

# IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD (1) 1 KINGS 17:1-16

**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.

1 Kings 17:1 has lots of hidden theological freight. Baal was the storm god who controlled the rain. Baal lost control of the rain during the dry season, when he died / gave in to Mot the death god.

Elijah: Eli = My God + Jah = The Lord → so “my Lord is God” was claiming that the Lord controlled the rain & the Lord didn’t die and therefore always controlled the rain and everything else.

## I. God’s ways are simple.

**1 Kings 17:2-3** 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.

**1 Kings 17:5** 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.

**1 Kings 17:8-9** And the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, Arise, get thee to Zarephath, which belongeth to Zidon, and dwell there: behold, I have commanded a widow woman there to sustain thee.

**1 Kings 17:10** So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, the widow woman was there gathering of sticks: and he called to her, and said, Fetch me, I pray thee, a little water in a vessel, that I may drink.

**1 Kings 17:13-14** And Elijah said unto her, Fear not; go and do as thou hast said: but make me thereof a little cake first, and bring it unto me, and after make for thee and for thy son. For thus saith the LORD God of Israel, The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that the LORD sendeth rain upon the earth.

**1 Kings 17:15-16** And she went and did according to the saying of Elijah: and she, and he, and her house, did eat many days. And the barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake by Elijah.

## 3 times in a handful of verses we find the simplicity of it all!

- **It’s always about Scripture.**
- **It’s always about obedience.**
- **It’s never about thinking/analyzing/spiritualizing.**
- **It’s always about “obey right away.”**

**Psalm 119:60** I made haste, and delayed not to keep thy commandments.

**John 2:5** His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it.

**John 13:17** If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.

**John 14:15** If ye love me, keep my commandments.

## We tend to do other things:

- **We make it complex.**
- **We try substitutes.**
- **We make excuses.**

**Deuteronomy 6:7** And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

**Deuteronomy 11:19** And ye shall teach them your children, speaking of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

**Psalm 46:10** Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.

**Proverbs 6:20-22** My son, keep thy father’s commandment, and forsake not the law of thy mother: Bind them continually upon thine heart, and tie them about thy neck. When thou goest, it shall lead thee; when thou sleepest, it shall keep thee; and when thou awakest, it shall talk with thee.

**Ephesians 6:18** Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

**Malachi 3:8-10** Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

**Joshua 1:8** This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

## Can't you just hear the **internal conversations**?

17:3 Hide thyself → 17:5 so he went

17:9 Arise → 17:10 so he arose

17:13 Make thyself a little cake first → 17:15 and she went

This is the mighty Elijah → simply obeying God!

## II. God's ways are strange.

**1 Kings 17:4-6** 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.

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

**1 Kings 17:8-9** And the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, Arise, get thee to **Zarephath, which belongeth to Zidon**, and dwell there: behold, I have commanded a **widow woman** there to sustain thee.

**1 Kings 17:13-16** And Elijah said unto her, Fear not; go and do as thou hast said: but make me thereof a little cake first, and bring it unto me, and after make for thee and for thy son. For thus saith the LORD God of Israel, The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that the LORD sendeth rain upon the earth. And she went and did according to the saying of Elijah: and she, and he, and her house, did eat many days. And the barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake by Elijah.

How strange are God's ways?

- Water from brook
- Bread & meat from ravens
- Brook dries up
- Now go to a widow
- Not a widow in Judah or even Israel but Zidon
- The center of Baal worship

**1 Kings 16:31-33** And it came to pass, as if it had been a light thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he took to wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Zidonians, and went and served Baal, and worshipped him. And he reared up an altar for Baal in the house of Baal, which he had built in Samaria. And Ahab made a grove; and Ahab did more to provoke the LORD God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel that were before him.

- A widow about to starve
- A widow with a son
- A widow who must first serve him, then herself and her family

## III. God's ways are sufficient.

**1 Kings 17:6** And the ravens brought him bread and flesh in the morning, and bread and flesh in the evening; and he drank of the brook.

**1 Kings 17:15-16** And she went and did according to the saying of Elijah: and she, and he, and her house, did eat many days. And the barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake by Elijah.

**Matthew 6:33** But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

**Hebrews 13:5-6** Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.