

# The Book Of 1 Kings

Wednesday Noon Bible Study  
Good Shepherd Baptist Church  
Pastor Henry Wallace

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## Lesson 51 - The Times of Testing

In this life we will go through many tests. What can we learn from all the tests that are faced here in this chapter alone?

This study in the life and ministry of this prophet of God named Elijah will teach us much about the Tests of Life.

- The city **Zarephath** means "refining". Gold and other precious metal were subject to fire. The fire would cause all the impurities to rise to the surface so it could be removed.
- The LORD is certainly putting HIS servant Elijah through the furnace.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Point The Dry Brook (1 Kings 17:7...the brook dried up...)

- What's happening here?
- *Lord you led me to this brook; I mean, what's going on here.*
- Have I sinned? Am I out of your will?
- **NO!** It simply means the LORD has another place for you to go and a reminder that you are to trust HIS WORD and not natural things like a brook or fate.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Point The Depleted Bread (1 Kings 17:13...make me thereof a little cake first...)

- Some of the greatest opportunities to honor God are in those times when we are being tested.
- **Elijah does two things that honored the LORD:**
- **1<sup>st</sup>** Elijah taught this widow that the LORD must be **first** in her life.
- **2<sup>ndly</sup>** Elijah taught this widow that she must trust the promises of God (**v. 14**)

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Point The Dead Boy (1 Kings 17:17-24)

- You see saints, the dry brook was Elijah's test
- The dead boy was the widow's test.
- It is unfortunate that the widow's faith failed. Note **verse 18**
- The woman had a guilty conscience and immediately concluded that God was punishing her for her sin by killing her son.
- What sin she was referring to is not stated.
- By the way, this is the common reaction among many people who do not know God's ways well.

#### 4<sup>th</sup> Point The Delivered Boy (1 Kings 17:19-24)

- I couldn't help but notice the symbolic pictures here in these verses
- **First - The matter** (in this case it is a boy); **is surrendered to someone else.**

The mother surrendered her son to the Man of God.

- **Second - The matter** (the boy); **is taken upward.**

Is that not where we should take matters too?

You see, many homes in Palestine at that time had guest rooms built on their roofs.

**Third - The matter** (boy); **is brought before the LORD in prayer**

In Elijah's prayer he expressed:

- A) His compassion for the woman who, in addition to the trials of the famine, now also had to bear this tragedy.
- B) In a demonstration of his heartfelt concern, Elijah would stretch himself out over the body of this boy. By Elijah doing this three times he is demonstrating the truth that one should be persistent in prayer.
- C) This is the first recorded instance in Scripture of restoration to life of one who had died.

**What an awesome truth: (1 Kings 17: 23-24).**

A dead body is taken up to the Master in prayer

A living boy is taken down to the mother in praise

A rejected Son is lifted up to die; three days later,

A resurrected Savior came out alive

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