



God's Unlikely Prosperity

Lesson 8 • 1Kings 17:17-24

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!				
<p>17:1 Elijah Before King Ahab</p> <p><i>"It ain't gonna rain no more, no more... until I say so!"</i></p> <p><i>"these years"</i></p>	<p>17:2-7 Elijah by the BROOK CHERITH Fed by UNCLEAN RAVENS</p> <p><i>Threat of Death by Execution and Deprivation</i></p> <p><i>The word of the LORD came to him... Go away from here and hide yourself!</i></p> <p><i>I have commanded the ravens to provide for you there.</i></p>	<p>17:8-16 Elijah in the CITY ZAREPHATH Fed by an UNCLEAN WIDOW</p> <p><i>Threat of Death by Starvation in Enemy Territory</i></p> <p><i>The word of the LORD came to him... Arise. Go and stay there!</i></p> <p><i>I have commanded a widow there to provide for you.</i></p>	<p>17:17-24 Elijah in the Widow's UPPER ROOM Raises the DEAD to LIFE</p> <p><i>Threat of Death Becomes a Reality as the Widow's Orphan Son Dies</i></p> <p><i>Oh LORD my God, I pray to you let this child's life return to him.</i></p> <p><i>No I know you are a man of God and the word of the LORD in your mouth is truth!!</i></p>	<p>18:1 Elijah Before King Ahab</p> <p><i>"It's gonna rain... the LORD says so!"</i></p> <p><i>"in the third year"</i></p>
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 in the Worst of Times

- 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 personal needs. *1Kings 17:8-16*
- The LORD's provision is **not** a **PROSPERITY** gospel that promises health, wealth, and your best life now. *1Kings 17:17-24*

"Now it came about..." (17:17)

This reminds us of the LORD's sovereign control and providential care.

"after these things..." (17:8-16, especially 13-16)

AFTER...Elijah's promise that the LORD would sustain the lives of the widow and her son until the LORD ended the drought and sent the rain!

AFTER...the Gentile, Baal-worshipping widow obeyed the word of God's man and fed him first, so her and her son would not die of starvation!

What Happens When God's Promised Provision Seems to Fail?

1. The Unexpected **DEATH** of the Only Son. (17:17-18)

➤ The Widow's Catastrophe

"His illness got worse until he stopped breathing...So the LORD listened to Elijah, and the boy's life came into him again, and he lived."
1Kings 17:17, 22 CSB

➤ The Widow's Complaint

- 1) She blames Elijah's **HOLINESS**.
So she said to Elijah, "What have you against me, O man of God?" (18)
- 2) She blames her own **SINFULNESS**.
- 3) She blames the LORD due to her own **LOSTNESS (or HUMAN WEAKNESS)**.
Evidence of "sign" faith instead of saving faith – (17:12, 18, 24)

2. The Effective **PRAYER** of the Righteous Man. (17:19-22)

➤ **Elijah Represents the LORD to the Widow by IDENTIFYING with her. (19)**

- 1) Like the LORD, Elijah **LISTENS** to her broken heart.
 - He doesn't **REJECT** her.
 - He doesn't try to **REASON** with her.
 - He doesn't **REBUKE** her.
 - He doesn't **RATIONALIZE** what has taken place.

- 2) Like the LORD, Elijah **OFFERS** to carry her burden: **“Give me your son.”**
 - He is willing to carry her burden for her.
 - He is asking her let go of her lost hope and dead dreams by surrendering/submitting them to the LORD!

- 3) Like the LORD, Elijah **CARRIES** her burden “further up and further in” to the most holy place.
 - He **took him** from her bosom.

“As the widow had cradled her boy in her arms, so Elijah now cradled her heart in his!” – Chuck Swindoll
 - He **carries him** up to his own room.
 - He **laid him** on his own bed.

➤ **Elijah Represents the Widow to the LORD by INTERCEDING for her. (20-21)**

- 1) He **LAMENTS** for the grieving widow before the LORD. (20)
- 2) He **IDENTIFIES** with the widow’s loss before the LORD. (21; 2Kings 4:32-37)
- 3) He **PLEADS** with the LORD to give life back to the dead boy! (21)

➤ **The LORD Hears Elijah’s Powerful Prayer and GIVES Life Back to the Dead Boy. (22)**

- 1) Because Elijah was in **RIGHT RELATIONSHIP** with God. (James 5:16)
- 2) Because Elijah prayed with **GREAT PASSION**. (James 5:17)
- 3) Because Elijah prayed **BY FAITH** in the living God according to His will. (Hebrews 11:35)

3. The Transformed **TESTIMONY** of the Trusting Widow. (17:23-24)

➤ **A Gift of Grace: The LORD REVERSES a tragedy from death to life. (23)**

BEFORE PRAYING (17:19)	AFTER PRAYING (17:23)
He said, “Give me your son!”	Elijah took the child (up from the bed).
He took him from her bosom	He brought him down from the upper room.
He carried him up to the upper room	He gave him to his mother.
He laid him on the bed.	He said, “See your son is alive!”

➤ **A Response of Faith: The LORD REDEEMS a testimony from unbelief to belief. (24)**

- 1) The LORD’s messenger and His message are vindicated as being the Truth that is both true and trustworthy!

Believe in miracles but trust in Jesus, the one Mediator between God and all peoples!
- 2) The LORD Himself is vindicated as the One true God who not only sustains life but raises the dead to life!

Baal, who repeatedly dies and can’t raise himself back to life, is put to shame! Every other so-called god is put to shame by the LORD, the living God of Israel! Elijah’s God is Yahweh and He can be your God, too!

What Does the LORD’s Unlikely Prosperity Look Like?

*The LORD does not promise **your** best life **now** but **His** best life in the Kingdom **to come!***

The LORD’s providential provision is meant to **promote faith** in the **only gospel** that promises eternal life in spite of circumstances – even death! Here is the Good News: *The living God provides eternal life by grace alone through faith alone in the risen Christ alone!*