

## **LORD OF THE LIVING AND THE DEAD**

In our [last lesson](#), we introduced a special title of the Widow of Zarephath, mistress of the house. We also learned it was a title in the religion of Baal referring to practice of witchcraft of necromancy, like the witch of En-dor (1 Sam.28). Her supposed connection to the dead is important to this lesson.

**This lesson will study:**

<p><b><u>Five aspects</u> of the widow's revelation that Elijah's God was the Lord of the Living and of the Dead (Rom.14:9; John 5:21-22; Acts 10:42)</b></p>
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**1. When Elijah met the widow of Zarephath she was picking up sticks to cook and eat her last meal with her only son and die.**

She was at the end of all hope of life because of the drought. Where was Baal's relief for the living during the drought?

Elijah told her to share her last supper with him and his God would see that she never missed another meal during the drought. She gave testimony to this as Absolute Truth in (1 Kings 17:15-16).

Now she is about to get another test of Elijah's God's Absolute Truth. Just when she was beginning to think that maybe she should add Elijah's God to her list of other gods, her son got sick and died in her arms with a full stomach, but not from the drought.

Now she wonders, "What kind of God would do this just when I just began to hope for life of me and my son."

**2. God sent Elijah to the widow of Zarephath because He cares for her and her son and her people's souls.**

God sent him to the Sidonians just like He sent Jonah to the Ninevites. (2 Pet.3:9; Luke 19:10; **Mark 8:36**) (2 Cor.5:17-21).

Just when she had renewed hope about life; her son gets sick and died - From WHAT for What?

The perfect timing in Plan of God is why Elijah is there with answers for her life (Eccl.3:1-2).

Job asked, "If a man dies, will he live again?" (Job 14:14; Luke 23:46; 2 Cor.5:6-8)

(John 11:25-26) "I am the resurrection and the life; he who **believes in Me** will live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and **believes in Me** will never die, **do you believe this?**"  
(Jesus to Martha at funeral of Lazarus)

**3. The widow was upset as a religious unbeliever!**

Even though she believes she can contact the dead, does she really believe that Baal could provide for the living and could raise the dead?

Another **absolute truth** is that Satan must get permission from God before anyone could contact the dead. (Job 1:6-12; 2:1-6; Luke 22:31-32) [Peter]

She does not have the confidence of King David who declared at his son's death,

(2 Sam.12:23) "But now he (my child) has died; why should I fast? **Can I bring him back again?** I will go to him, but he will not return to me."

4. **God will do for her what He did not do for David. He returned her son to her, but why? And why Lazarus?**

**Listen to another absolute truth Jesus told His disciples,**

(John 11:4) "This sickness is not to death, but for the glory of God, so that the Son of Man may be glorified by it."

**Listen to absolute truth He told Martha,**

(John 11:40) "Did I not say to you that if you believe, **you will see the glory of God?**" [In the Living as well as from the Dead]

(John 11:45) "Therefore many of the Jews who came to Mary, and saw what He had done, **believed in Him.**"

5. **"Elijah took the child and brought him down from the upper room in the house and gave him to his mother; and Elijah said, 'See, your son is alive.'" (1 King 17:23)**

The widow's test-i-mony of God's Absolute Truth:

(1 Kings 17:24) "Then the woman (not just a widow or a witch **but a mother**) said to Elijah, 'Now I know that you are a man of God and that the word of the Lord in your mouth is TRUTH.'"

Why we share the gospel of grace salvation with others is because "THE LORD IS NOT SLOW ABOUT HIS PROMISES, AS SOME COUNT SLOWNESS, BUT IS PATIENT TOWARDS YOU, **NOT WILLING FOR ANY TO PERISH, BUT FOR ALL TO COME TO REPENTANCE** (metanoia) [to change one's mind about the gospel of grace salvation] (Gal.3:8)." (2 Pet.3:9)

## Home study

When you read (Luke 4:16-30), also pay attention to (Luke 4:24-26) and messages behind these special phrases and the one question.

- "Truly I say to you" (4:24)

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- "But I say to you in truth" (4:25-26)

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- What message Jesus taught about Elijah as well as the widow?

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(Rom.14:9) "For to this end Christ died and lived again, **that He might be both Lord both of the dead and the living.**"