



## Elijah Fed by Ravens

1 Kings 17



Elijah was a faithful man surrounded by unfaithful people. God used this prophet to speak boldly to His people. Elijah trusted the Lord, and God provided for his every need. Throughout the Bible, we see that God provides for those who trust in Him.

## Day #1: The Prophet Speaks

After King David died, his son, Solomon, took the throne. King Solomon started out very well, but in time, he stopped following the Lord. Under Solomon's leadership, God's people also stopped loving God. They turned to false gods and worshipped statues. So, God divided Israel into two kingdoms, Israel and Judah. There were hard times in store for God's people.

Because God is good and patient, not wanting anyone to be without Him (2 Peter 3:9), He sent prophets to speak to His people so they would turn their hearts back to Him. A prophet is a person chosen by God to be His messenger. Because the prophet speaks words from God, his words are true, and everything that he says will come true.

Often, the prophet would tell something that was going to happen. Then when it happened, the people would know that the prophet was from God. Then they would know that everything he said was true.

One of the most famous of God's prophets was Elijah. Before Elijah was famous, God sent him to a wicked Israelite King named Ahab. Ahab worshipped false gods and he was the most evil man who ever ruled in Israel (1 Kings 16:30). God sent a strong message to get Ahab's attention.

*(Elijah) said to Ahab, "I serve the Lord. He is the God of Israel. You can be sure that He lives. And you can be just as sure that there won't be any dew or rain on the whole land. There won't be any during the next few years. It won't come until I say so." - 1 Kings 17:1*

God would not allow any rain, or even any dew, in Israel for the next several years. This would let Ahab know that God was in control of everything! God wanted Ahab to turn away from his false gods and set his heart on the one true God of Israel.

Tomorrow morning, get up early and walk barefoot in your yard. Feel the dew on the wet grass. Know that our God is in control of everything, including every drop of dew on each blade of grass!

## Day #2: God Provides

Not long after Elijah's announcement to King Ahab, the ground began to crack, the plants withered, and the animals became thirsty!

In order to protect Elijah, God told him to leave the place where Ahab lived. God had a wonderful place for Elijah to stay. It was across the Jordan River. It was one of the few places that still had water. God made a promise to Elijah.

*"You will drink water from the brook. I have ordered some ravens to feed you there." - 1 Kings 17:4*

God ALWAYS keeps His promises! (1 Kings 8:56)

*So Elijah did what the Lord had told him to do. He went to the Kerith Valley. It was east of the Jordan River. He stayed there. The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning. They also brought him bread and meat in the evening. He drank water from the brook. - 1 Kings 17:5-6*

Wow! Elijah probably couldn't believe his eyes when he saw wild birds coming to bring him food! But God ordered it, and the birds did it. Even when God's people did not obey Him, the wild animals did obey their Creator!

God provided water, bread, and meat for His faithful servant, Elijah, in the middle of a drought. This would not be the last time God would provide for Elijah. God always provides for those who trust in Him.

One of God's names is, "The Lord Will Provide." The Hebrew name is "Jehovah-jireh" (Genesis 22:14).

Discuss times when God provided for you or your family. Say a prayer of thanks for God's provision.

## Day #3: God Provides Again

What do you think would happen if it didn't rain for a year? What about two or three years? Rivers, ponds, and lakes would dry up. There would be no water to drink. Crops couldn't grow without water. Animals would die without food and water. Soon there would be no food for anyone.

As everything continued to dry up in Israel, Elijah's brook dried up. This might seem like a terrible thing, but God had a wonderful plan for Elijah.

### Day #3 continued:



*A message came to Elijah from the Lord. He said, "Go right away to Zarephath in the territory of Sidon. Stay there. I have commanded a widow in that place to supply you with food." - 1 Kings 17:8-9*

Elijah obeyed the Lord! As soon as Elijah entered the town, he found the widow. He asked her for a little water and bread. The woman told Elijah that she had only enough flour and oil to make one last meal for herself and her son.

*Elijah said to her, "Don't be afraid. Go home. Do what you have said. But first make a little bread for me. Make it out of what you have. Bring it to me. Then make some for yourself and your son. The Lord is the God of Israel. He says, 'The jar of flour will not be used up. The jug will always have oil in it. You will have flour and oil until the day the Lord sends rain on the land.' " - 1 Kings 17:13-14*

The woman obeyed the Lord! From that day on, her flour and her oil never ran out. Because she trusted that God would provide, she, her son, and Elijah always had food to eat. God ALWAYS keeps His promises! Again, we see that God provided for Elijah in a very unexpected way.



Do you remember what Jehovah-jireh means? Make a poster with the name "Jehovah-jireh, the Lord Will Provide." Hang it in your room to help you remember to pray to the great Provider any time you have a need (2 Kings 13:5, Ezekiel 45:23).

## Day #4: New Life

Some time later, the woman's son got very, very sick. Finally, he stopped breathing. The woman called out to Elijah. Elijah took the boy up to his room. He cried out to God on the woman's behalf. He stretched out over the boy.



*He said, "Lord my God, give this boy's life back to him!"*

*The Lord answered Elijah's prayer. He gave the boy's life back to him. So the boy lived... He gave him to his mother. He said, "Look! Your son is alive!"*

*Then the woman said to Elijah, "Now I know that you are a man of God. I know that the message you have brought from the Lord is true." - 1 Kings 17:21b-24*

First God provided **water** for Elijah during a drought. Then He provided **food** through wild birds and through a desperately poor widow. Then God provided **new life** for the widow's son. From the beginning of the Bible to the end, we see that God is the great Provider.

In the beginning, God provided the earth on which we live (Job 38:4). He provided all the things that we need to survive and thrive. Then, when people turned away

### Day #4 continued:

from Him, He provided the Way back (John 14:6). Because we chose to sin, we were separated from God (Psalm 5:4). We were completely helpless to save ourselves from the punishment of sin. Only God was able to provide the perfect Savior that we needed. At just the right time, God sent His Son to die as the sacrifice for our sin. When we place our trust in Jesus, our sin is forgiven and we are welcomed into the Kingdom of God.

*(God) loved us and sent His Son to give His life to pay for our sins. - 1 John 4:10b*



If you have put your trust in Jesus, pray for an opportunity to tell a friend how God has provided the Way for you.

## Day #5: Dry Ground

Go outside and find a dried up leaf. How does it look and feel? See how it crumbles in your hand. Notice how very different it is from a green leaf that is growing on a tree.

After months and months without ANY water, everything in the land of Israel started looking like that dead leaf. The drought turned into a famine (1 Kings 18:2). There was no food to be found. No plant life grew out of the hard, cracked ground.

The dry, barren earth was very much like the Israelites, themselves. Without the Lord, there was no spiritual fruit in their lives. Their hearts were spiritually dead. They lied; they were violent; they sinned in every way (1 Kings 13:18, 13:33, 14:22, 18:28). Nothing good came out of them because they were separated from the Lord.

But just the opposite, Elijah trusted in the Lord. His life was like a fresh green leaf that is full of life. Because he abided in (remained with) the Lord, Elijah's life was marked with wonderful miracles.

In the book of John, we read Jesus' words about the only way to live a fruitful life.



*I am the vine. You are the branches. If anyone remains joined to Me, and I to him, he will bear a lot of fruit. You can't do anything without Me. If anyone does not remain joined to Me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and dries up. - John 15:5-6a*

When a branch is cut off from the vine, it can no longer get the water and nutrients it needs to live. Separated from the vine, the branch is dead. Jesus invites us to remain in Him. Just like water gives life to a plant, Jesus gives new life to us. When we remain joined to Him, we will bear spiritual fruit such as love, joy, peace, and kindness. (See Galatians 5:22-23.)



Drink a nice refreshing glass of water and remember to remain joined to Jesus by spending time with Him every day.