

THE LORD OUR SOURCE

A DEEP DIVE INTO 1 KINGS 17



'The earth is the Lord 's, and everything in it. The world and all its people belong to him.'
Psalms 24:1

The hustle and bustle of life makes it very easy for us to get caught up in the things we're working for (our businesses/careers) and start viewing them as our source. However, the one true source is the Lord, everything else is just a channel He uses for provision.

When Elijah announced the drought in 1 Kings 17, he triggered a period where the Lord illustrates to us how He alone is the real source of divine provision. We will look at how He did this and what it means for us in the times we're in.

Our prayer is that this series, the Lord will open our eyes to see the Lord as our source and how we should walk with Him in order to experience His provision.

Stay Connected!



Day 1

Economic Forecast

'Now Elijah, who was from Tishbe in Gilead, told King Ahab, "As surely as the Lord, the God of Israel, lives—the God I serve—there will be no dew or rain during the next few years until I give the word!"' 1 Kings 17:1

Our first introduction to Elijah was when he gave king Ahab the forecast of a drought that would last a number of years. No rain for an agrarian economy such as Israel was quite devastating on their crops and livestock. In today's environment, the announcement would be similar to a forecast of a severe nationwide recession that would last a number of years. Not good news at all and sufficient to send anyone into a panic.

As believers, when we receive negative economic news whether on a national (recession) or personal level (business stagnation or loss of a job), our immediate response shouldn't be one of despair. One of the first questions we should ask the Lord ideally should be, "Lord what would you have me do?" With every challenge God has there's a tailor-made solution just for you.

'So Pharaoh asked his officials, "Can we find anyone else like this man so obviously filled with the spirit of God?" ' Genesis 41:38

'And I will give you treasures hidden in the darkness— secret riches. I will do this so you may know that I am the Lord, the God of Israel, the one who calls you by name.' Isaiah 45:3

The Lord gave Joseph not only the interpretation for Pharaoh but also the solution to the 7-year famine/recession Egypt was going to experience. Joseph received the strategy to not just survive but thrive during the period. As a result of the divine strategy, Egypt became the go-to nation during the famine and increased financially. When we tap into God's mind, He will help us see the opportunity that lies within the challenge. The Lord has more than a million ways to resolve any challenge we may face.

Prayer: Lord open my eyes to see the opportunities around me and grant me the divine strategy to enable me thrive.

Day 2

The Instruction

“Go to the east and hide by Kerith Brook, near where it enters the Jordan River. Drink from the brook and eat what the ravens bring you, for I have commanded them to bring you food.” 1 Kings 17:3-4

After the announcement of the famine/recession, Elijah received a strange instruction from the Lord: leave your familiar territory and go to a place by yourself to be fed by birds. Elijah may have wondered about the strangeness of this instruction, yet he obeyed. Let's look at the components of the instruction the Lord gave Elijah.

'And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. For the wine would burst the wineskins, and the wine and the skins would both be lost. New wine calls for new wineskins.' Mark 2:22

Leave your comfort zone. When God wants to show Himself in a situation, it will call for leaving the familiar and the 'normal', because that way it is clear that the result came from Him. This may not necessarily mean physically leaving a place but may speak to leaving a limiting mindset, one that says you have to work everything out by yourself or that God can only show up in certain ways. He is God all by Himself. He knows the version of us we need to be in order to accept and accommodate the great things He is able to do in our lives.

'He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul...' Psalms 23:2-3

Be by yourself. God asks us to separate ourselves for Him so that He can do something inside and not just around us. It's in the place of quietness that we're able to connect better with the Lord without distractions and hear what He's saying clearly for ourselves. We can stay in periods of unbroken fellowship with Him which is a blessing on its own.

'You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on you!' Isaiah 26:3

Trust Him to use whatever channels He chooses to provide. Ravens are not domesticated birds, they typically hunt food for themselves. Yet the Lord instructed ravens to feed Elijah daily until it was time for him to leave that location. God can use anything to meet any need.

Prayer: Lord, help me trust you to use whatever channel You choose to provide.



