

# **Do You Know the Way to Zarepheth?**

**1 Kings 17: 8-24**

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## **Introduction:**

### **By Way of Review:**

- **Paradigm of prophets**
- **Moses is Law, Elijah is the Prophets**
- **No prophet more identified with his office than Elijah**
- **Two important points from last week:**
  - **1. God sometimes works in extraordinary ways**
  - **2. Who (or What) is your God?**
- **What is a thelanderer?**
- **A god is anything to which we attach ultimate value**
- **How do you know if you have an idol/false god?**
  - **What do you do/how do you feel when it is threatened?**
  - **For Israel it was Baal and all that it represented**

## **I. Called to Go**

- a. **Elijah confronted Baal and Ahab.**
- b. **After confronting Ahab, Elijah went to the Brook Cherith in the Trans Jordan.**
- c. **Elijah ate well for a long time – two meals of meat and bread – better than most**
- d. **Brook dries up**
- e. **“Then”**
- f. **God didn’t let Elijah know what was next until he needed to know, not before.**
- g. **Elijah went to Zarepheth of Sidon**
  - i. **Zarepheth means crucible/refinery**
  - ii. **Jezebel from Sidon – Elijah beards the lion (Baal) in Jezebel’s back yard.**
- h. **Elijah fed by a widow**

## **II. From Ravens to a Widow**

- a. **To lose a spouse in our culture is a terrible thing.**
- b. **To lose a spouse in Elijah’s culture was a magnification of our culture.**
  - i. **Widows and orphans most vulnerable in most any society**
- c. **Just as Elijah’s faith was tested at the Brook, so the woman’s would be tested.**
- d. **Elijah had a fresh experience with God and wanted to share the experience.**

## **III. Last Meal to Lasting Meal**

- a. **God had a thing about bread.**
- b. **The woman believed in Jehovah.**
- c. **She and her household ate for many days for the pot did not run out of meal nor did the jug run out of oil.**

## **IV. Take Away**

- a. **God bearded Baal in his own back yard.**
- b. **God has been in control of the rain and the water since the beginning.**
- c. **Jesus is the Bread of Life.**
  - i. **We will all have to go before God and give an account of our lives**
    - 1. **On whose coattails will you ride?**
    - 2. **Believe in Jesus – he has done what God requires – and you haven’t**

## **Other Relevant Scripture**

### **Do You Know the Way to Zarepheth?**

**Malachi 4: 5** Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes.

**Matthew 17: 2,3** And He was transfigured before them, and His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became white as light. And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah talking with Him.

**1 Cor 1: 20** Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

**1 Cor 1: 19** For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

**1 Kings 17: 8, 9** Then the word of the Lord came to him, "Arise, go to Zarepheth, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. Behold, I have commanded a widow there to feed you."

**1 Kings 17: 10-12** So he arose and went to Zarepheth. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold a widow was there gathering sticks. And he called to her and said, "Bring me a little water in a vessel, that I may drink." And as she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, "Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand." And she said, "As the Lord your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. And now I am gathering a couple of sticks that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it and die."

**John 6: 35** I am the bread of life, whoever comes to me shall not hunger and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.

**1 Cor 11: 23, 24** This is my body, broken for you, do this in remembrance of me.

**1 Kings 17: 12** As the Lord your God lives.

**1 Kings 17: 13** And Elijah said to her, "Do not fear, go and do as you have said. But first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterward make something for yourself and your son. For this says the Lord, the God of Israel, "The jar of flour shall not be spent, and the jug of oil shall not be empty until the day that the Lord sends rain upon the earth." And she went and did as Elijah said. And she and he and her household ate for many days. The jar of flour was not spent, neither did the jug of oil become empty, according to the word of the Lord that he spoke by Elijah.

**John 6: 35** I am the bread of life. He who eats of me will never hunger and he who believes in me will never thirst.

**John 6: 40** For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in Him should have eternal life and I will raise Him up on the last day.