

## **THE WIDOW OF ZAREPHATH**

In our last lesson, Elijah delivered the message from God to King Ahab of the North Kingdom. The message was to shut down the demonic idolatry of Baal worship; or God would shut down the economy of the North Kingdom. Shutting down the economy was the Second Cycle of Divine Discipline (Lev.26:18-20) [Drought within an agricultural economy].

Following the message to King Ahab, God instructed Elijah to hide at the Brook Cherith until told otherwise. God further instructed Elijah that He would provide logistical grace for him by Ravens, our previous lesson.

Sometime during the third year of the drought (1 Kgs.18:1), the brook dried up (1 Kgs.17:7) and God gave Elijah new instructions.

**This lesson will study four aspects of today's lesson entitled, The Widow of Zarephath.**

### **1. It is important to note that God is always out front of spiritually advancing believers preparing the way for ministry out of our lives.**

(1 Kgs.17:8) "Then the **word of the Lord came to him**, saying, Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and **stay there; behold, I have commanded a widow there to provide for you.**" [The Directive Will of God] (1Kgs.17:4).

Did you note that once again Elijah's responsibility was to **wait on the Lord**?

**(Ps.27:14) "Wait on the Lord; be strong and let your heart take courage; Yes, wait for the Lord."**

The Faith Rest Technique, and the applying and completing sides of the Faith Cycle.

**NOTE:** People often ascribe patience with waiting. They say patience is a virtue and evidence of spiritually maturing. But it is more important is to understand that patience is a fruit (Divine Production) of walking by means of the Indwelling Holy Spirit (Gal.5:16, 22-23) (Love, joy, peace, patience).

### **2. It is also important to note the role the Directive Will of God has to play in making major decisions in the Christian Way of Life.**

"The Word of the Lord came to him" (God's Directive Will) (1 Kgs.17:2, 5, 8,)

**The Directive Will of God was Elijah's new assignment.**

- |   |                          |                           |
|---|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| • Arise and go to Zarephath of Sidon                | <b>Geographical will</b> | (ministry training place) |
| • Stay with the widow until I tell you differently. | <b>Mental will</b>       | (wait training)           |
| • She will provide for you during your training     | <b>Operational will</b>  | (logistics training)      |

**Remember the Directive Will is one of three classifications:** Directive; Permissive; and Over-ruling.

**The Directive Will** was also given to **King Ahab** (Northern kingdom of the Priest-nation of Israel).

- **Directive will**
  - Get rid of the demonic idolatry of Baal worship in the North Kingdom - Geographical, mental, and operational (Whom will you serve?).
- **Permissive will**
  - King Ahab had a choice and decision. to bring about a spiritual awakening.
- **Over-ruling will**
  - Second Cycle of Divine Discipline - shut down the economy to bring about a spiritual awakening.

### 3. God was also teaching Elijah another lesson on the doctrine of logistical grace.

(Phil.4:19) “And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.”

Lessons learned from the ravens at the Brook Cherith and from the widow at Zarephath regarding the Doctrine of logistical grace. **God’s grace is always sufficient (2 Cor.12:9).**

**Principle:** Always pay attention to those doctrines that God keeps teaching you.

One reason for doctrinal repetition is to get rid of Old Man Cosmos Diabolicus thinking (worldly thinking), that thinking that hinders the recognition of, and response to the Directive Will of God.

(Rom.12:2) “And **do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.**”  
(Eph.4:22-24)

**For Ahab**, it was 3 ½ years of suffering under the 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle of Divine Discipline; but **for Elijah** it was 3 ½ years of spiritual training - with an expectation of a national Spiritual Awakening.

### 4. The widow of Zarephath of Sidon.

She was given special acknowledgement with the other Gentile women like Tamar, Rahab, and Ruth (Matt.1:3-5).

I say this because Jesus acknowledged her as such in (Luke 4:24-26) while speaking in His home synagogue (Lk.4:16-30).

- (Lk.4:24) And He said, “**Truly I say to you**, no prophet is welcome in his hometown”.
- (Lk.4:25-26) **But I say to you in truth**, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the sky was shut up for three years and six months, when a great famine came over all the land; <sup>26</sup> and yet Elijah was sent to none of them, but only to Zarephath, *in the land* of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow.