

THE LIFE OF ELIJAH

"Circle of Provision"

1 Kings 17:8-16

INTRODUCTION:

1. Once Elijah made it through the first phase of Boot Camp @ Camp Cherith...
 - a) God would move Elijah to more advanced training @ Zarephath.
2. We need to understand that the term "**deeper**" is not abnormal but the **reality** God desires of all those who **LOVE HIM!!**
 - a) God wants us to venture out from the shallow waters and submerge ourselves deeper.
 - 1) **Deeper in the Word**
 - a. **2 Timothy 3:16-17 KJV**
 - c. **Psalm 119**
 - 2) **Deeper in Prayer**
 - a. "**Pray in the Spirt**" -
 - 3) **Deeper in Worship**
 - a. **John 4:23-24**
 - 4) **Deeper in Faith**
 - a. Learn fearless Faith
 - b. To learn Patience
 - c. To trust God's Provision
 - d. Trust that God was in Control - **Isaiah 55:8-9**
3. God took Elijah deeper so Elijah would be prepared to accomplish deeper things.
4. **John 14:15**
 - a) "**If you love me**"
5. **1 Corinthians 2:9**
 - a) That's a promise to be claimed!!!
6. **John 21:15-17**
 - a) **Matthew 16:13-19**
 - b) **Acts 1:8**
7. **KEY** - Elijah loved God - **1 Kings 17:1-5**
8. **Vs 6-7**
9. Once Elijah made it through the rigors of Camp Cherith, an even more demanding time of testing awaited Elijah @ Zarephath.
 - a) Because God knew what awaited Elijah.

10. Vs 8-9

11. Zarephath means "*to melt*"

12. Zarephath would be a "*Crucible*" for Elijah.

13. **REMEMBER THIS:** Crucibles create Christlikeness.

a) "*How Firm a Foundation*"

1) That's what the refiner's fire does.

b) **That's what going deeper does.**

1) *It creates greater purity.*

I. **GOD HAS A PLAN**

1. God knows what the future holds for Elijah!!

a) Elijah does not!!!

2. God knows the strength Elijah will need if he's going to stand strong.

a) *Ephesians 6:10-13*

3. Charlie Kirk from Turning Point USA said:

"Time is running thin and we don't have time for gutless wonders. We must speak the truth in love!"

4. **Zarephath was the homeland of Jezebel and the heart of Baal Worship!!!**

a) It was the **Baal Belt**.....like the Bible Belt

A. **GOD KNOWS WHERE WE ARE**

1. There will always be times when we will feel forsaken and forgotten.

a) That's why we need to be drenched in God's Word.

b) *Isaiah 41:10*

2. That's another **PROMISE of GOD!!!**

a) **When we go deeper we will need to hold tight to God's Promises.**

B. **GOD KNOWS WHERE WE ARE GOING**

1. How gracious for God to lead Elijah one step at a time!!

a) That's what He does with us.

2. Vs 7-8

3. When did the word of the Lord come to Elijah?

a) When the Brook dried up!!!

4. Vs 9

- a) **"Arise, go"**
- b) **"Zarephath"** - Was located far to the west, on the coast of the Mediterranean approx. 100 miles from Cherith.
- c) **"And dwell there"**
 - 1) **"dwell"** - literally means to sit down or stay put.

5. Cf. 18:4

- a) Elijah was a wanted man...he literally had a contract out on him.
 - 1) Ahab's Army was aggressively seeking Elijah's head!!

6. HERE'S THE KEY: Vs 2, 8

- a) **"And the word of the Lord came to him"**

7. You better Make sure it's the LORD'S voice you hear!

- a) Just remember God knows exactly where Elijah was going.

C. GOD PROVIDES

1. Vs 9

- a) **"I have commanded a widow there to feed you"**
 - 1) That ain't right!!

2. James 1:27

3. But instead God said the poor widow was going to provide for Elijah.

4. God is about to show Elijah that the most humbling tasks prepare us for greater tasks.

- 1) I have no idea what God has for you in the future...BUT I do know that it will include some humbling experiences.
- 2) Humility is a necessary part of God's plan.
- 3) For Elijah humility would be a poor widow provide for his needs.

II. RESPONDING TO GOD'S TESTS

A. A STRANGE TWIST

- 1. Elijah walked 100 miles from Cherith to Zarephath.
 - a) Through pagan hostile territory.

2. Vs 10

3. Vs 11

4. I am sure that Elijah went to Zarephath anticipating a little more provisions than @ Cherith.

a) You know the greater the sacrifice the greater the reward.

5. I am sure that Elijah was confused by his first IMPRESSION.

a) Vs 9-10

B. SEEING PHYSICAL IMPOSSIBILITIES

1. GOD WAS ABOUT TO TEACH ELIJAH A LESSON ON FAITH

2. Vs 12

a) She didn't even go to church!!! "your God"

3. **HERE IT IS:** God was teaching Elijah that in order to be blessed you first need to be a blessing.

4. Vs 13-14

5. THE KEY TO ELIJAH'S SUCCESS WAS HIS OBEDIENCE

6. *"You will never be able to light another's candle of hope if your own torch of faith isn't burning."*

7. **IMPORTANT:** This is what's known as *"God's supernatural circle of Provision!!!"*

8. Vs 15-16

a) Elijah challenged the woman's faith in what God had said.

9. **YES** - Man's obedience and God's faithfulness leads to miracles.

a) *1 Corinthians 2:9*

CONCLUSION:

1. Vs 16

2. **We must go deeper!!!**

a) *"For without faith it is impossible to please Him!!!"*

3. When you come to the end of your own resources....remember God is your ONLY source.