

ELIJAH MEETS THE WIDOW OF ZAREPHATH

Elijah was instructed to move from the Brook Cherith to seek out the Widow of Zarephath. God further instructed Elijah that He had commanded the Widow of Zarephath to provide **logistical grace** to him (1 Kings 17:7-9).

The Doctrinal Principle of Logistical Grace: It does not matter where, who, what, or why, because “My God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.” (Phil.4:19)

Note that this logistical grace involved three persons:

- God’s Directive Will,
- Elijah’s Positive Volition towards God’s Directive Will,
- The Widow of Zarephath’s Positive Volition (response) at God Consciousness towards His command (The right thing to do and in accordance with hospitality) (James 4:17).

We will also learn from Elijah’s travel to Zarephath that the 2nd Cycle of Divine Discipline of (lev.26:18-20) had affected those residing in Zarephath as well as all Israel.

NOTE: Jesus taught on Elijah’s Meeting with the Widow of Zarephath in **Luke 4:24-26** - “When a great famine came over all the land.”

In our last study I told you there were two Sidonian women that influenced Elijah’s life. Today we meet one of those women, the Widow of Zarephath.

This lesson will study four aspects of Elijah’s Meeting with the Widow of Zarephath.

1. Zarephath was located between Tyre and Sidon in the nation of the Phoenicians.

Phoenicia was a heathenistic nation. “A heathen is anyone or group who rejects volitionally the divinely revealed truth about God, and or about the gospel of Christ (2 Thess.1:8; 2 Pet.3:9).”

Their national god of worship was Baal. **Baal was a Canaanite god of storms and rain.** This is important to the background of the study of Life of Elijah.

The central appeal of the Baal worship was phallic cult (temple prostitution/ demonic sensuality). Moses had warned the Israelites about the Baal worship of Canaanites in (Deut.6:12-15).

Jeremiah warned of Baal worshipers offering their children as human sacrifices in (Jer.19:5).

2. Yet God sent Elijah to the Widow of Zarephath because of her Positive Volition at God-consciousness.

Jesus reminded the Israelite’s of His day that God did not send Elijah to any widow in Northern Kingdom because of Negative Volition, but God did send him to the Widow of Zarephath because of her Positive Volition at God Consciousness.

(Luke 4:26) “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.”

Positive Volition at God Consciousness does not constitute salvation, but it does qualify the person for gospel hearing (2 Thess.1:8; 2 Pet.3:9).

Doctrinal principle: “Either-Or” Grace in operation

- **God will bring the person to the gospel!**
 - The Ethiopian and Philip (Acts 8:25-38) Personal Evangelism
- **God will take the gospel to the person!**
 - Jonah to the Ninevites (Jonah 4:11) Foreign missionary

God is willing to save every person who will believe no matter who or where he/ she lives because of their Positive Volition (2Pet.3:9; John 3:16; Rom.1:16; 2 Tim.4:5).

God directs evangelism to people in pockets of Positive Volition. This brings spiritual awakening to persons and pockets of people in nations (Elijah and Jonah).

3. **Personal heathenism occurs when a person completely rejects the convicting work of The Holy Spirit regarding grace salvation (John 16:7-11).**
 - **The Gospel (1 Cor15:1-4): Jesus Christ died on a cross for all our sins** (Adam’s Original Sin) (Rom.5:12-21) [unbeliever] and Personal Sins [believer] (1 John 1:7, 9) [cleansed or purified], **was buried** (1 Pet.3:18-19), **and raised on the third day** (Matt.12:38-40).
 - **Grace Salvation:** The moment a person believes the gospel of Jesus Christ that person is saved by grace through non-meritorious Faith. (Rom.1:16;10:17; Eph.2:5-9; Rom.4:4-5).
 - **Ambassadors for Christ** (2 Cor.5:17-21): “Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, **be reconciled to God. He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.**” (2 Cor.5:20-21)
4. **When Elijah arrived at the gate of the city of Zarephath, he met the Widow gathering up sticks to cook her last meal for her and her son and DIE! (1 Kings 17:8-16)**

At the END of Hope:

(1 Kings 17:12) “As the Lord your God lives, I have no bread, only a handful of flour in the bowl and a little oil in the jar; **and behold**, I am gathering a few sticks that I may go in and prepare for me and my son, that **we may eat it and DIE.**”

At the BEGINNING of something Great:

(1 Kings 17:15-16) “So she went **and did according to the word of Elijah**, and she he and her household ate for many days. The bowl of flour was not exhausted, **according to the word of the Lord** which He spoke through Elijah.”