

New Self-Excellence

Elijah Fed By Ravens

1 Kings 17:1-6

Today's Text

- 1 Kings 17:1 – 6 And Elijah (**My God Jehovah is He**) the Tishbite, [who was] of the inhabitants of Gilead, said unto Ahab, [As] the LORD God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word.
And the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, Get thee hence, and turn thee eastward, and hide thyself by the brook Cherith, that [is] before Jordan.
And it shall be, [that] thou shalt drink of the brook; and I have commanded the ravens to feed thee there.
So he went and did according unto the word of the LORD: for he went and dwelt by the brook Cherith, that [is] before Jordan.
And the ravens brought him bread and flesh in the morning, and bread and flesh in the evening; and he drank of the brook.

Background To Text

- 62 Years before King Ahab of 10 Northern Tribes
- **1 Kings 16:31** Jeroboam The Son of Nebat Caused Israel To Sin (10 Northern Tribes)
- Jeroboam ruled 22 years
- Nadab ruled 2 years
- Elah ruled 2 years
- Baasha ruled 24 years
- Zimri Ruled 7 days
- Omri (Ahab's Father) ruled 12 years

The Link Between Ahab and Today's Lesson

- 1 Kings 16:31-33
- 1. Ahab thought it no big deal to do the evil which had been done by Jeroboam
- 2. Ahab took a wife named Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal = *with the master*.. **But God was the real master.**
- 3. Ahab left serving God and worshipped and served Baal
- 4. Ahab constructed an altar in the house of Baal that he constructed in Samaria
- 5. Ahab built a pillar/grove and whatever he could to show disdain to Israel's God who brought them into to Promised Land.

Elijah's Belief vs. Ahab's Belief

- Elijah trusted God - Ahab Didn't
- Elijah walked by Faith - Ahab Didn't
- Elijah saw God as Excellent - Ahab Didn't

1. Speak In Excellence

According To God's Word

- 1 Kings 17:1 And Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the inhabitants of Gilead, said unto Ahab, **As the Lord God of Israel liveth**, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word.

2. “Protection” Is Promised For Speaking Excellence

- 1 Kings 17:2 -4 And the word of the Lord came unto him, saying, Get **thee hence**, and turn thee eastward, and **hide** thyself by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan. And it shall be, that thou shalt **drink** of the brook: and I have commanded the ravens to **feed** thee there.

3. Excellent Results Follows Excellent Proclamations

- 1 Kings 17:5 – 6 So he went and did according unto the word of the Lord; for he went and dwelt by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan. **And the ravens brought** him bread and flesh in the morning, and bread and flesh in the evening; and he drank of the brook.

For Wednesday

- Read:
- 1 Kings 17:1-24
- 1 Kings 18:1-46
- 1 Kings 19:1-21
- 1 Kings 20:1-43
- Matthew 6:24-34
- Matthew 8:19-34

To Walk In Excellence Requires Unwavering Participation

- Hebrews 11:6 But without **faith** [it is] impossible to please [him]: for he that cometh to **God** must believe that he is, and [that] he is a **rewarder** of them that **diligently** seek him.
- Historical Present
- Participant
- Adverbial noun (looking back on what has, is and is purposed to happen)

The God of Excellence Is Always Excellent

- 1 Kings 17:1-24:
- Vs. 1 – 7 Elijah is fed by God's Excellence working through a "raven".
- Vs. 7 – 24 Elijah is fed by God's Excellence working through a "poor widow woman" and her "dead son".

God's Excellence Shown Through "Courage" of Elijah

- 1 Kings 18:1-46
- Vs. 1 – 6 God speaks to Elijah three years into the drought and promises rain after he speaks again to Ahab.
- A. Ahab calls the prophet Obadiah who was more trusting in "God" than obedient to Ahab...he had hid and fed 50 prophets in a cave...vs. 3 and vs. 13 Obadiah mentions the "excellent" work he had done for God not to Ahab but to Elijah.
- B. Vs. 14 – 19 Speaking can sometimes mean a confrontation and conflict...who really troubled Israel?
- C. Vs. 20 – 40 Excellency run with footmen and horsemen – Jeremiah 12:1-5 (vs. 41-46 of 1 Kings the drought ends.

Excellency Can Cause One To Second Guess Themselves

- 1 Kings 19:1-21
- 1. vs. 1 – 3 Ahab told Jezebel about how Elijah killed 450 Baal prophets and she vowed to kill Elijah.
- 2. vs. 4 – 8 Elijah fled a day's journey into the wilderness and just wanted to die....yet God in His Excellency strengthened Elijah physically with food for 40 days.
- 3. vs. 9 – 21 God provides Elijah with relief in the form of Elisha after reminding Elijah that although he was tired there were 7,000 prophets who had not bowed to Baal.

Excellence

- Help saints realize their goal is not to control but rather create states in the soul that produces love results and help one to grow spiritually towards a more perfect new self love.

Take Home

- Each saint must understand how life is to be processed as excellent threefold spiritual beings.
- The component that is the most developed will be the most dominant regulator of outcome.
- **2 Corinthians 9:6** But this [I say], He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.
- **Galatians 6:7-10** Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.
For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.
And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.
As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all [men], especially unto them who are of the household of faith.