"Elijah was a person just like us. . . ."

- James 5:17

2. We will learn that God has a plan, a response, and a lesson for every situation that we face, and that obedience is the key to our continued spiritual growth.



The Scriptures

"Now Elijah the Tishbite, from Tishbe in Gilead, said to Ahab, "As the LORD, the God of Israel, lives, whom I serve, there will be neither dew nor rain in the next few years except at my word." 2 Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah: 3 "Leave here, turn eastward, and hide in the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan. 4 You will drink from the brook, and I have ordered the ravens to feed you there." 5 So he did what the LORD had told him. He went to the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan, and stayed there. 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 Some time later the brook dried up because there had been no rain in the land. 8 Then the word of the LORD came to him: 9 "Go at once to Zarephath of Sidon and stay there. I have commanded a widow in that place to supply you

with food." 10 So he went to Zarephath. When he came to the town gate, a widow was there gathering sticks. He called to her and asked, "Would you bring me a little water in a jar so I may have a drink?" 11 As she was going to get it, he called, "And bring me, please, a piece of bread." 12 "As surely as the LORD your God lives," she replied, "I don't have any bread — only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. I am gathering a few sticks to take home and make a meal for myself and my son, that we may eat it — and die."

- 1 Kings 17:1-12

The Importance of Elijah the Prophet

He came out of nowhere to speak to a king. (eli-jah)

He was part of some of the great miracles of the Bible.

He is prophesied to "return" as the forerunner of the Christ.

"See, I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes."

- Malachi 4:5

He spoke with Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration.

"Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus." - Matthew 17:3

God's Providence

1. God sent Elijah to prophesy to a king!

"Now Elijah the Tishbite, from Tishbe in Gilead, said to Ahab, "As the LORD, the God of Israel, lives, whom I serve..."

- 1 Kings 17:1

King Ahab's Story —

Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal

"He not only considered it trivial to commit the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, but he also married Jezebel daughter of Ethbaal king of the Sidonians, and began to serve Baal and worship him."

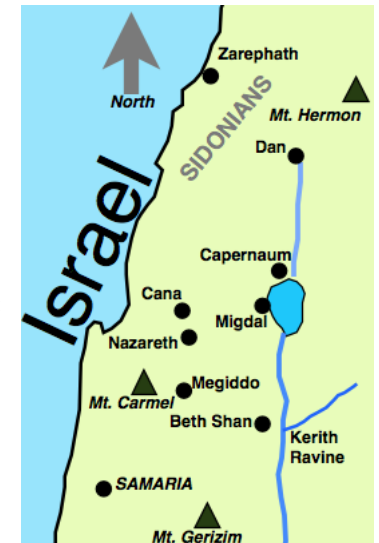
- 1 Kings 16:31

2. God sent Elijah to hide beside a brook.

"Leave here, turn eastward, and hide in the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan. You will drink from the brook, and I have ordered the ravens to feed you there." So he did what the LORD had told him."

- 1 Kings 17:3-5

- In a time of drought, the brook would provide water.
- In a time of famine, the ravens would feed Elijah.
- But the brook dried up!



3. God sent Elijah to Zarephath of Sidon.

"Go at once to Zarephath of Sidon and stay there. I have commanded a widow in that place to supply you with food." So he went to Zarephath..."

- 1 Kings 17:9,10

This place was the centre of Baal worship where Jezebel's father was king.

4. The woman to whom God sent Elijah was extremely poor and had no food for herself or for her own son.

"As surely as the LORD your God lives," she replied, "I don't have any bread — only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. I am gathering a few sticks to take home and make a meal for myself and my son, that we may eat it — and die."

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My Lessons

1. Just because I don't understand God's plan doesn't mean that there is no plan or that the plan is faulty.

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. 9 "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."

- Isaiah 55:8,9

2. God doesn't command me to understand, but to obey!

5 "So he did what the LORD had told him... 10 So he went to Zarephath..." - 1 Kings 17:5,10

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