Day 3

The Trust Factor

“Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. See, I have commanded a widow there to provide for you.” 1 Kings 17:9

Walking with God is a journey of continuous trust and obedience because God’s ways are not our ways and may not make logical sense to us. In Elijah’s days a widow was typically weak financially as it was a very male dominated environment. In addition to this was the fact that there was still a severe famine in the land. So Elijah already knew from the start that any provision from the widow had to be divinely enabled. In spite of this Elijah didn’t question God. He did exactly as instructed trusting that the God who sent the ravens to feed him at Cherith was definitely able to provide at Zarephath.

‘But Jesus looked at them and said to them, “With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”’ Matthew 19:26

‘Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.’ Proverbs 3:5-6 NLT

There will be instructions God gives us which we may be tempted to ignore because they do not make logical sense. When that happens, the critical thing to always remember is that we’re not the source – God is. The One who spoke the world into being can use seemingly weak things to provide in multiples. It’s not necessarily only about the location, strategy, business acumen, pedigree, etc. it’s the God of impossibilities that make all things possible.

‘There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death.’ Proverbs 14:12

Obedience is often an issue of conflicting perspectives. By nature we are swayed by what we see now, while God sees the end from the beginning and works backwards from that. He also doesn’t give us new instructions beyond our last place of obedience. So when we disobey we risk pulling ourselves out of God’s plan which is dangerous because the blessing and provision are always in alignment with His plan.

Prayer: Lord, help me to obey you and not depend on what I see or think I know.



Day 4

The Right Questions

'So he went to Zarephath. As he arrived at the gates of the village, he saw a widow gathering sticks, and he asked her, "Would you please bring me a little water in a cup?"' 1 Kings 17:10

Elijah followed the Lord's instructions and on arrival at Zarephath a number of things happened that could only have been inspired by the Lord. First of all, how did he identify the specific widow he needed to connect with and secondly how did he know what to ask her for? How come he didn't just show up and say, "The Lord said you're to provide for me", after all the Lord did say He had instructed the widow to do so.

'I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye.' Psalms 32:8

'Do not be wise in your own eyes...' Proverbs 3:7

The accurate execution of God's instruction is just as important as the instruction. We shouldn't just jump right after we hear 'what' we should do, but also ask the Lord about 'how' we are to do it. Remember He's the one who knows all things. Elijah no doubt depended on wisdom from the Lord on how to go about engaging the widow in discussion. Are there specific revelations you've received from God? Don't just stop there. Go back to the Lord and ask Him what you should do about what He has shown you.

'Teach me good judgment (discernment) and knowledge....' Psalms 119:66 AMP

Remember there was a severe famine and what made him leave Cherith was the fact that the brook had dried up. Why then did Elijah ask for a little water, since there would be such a high premium on water at this time? He must have understood by the leading of the Lord that if the widow was willing to provide him with water, that meant she had a generous heart and likely was the person the Lord had sent him to. Sometimes when we want to know what to do, we may not necessarily always hear a divine voice saying, 'do this' is or 'don't do that'. Rather the Holy Spirit may lead us to ask specific questions that will clearly reveal the truth about a person or situation to us. There may be some partnerships/businesses we may not have entered into if we'd asked the right questions from the start.

Prayer: Lord help me to exercise good judgement and to ask the right questions at the right time.



Day 5

The Power of Hospitality

'And as she was going to get it, he called to her and said, "Please bring me a morsel of bread in your hand.'" 1 Kings 17:11

When Elijah requested for some water, the widow responded to Elijah's request with an attitude of hospitality. She didn't accuse him of being the reason for the problem – remember he was the one who announced the drought. She didn't refuse on the very valid basis that she needed to preserve what little she had for herself. She was going to get the water and then Elijah made a second request, asking for some food. Again, she could have thought he was over-reaching but her heart of hospitality caused her to explain her constraints to Elijah.

'Be hospitable to one another without grumbling.' 1 Peter 4:9

'For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home.' Matthew 25:35

We shouldn't neglect opportunities to extend ourselves to others as one of the ways we can show God's love is through hospitality to others. Making sure that other people are okay, even if it's not necessarily convenient for us to do so at the time. The widow of Zarephath clearly showed hospitality to Elijah and in so doing she opened the door to experience a life transforming miracle, though she didn't know it at the time.

