

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan

I KINGS 17

I Kings 17

I Kings 17 introduces us to Elijah the Tishbite, from the land of Gilead, the eastern ridge of the Jordan Valley and the Syrian African rift through the land of Israel. Elijah appears as a bright meteor in the night and leaves the earth in a flaming spectacle. After announcing the coming drought and ensuing famine drought brings, Elijah is taken to the stream of Cherith (pronounced, "Care-rith"), which the scriptures say twice, **"that flowed into the Jordan."** God fed him there through the instrument of the ravens. He was fed twice daily, in the morning and in the evening, with bread and meat. Think about this, God sent Elijah to a stream that He knew was going to be drying to nothing.

Next, God sent Elijah to a foreign land where He miraculously provided, and yet the person whom God had used to provide a shelter for Elijah had a major calamity to befall her. The woman who had taken Elijah in had a son, and after helping Elijah, the man of God, her son became so sick that he died.

Does God ever send His servants to sit beside drying streams? Does God ever send those who serve Him to places where He knows there will be pain, suffering and

death to those who have been instruments in His hand for blessing? Yes, He does. God sent Elijah to Cherith so He might learn to trust in Him and learn obedience. God had a specific place for Elijah to be blessed for a season by the brook, then he had to leave. He then followed God obediently to a foreign land, away from anything familiar, that He might teach Elijah that He can miraculously provide for him and for those who help the man of God. However, Elijah must learn for the future that "bad things happen to 'good' people!" The woman who helped Elijah lost her son, he died. This was an opportunity for Elijah to witness the life-giving power of God firsthand, by his hand. He would need this encouragement as he would face the prophets of Baal and then even more would he need to remember these lessons of God's power in facing Jezebel.

Prayer and Action Steps

Has God sent you to sit by a drying brook? Maybe God wants to show you, not to trust in the brook, but in Him. Has God sent you to a place and what starts with a miracle has ended in death? Lord, please help us to trust you in the good times and the hard times. Amen

Date _____ Scripture _____

- ▶ *Read the chapter. If you have time, read it again.*
- ▶ *Highlight, underline or circle the Key Verse or Verses of the chapter.*
- ▶ *Ask yourself these questions as you read through the chapter.*

Is this historical narrative, analogy, metaphor, allegory, or some other element of speech or communicating truth?

What is the Context? Old Testament? New Testament? What is the writer speaking or writing about? To whom is he writing?

Is this a clear passage of Scripture (can only be interpreted one way)? Or could the passage be interpreted legitimately, in two or more ways, according to grammar and context?

Does the passage teach a Biblical Precept; that is, tells you something to be, do or act? _____

Are there principles in this chapter that if followed, would require me to change my attitudes or actions? _____

Does the passage give a Biblical Pattern that is followed here and other places in the Bible? _____
