

Days of Elijah pt1 – God Uses Obscure People

Dr. John Carmichael

[Jas 5:17 NASB95] 17 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 earth for three years and six months.

[1Ki 17:1-7 NASB95] 1 Now Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the settlers of Gilead, said to Ahab, "As the LORD, the God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, surely there shall be neither dew nor rain these years, except by my word." 2 The word of the LORD came to him, saying, 3 "Go away from here and turn eastward, and hide yourself by the brook Cherith, which is east of the Jordan. 4 "It shall be that you will drink of the brook, and I have commanded the ravens to provide for you there." 5 So he went and did according to the word of the LORD, for he went and lived by the brook Cherith, which is east of the Jordan. 6 The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning and bread and meat in the evening, and he would drink from the brook. 7 It happened after a while that the brook dried up, because there was no rain in the land.

- Some people believe that President Trump is being mistreated by the government through lawfare. Many experts agree. It causes some to think that we are powerless against an adversarial government.
- Whether it's large-scale national governmental direction or individual lives, people can feel powerless to face the opposition.
- This summer, we are focusing on miracles in the lives of Elijah and Elisha.
- What is a miracle? Definition: a surprising and welcome event that is not explicable by natural or scientific laws and is therefore considered to be the work of a divine agency. (Oxford Dictionary)
- As we renew our minds to God's miracle power by focusing on the miracles He did through these men, faith will arise, and we will experience miracles. God did not leave us powerless.

What do we learn about God using obscure people to do extraordinary miracles from I Kings 17:1-7?

Here are five lessons we learned about God using obscure people to do extraordinary miracles.

I. God wants to use obscure people to do extraordinary things.

- a. V.1 – Now Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the settlers of Gilead...
- b. Who? From where? We have no background information about Elijah. He came out of nowhere.
- c. James 5 – mentions that he was a man with "a nature like ours." He did not have a miracle conception, nor was he divine. He was a human.
- d. [1Co 1:26-29 NASB95] 26 For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; 27 but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, 28 and the base things of the world and the despised God has chosen, the things that are not, so that He may nullify the things that are, 29 so that no man may boast before God.
- e. Quit saying that you are not enough. God will use you as you trust Him.
- f. Know that God can use anyone to do amazing things, including you.

II. God wants to be alive to us and served by us.

- a. V.1 - ..."As the LORD, the God of Israel lives, before whom I stand,..."
- b. Elijah lived as though God was alive. He served God as the Lord of his life.

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- c. Paul points out these “foolish” ones as having their identity in Christ. [1Co 1:30-31 NASB95] 30 But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption, 31 so that, just as it is written, "LET HIM WHO BOASTS, BOAST IN THE LORD."
- d. Our identity must come from our belief that God is real and that we have surrendered to Him.
- e. Christianity is not about getting God to bless our plans, but we surrender to His plans.

III. God wants us to use His authority to combat our environment.

- a. V. 1 - ... surely there shall be neither dew nor rain these years, except by my word."
- b. [Luk 10:19-20 NASB95] 19 "Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing will injure you. 20 "Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are recorded in heaven."
 - i. Use the authority.
 - ii. Remember, it comes from your relationship with a God of grace and mercy.
- c. God does not want you to be a victim. We are not powerless.
- d. Use the authority that comes from being a believer to stand against the forces of darkness in this world.

IV. God wants to guide us.

- a. V.2-3 - 2 The word of the LORD came to him, saying, 3 "Go away from here and turn eastward, and hide yourself by the brook Cherith, which is east of the Jordan.
- b. God guided this man every step of the way.
- c. [Psa 37:23 NASB95] 23 The steps of a man are established by the LORD, And He delights in his way.
- d. You are not a victim. Your life is not dictated at the whim of man or government.
- e. Trust that God's ability to speak to you is bigger than your inability to hear Him.
- f. If you call on Him, He will tell you where to go.

V. God wants to provide for us.

- a. V. 4-7 - 4 "It shall be that you will drink of the brook, and I have commanded the ravens to provide for you there." 5 So he went and did according to the word of the LORD, for he went and lived by the brook Cherith, which is east of the Jordan. 6 The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning and bread and meat in the evening, and he would drink from the brook. 7 It happened after a while that the brook dried up, because there was no rain in the land.
- b. Elijah not only angered King Ahab but also, due to his word concerning a lack of rain, there are no provisions for him to get his needs met.
- c. Yet, Elijah's obedience opened the door for provision and prosperity.
- d. Notice "THERE." Supernatural provision is THERE.
- e. [Isa 1:19 NASB95] 19 "If you consent and obey, You will eat the best of the land;
- f. As you consent (become willing) and obey, you will be well provided with the best.

- **God wants to use ordinary people to do extraordinary miracles as we live for Him, release His authority, follow His direction, and trust in His provision for us.**