

“BEING IN THE RIGHT PLACE”

I Kings 17: 1-7

Introduction:

Elijah was a man characterized as a “a Mt. Sinai with a heart like a thunderstorm”

He stands out among the Prophets of God.

But there is something important about this man and that is his humanness!

Prophets are, after all, just men.

Granted they are a particular type of men

But indeed they are men.

James 5:17 “Elijah was a man with a nature like ours”

“MAN” is a generic term ---signifying his identification with us as people---and not angels.

We don’t know anything about his home life---he just suddenly appears on the pages of Scripture.

We can look at a few insights from the meaning of his name

This reveals something of his parental background

“Elijah” My God is Jehovah or God is my strength

The country was filled with Apostasy and the parents wanting to give a witness that they trusted in God

We don’t know his age, but there definitely was a period of preparation for such a life to BE LIVED FOR GOD

Remember waiting time is not wasted for anyone---God always has a purpose for the experiences of life.

This time was the worst time in the history of Israel

All the kings of Elijah’s day were CORRUPT AND SINFUL.

The 6 preceding Ahab were evil and all led Israel into war

Then followed Elah a drunkard.

Then Zimri a murderer.

Then Omri who outripped the wickedness of his predecessors

These men likewise led Israel into war. They represented 62 years and 7 days of fearful administration

Then came Ahab---22 years of terrible rule and wickedness

He is known in Israel’s history as **notorious** along with his wife Jezbel.

READ I Kings 16:29-34

This introduces us to the entrance of Elijah in history.

Immediately in V-1 of chapter 17 we see four things concerning his FAITH in the midst of such a terrible situation

1. ***Elijah believed in the LIVING GOD.***
 - A. no thought in his mind that God was dead
 - B. he believed in a God of miracles, a God who was alive to perform the miracles

2. ***Elijah believed in the FAITHFUL GOD.***
 - A. The Lord-Jehovah is alive
 - B. Jehovah speaks of a covenant keeping God
 - C. one who is faithful to His Word.

3. ***Elijah believed in an IMMANENT GOD.***
 - A. **“before whom I stand”**
 - B. the thought here is that Elijah actually stood in His presence
 - C. his God was not far away---but very near
 - D. he was ready--and at His disposal
 - E. he lived in the very presence of the almighty
 - F. it is more than just talk---but one’s life that ***gives the real evidence*** or our walking with God

4. ***Elijah believed in a POWERFUL GOD.***
 - A. Elijah knew what He said would happen
 - B. God announced a drought through His prophet
 - C. apostasy will always bring God’s judgment
 - D. having made this declaration to Ahab---Elijah is provided with further command from the Lord
 - E. his whole life ***centered around heeding the messages*** he received from God

Oh! That we listened that well. Notice now the further words of God to the Prophet:

I. ***HE HEARD A VOICE.*** (17:2-3)

Elijah had a special revelation from the Lord (v-2)

The phrase is used 3000 times in the O.T.

Each time it is connected to special revelation

The fact that this “WORD” came from “the Lord” points to the verbal inspiration

3 verbs specifically point to the message Elijah heard:

A. ***A Commission:***

1. “go away” “get thee” KJ
2. It is imperative --means walk or go forth
3. Nothing mysterious about this injunction from the Lord.

B. A Direction:

1. “turn eastward” “turn thee” KJ
2. This verb has a reflexive force to it meaning “TURNING THYSELF”
3. The human will must be submitted to the Holy Spirit
4. “eastward” means **what is before --precise direction for Elijah.**

C. An Instruction:

1. “hide yourself”
2. The passive form of the verb suggests the idea that the entire action is divine.
3. We might better translate it “BE HID”
4. If Elijah would attend the first two matters given
5. God would attend to this factor
6. What does that say to us? **you see submission to the will of God brings the performance by almighty God.**
7. God wanted the Prophet alone
8. It is interesting to note---that after this time alone “silent time” he was given new instructions (18:1)
9. He is even given the place to go “Cherith” a wady or torrent bed

He heard a voice:

II. HE RECEIVED A PROMISE. (17:4)

God never asks His children to move out in obedience to His Word without giving them a promise.

His commands are for our enablement

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!**

What a warning to us to leave our futures and the present with Him.

Notice the parts of the promise:

A. Its Certainty:

1. “it shall be” v-4
2. One never need doubt God’s Word

3. His **“shalls”** are a virtual actuality
4. His delays are not to be interpreted as His failure to function--all is in His plan

B. *It's Sufficiency:*

1. **“you shall drink”**
2. This is a miracle----there was no water ---17:1
3. This was a desolate place
4. But Elijah would drink
5. **“feed”** means to **measure** and is used of **containing God** (II Chron. 6:18)
6. But here it means to **nourish and sustain.**

C. *Its Conditionality:*

1. **“there”**
2. In the Hebrew this is only a 3 letter word
3. But it shows the **only place** where the **promise** is valid
4. You see---*the will of God is serious business*
5. Being in the fight place is vitally important
6. **If** you are where God wants you to be---you can **SURELY** count on His **Adequate promises**

III. *HE SHOWED OBEDIENCE.* 17:5

“obedience” ---is the family word of the children of God
 This is of greatest importance to Him---
 3 verbs describe Elijah's obedience to God's Word

A. *“he went”*

1. **“so”** is a simple connective word in Hebrew
2. It carries on the story and is part of the sequence of events
3. It was just *natural for Elijah to pursue the will of God*
4. He was told to go and he went.
5. Is it true of us?

B. *“he did”*

1. This is the verb for **“do or make”**
2. It expresses the complete and unabashed obedience of the prophet
3. Everything was done according to the Word of God
4. He operated by God's Word which was his standard
5. WHAT IS OUR STANDARD OF OPERATION?

C. *“he went and lived”*

1. There were no options
2. He was told specifically where to go and he went and settled down
3. This what we need today---a **willingness to perform the full will of God.**
4. No matter what it may be.

IV. **HE ENJOYED THE SUPPLY.** 17:6

The record completes the testimony of God's faithfulness

It is a statement to the trustworthiness of the WORD OF GOD!

Notice the thoughts of his supply:

A. **Its Source:** v-4

1. Shows that it was God who made the promise to supply

B. **Its Method:**

1. All was a miracle ---water from a brook in a drought
2. Food from unclean birds is totally unnatural
3. You see "ravens" normally neglect their own young
4. Whatever God has made He can use.

C. **Its Regularity:**

1. Bread and meat every morning and evening
2. Remember the brook never ran dry---until new directions came

Conclusion:

The experiences of Elijah **moved right on** until God's **purpose** had been accomplished for him at Cherith

READ v-7 "after a while" literally "**at the end of the days**"

Or today---"**when God's purposes had been fulfilled**"

then the brook dried up ----then God's cargo planes stopped delivering.

Now, in the very place of God's appointment, an issue was raised:

NOW WHAT IS THE WILL OF GOD?

1. God wanted Elijah to move
2. God wanted Elijah to find his all in Him

Again he is called to heed the Word of God

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?

Are you in the right place---being in the right place is being in God's will---

And being obedient to His word.

Are you in the right place spiritually to be able to hear God.