

VV STUDY NOTES: 28th JAN 2023

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HOSPITALITY: A Refugee and a Widow 1 Kings 17

The story of Elijah and the Widow of Zarephath is a short insight into the experience of the Prophet Elijah. I would like us to broaden the scope of our study of hospitality today and look at it from the different perspectives, and at the same time understand more about the Prophets.

1 Kings 12 onwards provides an outline on the events that took place after the death of Solomon and the splitting the tribes of Israel. Judah and Benjamin became JUDAEA, and the 10 Tribes were ISRAEL which of course included Samaria which had featured prominently in our study of the life of Jesus.

Both kingdoms went through significant spiritual rebellion.

PLENTY OF SCOPE FOR DISCUSSION

1 Kings 13:1-32 tells the story of a prophet from JUDAH sent by God to King Jeroboam in Israel.

- Man of God curses Israel and its altar at the command of God.
- Jeroboam tried to kill the prophet.... And his hand shrivelled up.... Man of God restores hand.
(v 7-10) Hospitality offered & refused?
- (v 11-19) A prophet lies to the Man of God; offers him hospitality and he accepts.
- (v 20 -32) Both prophets taught bitter lessons.

We have already seen in our study of the Life of Jesus that he was often offered hospitality tinged with evil intent. History is replete with acts of treachery in the disguise of hospitality.

What lessons can be learned from the story above?

Is a prophet always a prophet?

ELIJAH THE PROPHET

The incident of the Widow of Zarephath is best seen in the light of the whole story.

1 Kings 14 -16: records the continued spiritual rebellion of both Judah and Israel. Rampant idolatry proliferated everywhere. Ahab becomes king of Israel and marries Jezebel. They both set out to totally eradicate the worship of God and to kill the Lord's Prophets.

This mission is so intense that ELIJAH does not know that he is not alone!

1 Kings 17:1-24

- (v 1) Elijah throws down the gauntlet.
- (v 2-6) Water in the Ravine The Lord provides the hospitality through the Ravens.
- 1 Kings 18:1-46
Jesus refers to this incident and to the cleansing from leprosy of Naaman the Syrian when he refused to perform miracles in his hometown of Nazareth.

Where was Zarephath?

Elijah was told a widow had been directed to help him. How specific was that?

What does this tell us about Elijah and the Widow?

Does this remind you of other stories in the Bible?

Did the Son die?

Elijah has already promised the Widow that the supplies would be there till his task is done and the RAIN RETURNS, and the famine gone.

1 Kings 18:1-46 (CALL TO CARMEL)

- (v 1-15) ## What does the story of Obadiah tell us?
- (v 16-40) MT CARMEL... ## (v22) why did Elijah think he was the only prophet left?
did the prophets of BAAL and ASHERAH deserve death?
(v 41-46) The sound of rain!

1 Kings 19:1-18 (FLIGHT TO HOREB)

- From the Mountain Top to the Cave of Despair.
- The Lord provides the hospitality... once again.
What lessons are here for us today?