'The generous will prosper; those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed.'
Proverbs 11:25

Had the widow responded harshly to Elijah when he requested for water, that would have ended their interaction, closing the door to the miraculous provision awaiting her. The first step to having a hospitable attitude is realizing that we are just extensions of God's provision here on earth. As we allow Him to use us to generously provide for others, He also ensures our own needs are met.

Prayer: Lord give me a heart of hospitality. Help me remember that what you give me is meant to be shared in love with others.



Day 6

Prophetic Honour

And Elijah said to her, “Do not fear; go and do as you have said, but make me a small cake from it first, and bring it to me; and afterward make some for yourself and your son. For thus says the Lord God of Israel: ‘The bin of flour shall not be used up, nor shall the jar of oil run dry, until the day the Lord sends rain on the earth.’ I Kings 17:12-14

Once the widow had accepted to get the water, Elijah extended the request to open the door to address the widow’s fear of insufficiency – but there was a caveat. She was to make some bread for Elijah first and then for herself. When God gives us an instruction, He typically lays something on our heart first and then uses someone to verbalize the instruction. What is verbalized should align with what the Lord has already told us. In this case the widow honoured Elijah’s request as a true prophet who spoke God’s mind concerning her situation.

'Dear friends, do not believe everyone who claims to speak by the Spirit. You must test them to see if the spirit they have comes from God. For there are many false prophets in the world.' 1 John 4:1

As we acknowledge the power of prophetic honour, it’s also critical that we seek the confirmation of the Holy Spirit first that the instruction is really coming from God. These are very perilous times when all sorts are said supposedly in God’s name. Whatever instruction we receive from a third party should never contradict the word of God and must confirm what the Lord has already said to us. Remember, the Lord instructed the widow first before she and Elijah even met.

'He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet’s reward...'
Matthew 10:41

The widow recognized Elijah was a prophet and she gave him the necessary honour, even though she had the very legitimate right to deny the request. When we receive a leading/instruction from the Lord, it’s important we obey because we don’t know what God wants to achieve through our act of obedience.

Prayer: Lord please give me a discerning heart to know when an instruction is from you and grant me the grace to obey



Day 7

The Multiplication

“So she went away and did according to the word of Elijah; and she and he and her household ate for many days. The bin of flour was not used up, nor did the jar of oil run dry, according to the word of the Lord which He spoke by Elijah.”

I Kings 17:15-16 NKJV

The widow took a step of faith, did what Elijah asked her to and the miracle of multiplication came. In spite of the prevailing economic circumstances Elijah was provided for by the widow according to God's word. She recognized that God was able to provide and He did so, not only for her and her son but also for Elijah. The famine hadn't ended, yet the widow's story was different even in the middle of the famine.

“The Lord knows the days of the upright, and their inheritance shall be forever. They shall not be ashamed in the evil time, and in the days of famine they shall be satisfied.” Psalms 37:18-19 NKJV

“When my steps were bathed with cream, and the rock poured out rivers of oil for me!” Job 29:6 NKJV

Certainly others around the widow would have had major complaints during such a difficult season. However, while others were struggling, she and Elijah not only survived, they thrived due to their supernatural provision. The Lord is able to take whatever we have already and multiply it beyond our imagination once we are aligned to His will. Remember again, the Lord is the one who made all these happen. A rock isn't a place you'd expect anything to come out from, but the Lord can make seemingly hard places a source of abundance for us.

When we trust in the Lord as our source He can use unusual avenues to provide for us. So even if the job ends or the business seems to crumble, He is more than able not just to get us back on track but position us in a better state than where we were before. The Lord can lead us to those He's already instructed to help us and we will find favour before them. When we trust in the Lord as our source we're more willing to be generous to others because we know the one who provides for us can never run out. There's no limit to what God can do in, with and around us when we put our trust in Him as our source.

Prayer: Lord help me to put my trust in You as my source.

Thank you for completing the study. We'll love to hear from you, so please connect with us on:

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