

Elijah

and the

Widow

of

Zarephath

1 Kings 17:1-16

God always finds men and women to meet the challenge of the situation:

- ***Noah*** – begin the human race anew.
- ***Abraham*** – begin to build a great nation through which the Messiah would come.
- ***Joseph*** – keep Israel separate and safe.
- ***Moses*** – lead Israel out of slavery, into Canaan.
- ***Judges*** – deliver Israel from surrounding nations.
- ***David*** – secure Israel from enemies, make it the dominant power in the Middle East.
- ***Esther*** – save Israel from annihilation.

**Elijah – God’s great prophet during the
reign of wicked Ahab and Jezebel.**

A person of uncommon fiber.

Great courage and conviction.

**God needs such men
and women today!**

**Elijah's first message:
"No rain for three years!"**

***A physical manifestation of
the nation's spiritual condition.***

***Elijah taken care of by God:
Water from Cherith, food from ravens.***

***God's second plan: Send Elijah to a
destitute widow in Zarephath.***

God is concerned about widows too!

*God is champion of society's
most vulnerable.*

- Deut. 24:17-22 – *A principle in Law of Moses.*
- Isa. 1:17 – *“Defend the fatherless, plead for the widow.”*
- James 1:27 – *Every Christian's charge: “Visit orphans and widows in their distress.”*

God is concerned about widows too!

*God knows the condition of everyone –
no one escapes His caring eye.*

- *Psa. 139:7-10 – Cannot get so low that God does not see and care.*
- *Mat. 10:29-31 – God knows the most minute details about you – every hair on your head. Every sigh, every tear.*

Elijah's promise:

Give me your little now, and I will guarantee infinitely more later.

The deal God has always offered:

- ***Adam and Eve.***
- ***Israel through Moses.***
- ***The whole world through the gospel of Christ.***

Luke 18:28-30 – More now, infinitely more later.

Phil. 3:7-11 – The temporal rubbish Paul gave up for the eternal salvation of his soul.

Elijah's promise:

Give me your little now, and I will guarantee infinitely more later.

It was really the Lord's promise.

- ***Required trust (faith).***
- ***Heb. 11:1 – What gives substance to a promise, what makes a promise all the assurance we need.***
- ***Heb. 11:6 – An absolute necessity if we are going to please God by giving up our little now for great riches later.***

Elijah's promise:

Give me your little now, and I will guarantee infinitely more later.

1 Kings 17:12 – “That we may eat and die.”

- **Mat. 26:14-16 – Judas: 30 pieces of silver that he could never keep.**
- **2 Tim 4:10 – Demas: A temporal relationship that he could never keep.**
- **Rev. 3:17-18 – Laodicea: Fake things that could never make them truly rich or healthy.**

The widow's lesson for us:

***Choose the never-ending riches
of the hereafter over the paltry
things of the here and now.***