

4. HE ENJOYED THE SUPPLY v. 6.

The record completes the testimony of God's faithfulness. It is a statement to the trustworthiness of the Word of God. Take heart, dearly beloved, and count upon HIM! Mark the thoughts on His supply:

- a. Its source. An earlier verse shows that it was God Who made the promise of supply (v. 4). Hence, the response of the brute creation is entirely of Him. Natural forces bend their resources to His behest! He is sovereign and controls all the universe.
- b. Its method. All was a miracle. Water from a brook in a draught and food from unclean birds is totally unnatural. Whatever He has made, He can use (John 2:5).
- c. Its regularity. Bread and meat came to Elijah every morning and evening. An added feature is that the brook never ran dry. The "ravens" and "he" are priority words. God's supply is always schematic even if it is for 40 years (Ex. 16:35).

Conclusion: The experience of Elijah moved right on until the purpose of God had been accomplished for him at Cherith. This is the comment of the final verse of the section (v. 7). The phrase "after awhile" means literally "at the end of days." Popularly it could be stated: "when God's purposes had been fulfilled." Then it was that the brook dried up. It is assumed that the ravens stopped flying in with their daily cargo. In the very place of God's appointment, an issue was raised: now what is the will of God? Two items are clear: 1) God wanted Elijah to move. 2) God wanted Elijah to find his all in Him. Again, Elijah was called to heed the Word of God. Beloved, in all our experiences, God is getting to the very root of our hearts with one issue: the Word of God and our submission to Him. What is your response to this?

BIOGRAPHICAL STUDIES OF ELIJAH

"Hidden By The Brook Cherith"

1 Kings 17:2-7

Introduction

1. God had unequivocally announced a draught through Elijah the prophet (v. 1). This was due to the apostacy of the nation (Deut. 11:16, 17). Apostacy always brings judgment from the Lord.

2. Having made this declaration to Ahab, king of Israel, Elijah is provided with further command from the Lord. His whole life was wrapped up in heeding the messages he received from the Lord.

3. Take to your own heart these aspects of God's Word to the prophet. Allow them to dwell solidly in your being.

1. HE HEARD A VOICE. vv. 2,3. *1 Cor 2:9, 13*

There is no question that Elijah had special revelation from the Lord (v. 2). The phrase or its equivalent used here is found over 3000 times in the O.T. to connote special revelation from the Lord. The fact that this "word" is derived "of the Lord" points to the unalterable fact of verbal inspiration. Such is the claim of Scripture (2 Tim. 3:16, 17). One must be adamant in his opposition to the charismatic movement of today and its contention for revelation. There simply is no such special revelation today (Rev. 22:18, 19). Anything beyond what is written in our Bibles is spurious. Three specific verbs point to the message which Elijah heard:

- a. A commission. "get thee." The verb here is imperative and means to "walk or go forth." The same verb was used in connection with Abraham (Gen. 12:1). There is nothing mysterious about this injunction from the Lord to Elijah! So with so much of God's will.
- b. A direction. "turn thee." The verb is used intransitively and has a reflexive force to it, hence, "turn thyself." The human will must be submitted to the Holy Spirit. The word "eastward" means "what is before" and provides precise

direction for the prophet.

c. A direction. "Hide thee." The passive form of the verb suggests the idea that the entire action is divine. It might better be rendered "be hid." Again, the thought of submission is latent. If Elijah would follow the first two matters given, God would attend to this factor. Here is the nexus of the divine-human interreaction given in the Word. Submission to the will of God brings the performance by the Almighty! God wanted His prophet alone. It was so with Moses (Acts 7:30), with the disciples (Mark 1:17; 3:14), and Paul (Gal. 1:17, 18). It is interesting that after Elijah had his "silent time" with the Lord, then he was given a new instruction (18:1). One can never really tell the message until the message has gripped him! Incidentally, the very place for hiding is indicated here: Cherith which is before (in the face of) Jordan. The word "Cherith" is only found here in the O.T. and is of uncertain location. It's meaning, however, is "wady or torrent-bed" and points to a water course somewhere in the Jordan valley.

2. HE RECEIVED A PROMISE. v. 4.

God never asks His children to move out in obedience to His Word without giving them a promise. His commands are in fact His enablements. Before Elijah had time to question the validity of God's call and direction to live in such a desolate place, God provided the answer! Oh, if only we could leave our futures, presents, and pasts with Him (Psa. 71:1)! Some of the parts to His promise are these:

- a. Its certainty. "it shall be." One never need doubt God's Word. His "shalls" are a virtual actuality. His delays are not to be interpreted as His impotency. All is in His plan!
- b. Its sufficiency. "thou shalt drink." This is a miracle. There was no water (17:1) and the place was desolate ("Cherith"), but Elijah would drink. The verb "feed" means to "measure"

and is used of containing God (2 Chron. 6:18), but here it means to nourish and sustain (cf. Gen. 45:11; 50:21). His promises are sufficient!

c. Its conditionality. "there." This is just a three-letter word in the Hebrew, but it shows the only place where the promise is valid! Beloved, the will of God is serious business. If you are where God wants you to be, you can surely count on His adequate promises.

3. HE SHOWED OBEDIENCE. v. 5.

"Obedience" is the family word of the children of God. This is of greatest importance to Him (1 Sam. 15:22, 23; John 14:15). Three verbs give support to the obedience of Elijah to God's Word:

- a. "He went" The particle "so" is actually a simple connective in Hebrew. It carries on the story and is part of the sequence of events. What a truth. It was just natural for Elijah to pursue the will of God. He was told to go and he went (same verb as v. 3). Is the will of God this for you?!
- b. "He did" This is the verb for "do or make" and expresses the complete and unabashed obedience of the prophet. Everything was done "according to" the Word of God. The Word was the standard by which he operated. God help us to do the same. Today there is far too much compliance with reference groups; peer groups, and other extra-Biblical norms. When will we learn that the Word of God is the final and authoritative standard! The noun "word" is the same as above (v. 2) and connotes a spoken "word." If this doesn't undergird verbal plenary inspiration of the Bible, what does (cf. Acts 17:10, 11).
- c. "He dwelt" Elijah was not given any options. He was told to go to a specific wady and that is where he went and settled down! This is what we need today--a willingness to perform the will of God no matter what it may be (Luke 5:5; John 2:5; Acts 9:6; 16:10; 26:19).