



3.31.2019
Pastor-Teacher | Chris Regas

God's Unlikely Provider

Lesson 7 • 1Kings 17:8-16

L O Y A L T Y i n T i m e s o f A P O S T A S Y				
The LORD Provides LIFE for His LOYAL REMNANT in the Midst of DEATH!				
17:1 Elijah Before King Ahab <i>"It ain't gonna rain no more, no more... until I say so!"</i> <i>"these years"</i>	17:2-7 Elijah by the BROOK CHERITH Fed by UNCLEAR RAVENS <i>Threat of Death by Execution and Deprivation</i> <i>The word of the LORD came to him... Go away from here and hide yourself!</i> <i>I have commanded the ravens to provide for you there.</i>	17:8-16 Elijah in the CITY ZAREPHATH Fed by an UNCLEAR WIDOW <i>Threat of Death by Starvation in Enemy Territory</i> <i>The word of the LORD came to him... Arise. Go and stay there!</i> <i>I have commanded a widow there to provide for you.</i>	17:17-24 Elijah in the Widow's UPPER ROOM Raises the DEAD to LIFE <i>Threat of Death Becomes a Reality as the Widow's Orphan Son Dies</i> <i>Oh LORD my God, I pray to you let this child's life return to him.</i> <i>No I know you are a man of God and the word of the LORD in your mouth is truth!!</i>	18:1 Elijah Before King Ahab <i>"It's gonna rain... the LORD says so!"</i> <i>"in the third year"</i>
Y A H W E H I s M Y G O D N o t B A A L				

Lessons from the LORD's Provision for Elijah

- The LORD's provision is **PROVIDENTIAL**, so we learn to walk by an obedient faith day-by-day. 1Kings 17:2-7
- The LORD's provision always has a **PURPOSE** greater than merely meeting our present needs. 1Kings 17:8-16

How Does the Lord **CONTINUE** to Provide for His Loyal Remnant in the Worst of Times?

1. By the **POWER** of His Sovereign Word!

1Kings 17:8-10, 14-16

Two Observations

- Elijah Once Again Represents the **LOYAL** Remnant to God! (17:8-10)
- Elijah Once Again Represents God to **OUTSIDERS** Who Are Far from God! (17:9)

2. By the **PROVIDENCE** of His Sustaining Love.

1Kings 17:9

Definition of Providence

*The doctrine of providence tells us that the world and our lives are not ruled by chance or by fate or by luck but by the **WILL** of our compassionate Creator and loving Father and His sovereign **WORD**!*

The Place of the LORD's Providential Provision

- No Longer a Place of **PROTECTION** (or So It Seems) – Sidon is Jezebel Country!
- Still an Unlikely Place of **PROVISION** – A widow in Zarephath will provide!
- Definitely a Place of **PROVIDENCE** – The LORD providentially decides where, how, when, how long, and by whom!
- A Place of Preparation Now Becomes a Place of **PROCLAMATION**.

*The LORD is **STILL** teaching Elijah to persevere by learning to trust solely on His providential care and sustaining love according to His WORD!
But the LORD is **ALSO** teaching an unsaved, pagan widow to trust solely in the LORD, the Living God of Israel,
for her salvation as a gift of His sovereign, sustaining love!!*

3. By the PATHWAY of Our Submissive Loyalty.

- RECEIVE the Word of the LORD. *The Pathway of Revelation – 1Kings 17:8-9*
- OBEY the Word of the LORD. *The Pathway of Submission – 1Kings 17:10-16*
- ABIDE in the Word of the LORD. *The Pathway of Satisfaction – 1Kings 17:15-16*

***The Widow of Zarephath Has Started on the Pathway of Submissive Loyalty!**
[Next Week She Will Go Farther Down This Pathway to Pray the Word and Adore the LORD!]*

Why Does the Lord Continue to Provide for His Loyal Remnant in the Worst of Times?

1. Our Place of Provision and Protection Is the PERSON of Jesus Christ.

By an Obedient Faith We Experience...

- The GRACE of God's Provision through the Greatest Prophet of All, the Lord Jesus Christ!
- The GREATNESS of God's Provision through the Greatest Prophet of All, the Lord Jesus Christ!
- The GLORY of God's Provision through the Greatest Prophet of All, the Lord Jesus Christ!

The LORD continues to providentially provide for His loyal remnant through the Person of Jesus Christ, so we will remain loyal even in places of great darkness, danger, depravity, and demonic deception.

2. His Provision Is for the Purpose of PROCLAMATION to All Peoples!

The LORD provides us grace, so we can proclaim His grace! He graciously provides, so we can graciously proclaim the Gospel to all people groups!

To Whom Do We Proclaim His Saving Grace?

- The DYING (who are already dead but don't know it!)
- The DESPAIRING
- The UNBELIEVING OUTSIDER
- The UNDESERVING (Sovereign Grace)
- The UNREACHED UNENGAGED (Saving Faith – Romans 10:12-17)

Why Does the LORD Provide for Us and Send Us to Proclaim His Gracious Provision in Christ to All People?

So the fame of His Name will spread to all peoples even in the worst of times!

Lessons to Learn and Live | Principles from God's Unlikely Provider

(or Why We Don't Unhitch from the Old Testament!)

- ☐ Like Elijah we can't pass on what we don't possess! Elijah taught the widow what he first learned for himself by the Brook Cherith.
- ☐ Like the widow we must learn to look at God's promises (sufficiency) and not our problems (scarcity).
- ☐ Like the widow we must learn day-by-day to look to the Provider and not merely His daily provision (the flour and oil replenished).
- ☐ Like the widow we must learn to look beyond the promise to the Person who is the Provider of all we will ever need or want!
- ☐ Like the widow we must learn that faith calls us to do the unthinkable, so we might receive the impossible from God!