

BOOK OF 1 KINGS
MAKING IT THROUGH A CRISIS SITUATION
1 KINGS 17:1-7

Introduction

Here we see the first mention in Scripture of **one of the greatest Prophets of God, the Prophet Elijah!** His name means **“God is Jehovah”!**

When we eventually get to **2 Kings 2:11**, we will see that **Elijah is one of only two men who were honored by God in being taken up by the LORD without mention of them dying.** (The other being Enoch in **Genesis 5:24**.)

In Matthew 17:3-4, Elijah is seen along with Moses on a high mountain, attending the Transfiguration of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I can't be dogmatic about this, but I personally believe that **Elijah will be one of the two witnesses of Revelation 11:3 that will appear on the scene and prophesy for 3 ½ years in the Tribulation Period before being killed by the beast and left in the streets 3 ½ days before being resurrected and ascending into heaven!** (Some of the powers and actions are similar to that of Elijah and Moses!)

What we see in this passage is **another crisis situation developing in the life of Elijah, the servant of God.** **The first crisis situation was that his nation had been continually spiraling, ever increasingly, further and further away from God into sin and especially idolatry!** (We last saw in our study in **1 Kings 16:30-33**, the beginning of the wicked reign of Ahab and his wicked heathen wife Jezebel!)

Listen, whenever sin reigns in a nation, that nation is in a crisis situation! *Proverbs 14:34 Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.*

Oh how we as God's people need to see and understand the times we live in and how our own dear nation is spiraling downward in both sin and idolatry! We need to be a voice crying out against the wickedness and for the LORD!

One might think that Elijah was in a dangerous position here!

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But, the absolute safest place for one to be is in the will of the LORD doing the work of the LORD! We will see how that proves to be true in Elijah's life as this story unfolds!

Elijah appeared before Ahab with a very brief, but very distinct Word from the LORD:

1) **“As the LORD God of Israel liveth...”**

Understand that **Ahab nor Jezebel believed in the LORD God of Israel! They both came from a long line of idolaters! They both were worshipers and promoters of Baal in the Northern Kingdom of Israel!**

God sent Elijah to Ahab to show him that the LORD God of Israel may have been forsaken and forgotten in the land, but He was still the LORD God of Israel and He still both lived and had control over His people and their affairs!

Listen to me, it is a reality that the LORD God brought our forefathers to this great land of ours! He used them to establish a great and godly heritage that blessed this nation! Nevertheless, in our day many have forsaken Him and many deny His hand in it all!

But the LORD God still lives! He still controls the affairs of our nation though an increasing number of people want to rid Him out of their thoughts!

2) **“...before whom I stand...”**

Elijah identified himself with the LORD God of Israel! We are going to see later Elijah stands in the minority in the nation, but He stands in the right position!

In our day, we need to make it clear where we stand! We name the name of Christ in the congregation, but do we really stand with the LORD? Do others know that we stand with the LORD?

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- 3) **“...there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word.”**
Knowing the background of Ahab, he most probably looked on Elijah as being a pipsqueak—small and unimportant and unable to actually carry through on this outlandish threat!

Otherwise, as being king in Israel, he would have surely tried to take the life of Elijah up front!

And so began the drought in Israel!

Now understand that God had prepared for Elijah to be taken care of throughout the duration of the drought in Israel! (Verses 2-4)

Verse 5-6 tell us that Elijah did what the LORD told him to do and the LORD did what He said he would do!

Elijah was in God’s secret hiding place! He had food to eat, water to drink, and everything seemed to be going OK in His life by the brook.

Then the Scripture says in **verse 7**, **“And it came to pass, after a while, that the brook dried up, because there had been no rain in the land.”**

Now understand that the brook didn’t just dry up overnight. No doubt Elijah went to the brook day after day for water and began to notice that the flow of the brook was not like it was before. Each day the flow of the brook became less and less until it was only a trickle. Then finally one day he came to the brook and discovered that it is completely dry. No more water.

That which God had used to sustain him initially was no longer there.

Now we know that God has provided a widow in Zarephath to sustain Elijah for the days ahead. But Elijah didn’t know that when the brook dried up!

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Elijah’s reaction to this incident is not recorded.
Don’t you wonder if there might have been some anxious moments as the flow of the brook slowly decreased and then finally dried up?

Or was Elijah so great in his faith that it didn’t phase him?

We are not told, but we do know that Elijah was flesh and blood and ***was a man subject to like passions as we are!*** (James 5:17)

I believe he may very well have had a few anxious moments even if he did eventually have great faith in God! We’ll find out when we get to glory!

Sometimes we find ourselves in similar circumstances as Elijah. We are enjoying the blessings of God and the provision of the Lord for a period of time and then something happens that we don’t expect.

