

1 KINGS 17:1-7 2026 – ELIJAH – Because of Wickedness, Drought, and Famine!

3/21/26 Sat Morn Prayer – P. Twente, <https://www.ptwente.com> 714 425-9221; ptwente@gmail.com

Elijah Predicts a Drought

(1Ki 17:1-7) And Elijah the Tishbite, of the inhabitants of Gilead, said to Ahab, "As the LORD God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, except at my word." [2] Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, [3] "Get away from here and turn eastward, and hide by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan. [4] And it will be that you shall drink from the brook, and I have commanded the ravens to feed you there." [5] So he went and did according to the word of the LORD, for he went and stayed by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan. [6] The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning, and bread and meat in the evening; and he drank from the brook. [7] And it happened after a while that the brook dried up, because there had been no rain in the land.

1Ki 17:1 And Elijah the Tishbite, of the inhabitants of Gilead, said to Ahab, "As the LORD God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, except at my word."

- Elijah lets Ahab know, "as *the LORD God of Israel lives!* Jehovah is the God of Israel, whom Ahab had forsaken. That He is a *living God*, and not like the dead gods Ahab worshipped.
- That he himself was God's servant in office, and a messenger sent from Him: "It is He *before whom I stand!*"
- There was the present peace and prosperity of the kingdom of Israel, but God was displeased for their idolatry and would chastise them for it withholding rain, which was essential for crops and their water supply
- It was also a direct attack against Baal, their god of weather whom they depended upon for rain!
- *Jer 14:22 Are there any among the idols of the nations that can cause rain? Or can the heavens give showers? Are You not He, O LORD our God? Therefore we will wait for You, Since You have made all these,* which would effectually prove their impotency, and the folly of those who left the living God and this he confirms with a solemn oath - *As the Lord God of Israel lives*, that Ahab might stand in awe of the threatening, the divine life being engaged for the accomplishment of it.
- He lets Ahab know what interest he had in heaven: There shall not be dew or rain *except at my word.*
- See the power of prayer and the truth of God's word; for He performs the counsel of His messengers.
- *Jas 5:17-18 Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. [18] And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.*
- *Deu 11:17a lest the LORD's anger be aroused against you, and He shut up the heavens so that there be no rain, and the land yield no produce, and you perish quickly from the good land.*

1Ki 17:2-3 Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, [3] "Get away from here and turn eastward, and hide by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan.

- Elijah comes on the scene, appears before Ahab, announces there is going to be a drought, "It's not going to rain, except by my word." Then, Elijah disappeared.
- Elijah was to go down and hide himself where the Brook Cherith came into Jordan.
- *Get away from here and turn eastward, and hide by the Brook Cherith:* The drought announced by Elijah in the previous verse was a great threat to the northern kingdom of Israel and the reign of Ahab. Therefore his life was in danger, and God sent him to *the Brook Cherith* for his own safety.
- God led Elijah one step at a time. He did not tell him to go to Cherith until he first delivered the message to Ahab. He did not tell him to go to Zarephath until the brook dried up at Cherith. God led Elijah by **faith, one step** at a time, and Elijah followed in faith.
- *Hide by the Brook Cherith:* Through this God taught Elijah the value of the hidden life. He had just become famous as an adversary of Ahab, so mighty that his prayers could stop the rain. At the moment of his new-found fame, God wanted Elijah to **hide** and **be alone** with God.



1Ki 17:4 *And it will be that you shall drink from the brook, and I have commanded the ravens to feed you there."*

- The escape to the Brook Cherith was for more than protection. It was also to train Elijah in **dependence upon** the LORD. In the drought, he had to trust that God could keep this brook flowing. He also had to accept food from the unclean *ravens*.
- ***I have commanded the ravens to feed you there:*** There is an emphasis on the word *there*. God promised that the ravens would feed Elijah at Cherith. The ravens could feed him anywhere - but God commanded that it be at Cherith. Elijah perhaps wanted to be somewhere else, or be preaching, or doing anything else. Yet God wanted him *there* and would provide for him *there*.

1Ki 17:5-6 *So he went and did according to the word of the LORD, for he went and stayed by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan. [6] The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning, and bread and meat in the evening; and he drank from the brook.*

- ***The ravens brought him bread and meat:*** Every bit of food that came to Elijah came from the beak of an unclean animal. Elijah had to put away his traditional ideas of clean and unclean or he would die of starvation. God taught Elijah to emphasize the spirit of the law before the letter of the law.
- ***Bread and meat in the morning, and bread and meat in the evening:*** As faithfully as He provided manna for Israel in the wilderness, God provided for Elijah's needs. He came to trust more than ever in the miraculous provision of God.

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

- Elijah saw the flow of the brook slow down until it ***dried up***. His source of water was gone.
- Why does God let brook dry up? He wants to teach us not to trust in His gifts but **in Himself**.
- ***Because there had been no rain in the land:*** This was the drought Elijah prayed for. He did not pray for rain to come again, even for his own survival. He kept the purpose of God first, even when it adversely affected him.
- You and I are just dried-up brooks unless the **Word of God is flowing through us**.

SUMMARY:

- **Power of prayer!** (*Jas 5:17-18*) *Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. [18] And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.*
- **Alone with God!** *"Get away from here and turn eastward, and hide by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan.*
- **Be fed by unclean bird!** (*Lev 11:13,15*) *And these you shall regard as an abomination among the birds; they shall not be eaten, they are an abomination: the eagle, the vulture, the buzzard, [15] every raven after its kind*
- **Obedience by faith, one step at a time!** Elijah is then told to pray, which **he did**. To go the Brook Cherith in Jordan, which **he did**. God will sustain him, developing his faith for the great showdown on Mt. Carmel in three years! Important preparation!

He is Able to Deliver Thee – William Ogden – Worship Resources #107

*1'Tis the grandest theme through the ages rung; 'Tis the grandest theme for a mortal tongue;
'Tis the grandest theme that the world e'er sung, "Our God is able to deliver thee."*

Refrain: He is able to deliver thee, He is able to deliver thee; Though by sin oppressed, go to Him for rest; "Our God is able to deliver thee."

*2'Tis the grandest theme in the earth or main; 'Tis the grandest theme for a mortal strain;
'Tis the grandest theme, tell the world again, "Our God is able to deliver thee." (Refrain)*

*3'Tis the grandest theme, let the tidings roll, To the guilty heart, to the sinful soul;
Look to God in faith, He will make Thee whole, "Our God is able to deliver thee." (Refrain)*

Pray For: Our Church, Nationally/locally; Our Nation; Israel; Iran; Our leaders; Police officers/military. Supreme Court.