

# **1 KINGS 17:1-7 – ELIJAH – The Lord God of Israel – Because of Wickedness, Drought and Famine are Coming to Israel!**

9/29/18 Sat Morn Prayer – P. Twente, 714 425-9221; ptwente@gmail.com

## **REVIVE US AGAIN** – William Mackay – Joslin Grove Choral

*We praise Thee, O God! For the Son of Thy love, For Jesus Who died, And is now gone above.*

*Refrain: Hallelujah! Thine the glory. Hallelujah! Amen. Hallelujah! Thine the glory. Revive us again.*

*We praise Thee, O God! For Thy Spirit of light, Who hath shown us our Savior, And scattered our night. (Refrain)*

*Revive us again; Fill each heart with Thy love; May each soul be rekindled With fire from above. (Refrain)*



## **1 Kings 17 – Elijah (The Lord God; my God is Jehovah) Because of Israel's Wickedness, Drought and Famine are coming!**

**1Ki 16:29-34** *In the thirty-eighth year of Asa king of Judah, Ahab the son of Omri became king over Israel; and Ahab the son of Omri reigned over Israel in Samaria twenty-two years. [30] Now Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the LORD, more than all who were before him. [31] And it came to pass, as though it had been a trivial thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he took as wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal, king of the Sidonians; and he went and served Baal and worshiped him. [32] Then he set up an altar for Baal in the temple of Baal, which he had built in Samaria. [33] And Ahab made a wooden image. Ahab did more to provoke the LORD God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel who were before him.*

All of the kings of the northern ten tribes, known at this time as “Israel” were bad. One of the worst was Ahab., who in the previous chapter, had become the king over the northern kingdom, the ten tribes of divided Israel. He did evil that, before the Lord, more than any of the other kings before him. He was the worst. He added to his evil by marrying Jezebel, “Who was the daughter of Ethbaal, the king of Sidon, and they began to serve Baal, and to worship him. He raised up an altar for Baal in the house of Baal, which he had built right there in Samaria”. He also instituted the worship of Ashtoreth, and he did more to provoke the Lord God of Israel to anger, then all of the kings of Israel before him.” He ranked worst. Suddenly in the midst of this spiritual decline when the kingdom has come to its lowest point, there appears this man, Elijah, the Tishbite. Elijah was a man of rugged countenance. **2Ki 1:8** *So they answered him, "A hairy man wearing a leather belt around his waist." And he said, "It is Elijah the Tishbite."* He was clothed with a girdle of leather about his loins. He was a hairy man. He looked like some kind of a thing out of the movies or something. Hairy guy, leather clothes, suddenly he appears on the scene!

## **Elijah Predicts a Drought**

**1Ki 17:1** *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."*

- Elijah lets Ahab know, “as the LORD God of Israel lives! Jehovah is the God of Israel, whom Ahab had forsaken.
- That He is a **living God**, and not like the gods he worshipped, which were dead dumb idols.
- That he himself was God's servant in office, and a messenger sent from Him: “It is He before whom I stand, in whose stead I stand, and in whose name I speak, in defiance of the prophets of Baal and the groves.”
- There was the present peace and prosperity of the kingdom of Israel, but God was displeased for their idolatry and would chastise them for it withholding rain, which was absolutely essential for crops and their water supply
- It was also a direct attack against their false god Baal, who was their god of weather that they worshipped and depended upon for rain!
- **Jer 14:22** *Are there any among the idols of the nations that can cause rain? Or can the heavens give showers? Are You not He, O LORD our God? Therefore we will wait for You, Since You have made all these,* which would effectually prove their impotency, and the folly of those who left the living God and this he confirms with a solemn oath - As the Lord God of Israel lives, that Ahab might stand the more in awe of the threatening, the divine life being engaged for the accomplishment of it.
- He lets Ahab know what interest he had in heaven: There shall not be dew or rain except at my word.
- See the power of prayer and the truth of God's word; for He performs the counsel of His messengers.
- **Jas 5:17-18** *Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. [18] And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.*
- **Deu 11:16-17** *Take heed to yourselves, lest your heart be deceived, and you turn aside and serve other gods and*

*worship them, [17] lest the LORD's anger be aroused against you, and He shut up the heavens so that there be no rain, and the land yield no produce, and you perish quickly from the good land which the LORD is giving you.*

**1Ki 17:2** *Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying,*

**1Ki 17:3** *"Get away from here and turn eastward, and hide by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan.*