A crisis situation comes into our lives and our **“brook dries up”** so to speak! **I want you to notice some things regarding this passage of Scripture relating to “making it through a crisis situation:”**

- I. ELIJAH WAS PERFORMING THE WILL OF GOD WHEN THE BROOK DRIED UP! (VS 1, 5)**
 - A. God Has A Will For Every Believer!**

Elijah had found God’s will and decided to do God’s will for his life!
 - B. Elijah Had Performed The Will Of God!**
 - 1. He Delivered God’s Message To King Ahab! (Vs 1)**
 - 2. He Went Where God Told Him To Go! (Vs 2)**
 - 3. He Had Done All That God Had Told Him To Do!**

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4. **There Is Nothing Recorded In Scripture That Would Cause Us To Think That God Was Bringing Chastening Into His Life!**
- C. **In Fact, The Brook Dried Up As A Result Of Elijah Performing The Will Of God! (Vs 7)**
- D. **Finding And Doing The Will Of God For Our Lives Does Not Exempt Us From The Trials Of Life!**
(e.g. Job—Perfect, Upright, Feared God, Eschewed Evil! The Apostle Paul!)

ELIJAH WAS PERFORMING THE WILL OF GOD WHEN THE BROOK DRIED UP...

II. ELIJAH WAS ENJOYING THE BLESSINGS OF GOD WHEN THE BROOK DRIED UP!

- A. **Elijah Was Enjoying The Leadership Of The Lord!**
 1. **God Told Him What To Say!**
When he spoke it was “*Thus saith the Lord. . .*”
 2. **God Told Him Where To Go! (Vs 3)**
 3. **God Told Him What To Do! (Vs 4-5)**
- B. **Elijah Was Enjoying The Protection Of The Lord!**
He was in God’s secret hiding place!
Ahab and Jezebel could not get to him!
- C. **Elijah Was Enjoying The Provision Of The Lord!**
 1. **God Commanded The Ravens To Feed Him!**
Sometimes God uses the strangest things to accomplish his will! The raven was an unclean bird!
 2. **God Provided The Brook For Him To Drink!**

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- D. **Elijah’s Time Of Crisis Came Right In The Midst Of His Enjoying God’s Blessings!**
 1. The Brook Began To Dry Up Slowly!
 2. Then Finally One Day It Was Dry!
 3. Things Can Happen The Same Way In Our Lives!

ELIJAH WAS DOING GOD’S WILL...HE WAS ENJOYING GOD’S BLESSINGS...

III. ELIJAH’S LIFE WAS NOT DEPENDENT UPON THE BROOK, BUT RATHER IT WAS DEPENDENT UPON GOD!

- A. **That Brook Was Just As Much A Provision Of God As The Raven Bringing His Food!**
- B. **It Is Possible That Elijah Had Begun To Take The Brook For Granted!**
Oftentimes we direct our minds to the miraculous provision of God and lose focus of the not so miraculous! OR we may get our minds on the provision itself rather than God!
- C. **Our Lives Are Not Dependent Upon Anything In This Life, But Rather They Are Dependent Upon God!**
God is sovereign over everything in our lives!
- D. **Any Other Dependency Will Cause A Crisis In Our Lives And Cause Us To Panic!**

IV. THE BROOK DRYING UP WASN’T THE END OF ELIJAH’S LIFE IT WAS THE BEGINNING OF GOD MOVING HIM TO THE NEXT STEP IN HIS LIFE!

- A. **God Always Has Something Down The Road To Sustain Us! (Vs 8-9)**
 1. That Something May Be Tangible! (Widow Woman)

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2. That Something May Be Intangible! (God's Grace!)

B. God Always Has Our Crises Under Control!

1. This Was Not A Crisis To God!

2. This Was Part Of God's Divine Plan!
(i.e The Lord used this crisis to move Elijah to a different place of service!)

C. Many Of Us Are Either Facing A Personal Crisis In Our Lives Or We Are Going To Be Faced With A Personal Crisis Sometime In The Future!

Don't look at it as the end, but as the next step of what God has for you!

V. GOD USED THIS CRISIS TO TEACH ELIJAH A LESSON IN FAITH AND TO PREPARE HIM FOR GREATER SERVICE!

Elijah still had some great experiences yet to face and God was getting him ready for the future!

A. The Widow's Provisions Had Almost Run Out And God Uses Elijah To Help Her Through Her Crisis!

B. The Widow's Son Is Going To Die And Elijah Will Seek God's Face To Raise Him From The Dead!

C. Elijah Has Yet To Go Back To Face Ahab Again!

D. Elijah Has Yet To Face The Prophets Of Baal!

E. Elijah Has Yet To Be Personally Threatened By Jezebel!

God will use the crisis times in our lives to teach us lessons in faith and to prepare us for greater service!

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VI. ELIJAH RESPONDED PROPERLY TO THIS CRISIS IN HIS LIFE!

A. He Waited Upon God And God Ended The Crisis! (Vs 8)
Isaiah 40:31—"But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk and not faint."

B. Think How Foolish It Would Have Been For Elijah To Have Tried To Go Find Water Elsewhere!
There was none elsewhere!

C. His Only Recourse Was To Wait Upon God!
What else could he do?

D. We Need To Turn Our Crises Over To God!

Conclusion

I wonder is there someone here who has a brook that is drying up or has dried up? Are you going through a crisis? How are you responding to that crisis? Remember to lean upon the everlasting arms of God!

God may just be trying to teach you a lesson in faith to prepare you for greater service for Him! If you will just look to the Lord in the time of crisis and wait on Him, He will sustain you!