

HEROES OF THE FAITH

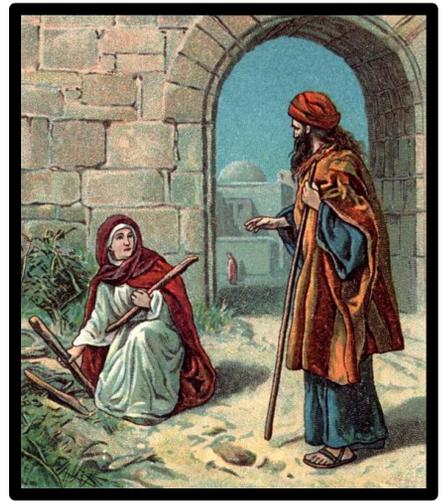
ELIJAH: Crucible of Leadership {Part 2}

1 Kings 17:8-16

26 August 2020

“We have a choice every day regarding the attitude we will embrace for the day. Life is 10% what happens to us & 90% how we react to it. Our attitude is everything.”

-- Chuck Swindoll



➤ Crucible of leadership & character begins (vv. 3-7)

❖ Test of character

Self reliance vs. Dependence = {Go. Obey. Hide. Wait.}

Independence from God vs. Dependence upon God (vv. 4-6)

★ God's plan (vv. 3-7)

- ✓ Often God's wisdom is hard to see, &, understand. (v. 3)
- ✓ God places Elijah into the *Crucible of Leadership & Character*.
- ✓ Dependence vs. Independence (v. 4)
- ✓ Obedience vs. Disobedience (v. 5)
- ✓ God's leadership is sometimes unfathomable. (Leviticus 11:13-15; v. 6)
- ✓ God's timing is perfect. (v. 7)

➤ Elijah's crucible continues. (vv. 8-16)

❖ First, dependence upon God. Second, obedience to God. (v. 8)

❖ Problem (vv. 7-8)

✓ NOTE: Elijah recognized, and knew, the voice of God (vv. 8-9). Do you?

Zarephath (v. 9; *see map*)

- ✓ A city in Phoenicia, belonging to Sidon.
- ✓ Jezebel, King Ahab's wife, was the princess of Sidon.
- ✓ Sidon is the heartland of Baal worship.
- ✓ *Why there? Why now?*
- ✓ *God never does anything without a purpose!*

Elijah's character needed further development. (v. 9)

- ✓ Proverbs 3:5-6 (Trust)
- ✓ 1 John 2:3-6 (Obedience)
- ✓ Proverbs 15:33 (Humility)



❖ Obedience and faith (vv. 10-16)

❑ God commanded Elijah to go to an unexpected place. (vv. 9-10)

- ✓ Elijah did not question. He merely obeyed.
- ✓ Possibly, without food and water, he began his journey (*see map*).
- ✓ The journey took a week, or more, comprising 70 plus miles.
- ✓ He walked through the heart of the Israeli nation to its northern border (*see map*).
- ✓ He was the most wanted man in Israel. Yet, God concealed him.
- ✓ NOTE: Elijah's obedience to God and his faith in God. (v. 10)
- ✓ NOTE: Elijah's (vv. 10-11), and the widow's, circumstances. (v. 12)
 - Elijah: Tired. Famished. Thirsty. Bewildered. (v. 10)
 - Widow: Impoverished. Destitute. Broken. Ready to die. (v. 12)
 - Grain & oil: Zarephath's two major exports.

❑ Crucible of faith (vv. 10-16)

God's Divine Sovereignty

- Ezekiel 18:23
- 2 Peter 3:9

- ✓ Elijah's dependence upon God. (v. 9)
- ✓ Elijah's reliance upon the widow. (vv. 10-11)
- ✓ The widow's struggle. (vv. 13-14)

- Emotionally broken. Physically drained. Spiritually bankrupt.
- Baal had failed her. He had not brought rain.
- *No hope. Death had become more inviting than living. (*)*
- Fear of the unknown. (vv. 13-14)
- Elijah was asking her to go against her parental instinct.
- Feed one she does not know. Forsake the one she knows, & loves.

✓ God (vv. 12,14)

- LORD: יהוה (*Yĕh-ho-vah*) – _____.
- God: אֱלֹהִים (*el-o-hiym*) - _____.
- Elijah asked her to trust him.
- Elijah asked her to trust God.

✓ The promise (v. 14)

- The stipulation and the condition.
- Requirement: Faith, obedience, & trust.

✓ The outcome (vv. 15-16)

- An action taken. (v. 15) A promise kept. (v. 16)
- God is Lord of all people groups, all cultures, all contexts.

