God’s Supply in Desperate Times

Lessons of Elijah and the Widow of Zarephath
February 21, 2021
God’s Supply in Desperate Times

• James 5:17–18 (NIV84) — 17 Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. 18 Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.

• God Appointed Elijah To Take A Message To King Ahab

• Elijah Declares A Drought – Saying That It Won’t Rain Until He Says

• Elijah Was Being Used By God To Prove That The Lord Is God Not Baal Or Anyone Else
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God’s Abundant Supply:

• God Feeds Elijah In A Time Of Drought

• The Brook Dries Up
  But It Is Not The End Of God’s Supply

• God Leads Elijah To A Widow In Zarephath
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Why Zarephath?
• God Has A Comprehensive Plan Of Justice & Righteousness
• At Certain Times He Will Choose To Show Forth His Glory In The Darkest Of Places – In A People That Are Far From Him.

• Elijah Is Being Sent Into The Center Of Baal Worship

• He Is Going To Meet A Widow Lady Who Is Willing, Able, And Prepared To Be A Vessel Of His Supply
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• **She Gave What She Had** – God Used Her Gift Became A Springboard To An Abundant Supply In The Time Of National Drought

**Why Did God Use Her?**

• **She Had Faith That God Could Work Through**
• **She Gave Up What She Had -- For What She Didn’t Have**
• **She Trusted In A Promise From God**

• **What Elijah Promised – God Delivered & Continued To Deliver**
(1 Kings 17:17-20 NIV) Some time later the son of the woman who owned the house became ill. He grew worse and worse, and finally stopped breathing. (18) She said to Elijah, "What do you have against me, man of God? Did you come to remind me of my sin and kill my son?" (19) "Give me your son," Elijah replied. He took him from her arms, carried him to the upper room where he was staying, and laid him on his bed. (20) Then he cried out to the LORD, "O LORD my God, have you brought tragedy also upon this widow I am staying with, by causing her son to die?"
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(1 Kings 17:21-24 NIV) Then he stretched himself out on the boy three times and cried to the LORD, "O LORD my God, let this boy's life return to him!" (22) The LORD heard Elijah's cry, and the boy's life returned to him, and he lived. (23) Elijah picked up the child and carried him down from the room into the house. He gave him to his mother and said, "Look, your son is alive!" (24) Then the woman said to Elijah, "Now I know that you are a man of God and that the word of the LORD from your mouth is the truth."
God’s Supply in Desperate Times

• Our **Greatest Victories** May Be Followed By Our **Greatest Challenges**
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• ‘Plenty-Full’ To ‘Plenty-Empty’

• Her Son Becomes Ill
• He Grows Worse And Worse
• He Dies
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• Desperate Times Can Be Powerful Times For God To Speak Into Our Lives
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- Elijah Takes The Dead Son To The Upper Room
- He Goes To God In Prayer
- Three Times He Prays: “O Lord My God, Let This Boys Life Return To Him”
God’s Supply in Desperate Times

• The Boy’s Life Returns

• God’s Resurrection Power On Display

• REMINDER: It’s Not Over Until God Says It’s Over
Lessons From The Widow:

• In Desperate Times We Must Look To See What God Through That Situation Reveals

• Desperate Times Cause Us To Examine Ourselves

• Desperate Times Will Either Make Us Bitter Or Make Us Better
Lessons From Elijah:

• In Desperate Times Direct Your Focus, Attention, & Prayers To God

• In Desperate Times Don’t Respond To The Blame Game
Lessons From Elijah:

• In Desperate Times Stay Away From The Nay Sayers, The Negative The Embittered

• In Desperate Times Take The Matter To God In A Spirit Of Persistent Prayer

• (Mat 7:7 NIV) "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.
Lessons From Elijah:

• In Desperate Times God Will Meet Our Pain With His Power
• Elijah Made Contact With The Boy’s Body Three Times.

• This Is A Picture Of Resurrection Life
• That Which Is Dead Needs To Be In Contact & Breathed On By That Which Has Life

• In Contact With Christ, We Can Live – Without Him We Are Dead
Lessons From God:

• God Protects
• God Provides

(Mat 6:31-33 NIV) So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' (32) For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. (33) But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

• God Is Powerful
Reasons to Hope: “It’s Not Over Until God Says It’s Over”

1. Hope in God’s Character – He Will Work Things Out for His Glory

2. Hope in God’s Grace -- **God** Reaches Out Even when we Struggle

3. Hope in God’s Resurrection Power
   - **Lean** On God Totally
   - **Leaving** Behind The Idols
   - **Living In Resurrection Power** – **God can Raise the Dead**