

# CHOOSING THE *Extraordinary* LIFE

ELIJAH'S 7 SECRETS FOR  
SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

WAITING TIME ISN'T WASTED TIME

1 KINGS 17:2-24

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**Introduction:** Last time we began looking at God's third "secret" for a significant life: "Waiting on God's Timing."

### 3 Benefits of Waiting

- (1) Waiting reminds us of our **need** for God.
- (2) Waiting allows us to recharge our **physical, emotional,** and **spiritual** batteries.
- (3) Waiting prepares us for a greater **mission**.

1 Kings 17:1 "Now Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the settlers of Gilead, said to Ahab, 'As the LORD, the God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, surely there shall be neither dew nor rain these years, except by my word.'"

1 Kings 17:2-6 <sup>2</sup> "And the word of the LORD came to him, saying, <sup>3</sup> 'Go away from here and turn eastward, and hide yourself by the brook Cherith, which is east of the Jordan. <sup>4</sup> And it shall be that you shall drink of the brook, and I have commanded the ravens to provide for you there.' <sup>5</sup> So he went and did according to the word of the LORD, for he went and lived by the brook Cherith, which is east of the Jordan. <sup>6</sup> And the ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning and bread and meat in the evening, and he would drink from the brook."

#### I. **Cherith: The Place of Testing** (1 Kings 17:2-7)

##### A. **Cherith Teaches Us to Walk with God Daily**

Matthew 6:34 "Do not be anxious for tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."

##### B. **Cherith Teaches Us to Obey God Completely**

**C. Cherith Teaches Us to Trust God Absolutely**

1 Kings 17:4 “It shall be that you shall drink of the brook, and I have commanded the ravens to provide for you there.”

Proverbs 3:5-6 <sup>5</sup> “Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding, <sup>6</sup> in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.”

1 Kings 17:7 “And it happened after a while, that the brook dried up, because there was no rain in the land.”

**II. Zarephath: The Place Of Refining** (1 Kings 17:8-24)

**A. Zarephath Refines Our Humility**

1 Kings 17:9 “Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and stay there; behold, I have commanded a widow there to provide for you.”

Luke 4:25-26 <sup>25</sup> “I say to you in truth, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the sky was shut up for three years and six months, when a great famine came over all the land; <sup>26</sup> and yet Elijah was sent to none of them, but only to Zarephath, in the land of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow.”

**B. Zarephath Refines Our Contentment**

1 Kings 17:10-11 <sup>10</sup> “So he arose and went to Zarephath, and when he came to the gate of the city, behold, a widow was there gathering sticks; and he called to her and said, ‘Please get me a little water in a jar, that I may drink.’ <sup>11</sup> And as she was going to get it, he called to her and said, ‘Please bring me a piece of bread in your hand.’”

1 Kings 17:12 “But she said, ‘As the LORD your God lives, I have no bread, only a handful of flour in the bowl and a little oil in the jar; and behold, I am gathering a few sticks that I may go in and prepare for me and my son, that we may eat it and die.’”

1 Kings 17:13-14 <sup>13</sup> “Then Elijah said to her, ‘Do not fear; go, do as you have said, but make me a little bread cake from it first, and bring it out to me, and afterward you may make one for yourself and for your son.’ <sup>14</sup> For thus says the LORD God of Israel, ‘The bowl of flour shall not be exhausted, nor shall the jar of oil be empty, until the day that the LORD sends rain on the face of the earth.’”

1 Kings 17:15-16 <sup>15</sup> “So she went and did according to the word of Elijah, and she and he and her household ate for many days. <sup>16</sup> The bowl of flour was not exhausted nor did the jar of oil become empty, according to the word of the LORD which he spoke through Elijah.”

### C. Zarephath Refines Our Gentleness

1 Kings 17:18 “So she said to Elijah, ‘What do I have to do with you, O man of God? You have come to me to bring my iniquity to remembrance, and to put my son to death!’”

1 Kings 17:19 “And he said to her, ‘Give me your son.’ Then he took him from her bosom and carried him up to the upper room where he was living, and laid him on his own bed.”

1 Kings 17:20 “And he called to the LORD and said, ‘O LORD my God, hast Thou also brought calamity to the widow with whom I am staying, by causing her son to die?’”

1 Kings 17:21-22 <sup>21</sup> “Then he stretched himself upon the child three times, and called to the LORD, and said, ‘O Lord my God, I pray Thee, let this child’s life return to him.’ <sup>22</sup> And the LORD heard the voice of Elijah, and the life of the child returned to him and he revived.”

1 Kings 17:24 “Then the woman said to Elijah, ‘Now I know that you are a man of God and that the word of the LORD in your mouth is truth.’”

Conclusion