



King Ahab, the king of Israel, was an evil man. He did more things to make the Lord angry than all the kings that were before him. King Ahab was an idol worshiper. He worshiped several idols.

Psalm 115:1-7 tells us about idols in the Bible times. It says they were made by men. There were all kinds of idols. They were made of gold, silver, or wood. The idols had mouths, but they did not talk. They had eyes, but they could not see. They had ears, and noses, but they could not hear or smell. If they had hands or feet, they could not use them to feel with or to walk around. They were not alive; the true God is!

King Ahab committed yet more evil by marrying a woman named Jezebel. She was a very wicked person too. She worshiped the idol Baal. Baal was the farm god and the storm god. He, supposedly, controlled the increase of the family, the field, the flocks, and the herds. His voice was supposed to be heard in the thunder of a storm when it rained—and rain was very important to the growth of the crops.

Soon Queen Jezebel had King Ahab worshiping Baal too. King Ahab built an altar to Baal and made a grove for idol worship. They encouraged the people of the land to worship Baal! Oh, they were wicked!

In King Ahab's time there was a man who truly loved God. He was Elijah, the prophet. Elijah saw all the wickedness that King Ahab had brought on the land. God told Elijah that He would not send any dew or rain upon the earth until Elijah said. Elijah went to the king and told him as sure as God was alive, there would be no more rain or dew for *several years* until he said so! (The whole time that it actually did not rain was three years.)

King Ahab was really mad. He did not like what Elijah had said! No doubt, he thought Baal could control the weather. And King Ahab did know that a famine would come on the land if there was no rain.

Ahab wanted to kill Elijah. God knew that. He told Elijah to hide by the brook called Cherith. Elijah drank

# Church of God Sunday School

## GOD PROVIDES FOR ELIJAH

1 Kings 16:30-17:16

water from the brook, and God commanded birds called ravens to bring Elijah bread and meat in the morning and bread and meat in the evening.

Ravens are like crows, only larger. Ravens are greedy too. But when God commanded those greedy birds to carry bread and meat to Elijah, they did not eat any of the food! They carried it straight to Elijah, morning and evening!

When there was no rain after a long time, the brook finally dried up. Then God told Elijah to go to the city of Zarephath (Sarepta, in Luke 4:26). A certain poor widow woman—her husband had died—lived there with her son. She would take care of Elijah. So Elijah obeyed God and went to Zarephath. At the gate of the city, Elijah saw a woman gathering sticks, to make a fire.

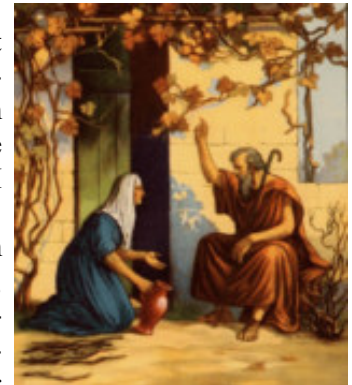
God revealed to him that she was the woman. Elijah said to her, "Fetch me, I pray thee, a little water in a vessel, that I may drink."

The poor woman turned to get the water, then Elijah said he wanted a little bread too. Water she still had, but her meal and oil to make bread were about gone. She said,

". . . I have not a cake, but an handful of meal in a barrel, and a little oil in a cruse: and, behold, I am gathering two sticks, that I may go in and dress it [prepare it] for me and my son, that we may eat it and die."

She must have been afraid to do as Elijah wanted because Elijah said to her: "Fear not; go and do as thou hast said: but make me thereof a little cake [a small loaf of bread] first . . . and after make for thee and for thy son. For thus saith the LORD God of Israel, The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that the LORD sendeth rain upon the earth."

The woman went inside the house to make the bread for Elijah. She might have wondered if there



really would be enough meal and oil for her son and herself later—but she made the little loaf of bread for Elijah anyway. *She was pleasantly surprised when she went back to the meal barrel!* There really was enough meal to use for her and her son! The oil cruse was not empty either!

And every time they needed to eat, there was always enough meal in the barrel and oil in the cruse to supply food for all three: the woman, her son, and Elijah. The Bible says there was always meal in the barrel and oil in the cruse until it rained again, and it did not rain for sometime yet. But God provided food for Elijah and food for the widow woman and her

son—even though they had almost nothing when Elijah came to them!

Was Elijah being selfish when he asked the woman to fix him some food first? Elijah represented God and His will. Christians are to put God's will first in their lives, before their own desires, because they love God. A song that we sing says: "Put Jesus first in all that you do. Put Jesus first; He'll take care of you." God will supply the Christians' needs, when they ask Him. Elijah was teaching the widow woman the lesson about putting Jesus first. God rewarded her for her obedience to Elijah.

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**MEMORY VERSE:**

*"The barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail, according to the word of the LORD."  
—1 Kings 17:16*

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What did God send to help Elijah?



Unscramble the letters to name the pictures from the story



**K B R O O**

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**A N R E V**

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**D I O L**

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**A D R E B**

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**A N R I**

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# The Ravens Feed Elijah