- Elijah comes on the scene, appears before Ahab, announces there's going to be a drought, "It's not going to rain, except by my word". Then, Elijah disappeared.
- Elijah was to go down to the area of the Jordan river, where the Cherith, the stream of Cherith came into Jordan, and there he was to hide himself from king Ahab.
- ***Get away from here and turn eastward, and hide by the Brook Cherith:*** The drought announced by Elijah in the previous verse was a great threat to the northern kingdom of Israel and the reign of Ahab. Therefore his life was in danger, and God sent him to ***the Brook Cherith*** for his own safety.
- God led Elijah one step at a time. He did not tell him to go to Cherith until he first delivered the message to Ahab. He did not tell him to go to Zarephath until the brook dried up at Cherith. God led Elijah by faith, one step at a time, and Elijah followed in faith.
- ***Hide by the Brook Cherith:*** Through this God taught Elijah the value of the hidden life. He had just become famous as an adversary of Ahab, so mighty that his prayers could stop the rain. At the moment of his new-found fame, God wanted Elijah to ***hide*** and be alone with God.

**1Ki 17:4** *And it will be that you shall drink from the brook, and I have commanded the ravens to feed you there."*

- The escape to the Brook Cherith was for more than protection. It was also to train Elijah in dependence upon the LORD. In the drought, he had to trust that God could keep this brook flowing. He also had to accept food from ***the*** unclean ***ravens***.
- ***I have commanded the ravens to feed you there:*** There is an emphasis on the word ***there***. God promised that the ravens would feed Elijah as he stayed at Cherith. Of course, theoretically the ravens could feed him anywhere - but God commanded that it be at Cherith. Elijah perhaps wanted to be somewhere else, or be preaching, or doing anything else. Yet God wanted him ***there*** and would provide for him ***there***.

**1Ki 17:5** *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.*

**1Ki 17:6** *The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning, and bread and meat in the evening; and he drank from the brook.*

- ***The ravens brought him bread and meat:*** Every bit of food that came to Elijah came from the beak of an unclean animal. Elijah had to put away his traditional ideas of clean and unclean or he would die of starvation. Through this, God taught Elijah to emphasize the spirit of the law before the letter of the law.
- ***Bread and meat in the morning, and bread and meat in the evening:*** As faithfully as He provided manna for Israel in the wilderness, God provided for Elijah's needs. He came to trust more than ever in the miraculous provision of God.

**1Ki 17:7** *And it happened after a while that the brook dried up, because there had been no rain in the land.*

- Elijah saw the flow of the brook slow down until it ***dried up***. His source of water was gone.
- "Why does God let them dry? He wants to teach us not to trust in His gifts but in Himself. He wants to drain us of self.
- ***Because there had been no rain in the land:*** This was the drought Elijah prayed for. He did not pray for rain to come again, even for his own survival. He kept the purpose of God first, even when it adversely affected him.

## **SUMMARY:**

- **It was a very low point in the land of Israel. All their kings were bad, but the most evil was Ahab.**
- **He had married Jezebel, the daughter of Baal worshipping Sidonian king. Baal had become their god!**
- **Elijah (my God is Jehovah!), comes and prophesies years of drought because of their wickedness!**
- **This drought directly attacks their god, Baal, whom they worshipped, believing he controlled the weather! Rain was essential for their food and their water supply. Most dependent on rain and dew!**
- **His message is most serious, as they realize it will lead to drought and famine and starvation!**
- **Elijah is then told to leave and go to the Brook Cherith in Jordan, where God will sustain him, developing his faith for the great showdown on Mt. Carmel in three years! Important preparation!**

**He is Able to Deliver Thee** – William Ogden – Worship Resources #107

*I 'Tis the grandest theme through the ages rung; 'Tis the grandest theme for a mortal tongue; 'Tis the grandest theme that the world e'er sung, "Our God is able to deliver thee."*

*Refrain: He is able to deliver thee, He is able to deliver thee; Though by sin oppressed, go to Him for rest; "Our God is able to deliver thee."*

*2 'Tis the grandest theme in the earth or main; 'Tis the grandest theme for a mortal strain;*

*'Tis the grandest theme, tell the world again, "Our God is able to deliver thee." (Refrain)*

*3 'Tis the grandest theme, let the tidings roll, To the guilty heart, to the sinful soul;*

*Look to God in faith, He will make thee whole, "Our God is able to deliver thee." (Refrain)*

Pray Today For: Our Church, Nationally/locally; Our Nation: Our leaders; Police officers/military. Supreme Court.

Please Note: You may see/download past notes/audio of the Bible Prayer Devotionals by going to: [www.ptwente.com](http://www.ptwente.com)