

## *Elijah and Elisha*

#2, on the run! – I Kings 17:4-16

Elijah's picture was probably not on every post office wall, but no doubt, he was the "most wanted" run away in Israel. "Go away from here . . ."

Elijah had been obedient to the Lord's first command. He relayed to Ahab, the words that God told him to speak. Now God's telling him to run for his life. . . . To the brook Cherith? Oh Lord, please! That's where they'll look for me first!

4 "It shall be that you will drink of the brook, and I have commanded the ravens (please see appendix) to provide for you there."

5 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.

[1.] v:4, commanded the ravens, Where were the ravens commanded to take the food?

[2.] v:4 again, commanded the ravens, Since if commanded, a raven obeys against its natural instinct, why couldn't a believer also labor, in a spiritual gift, that was not "their thing"?

[3.] How far is the brook Cherith from Elijah's home town (map, pg#3)?

[4.] v:5, did according to the word of the Lord, Since Elijah obeyed, what could he, with out a doubt, expect to happen?

[5.] question [4.], If we, as Christians, were drinking from a brook and being fed by ravens, why would Matt 6:25-33 be easier for us to depend upon?

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6 The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning and bread and meat in the evening, and he would drink from the brook. 7 It happened after a while that the brook dried up, because there was no rain in the land.

8 Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying,  
9 "Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and stay there; behold, I have commanded a widow there to provide for you."

[6.] v:6-7, the brook dried up, Let's see now, he was completely obedient and now enjoying good water and "meals on wings". What could the Lord's next plan?

[7.] v:6-7 again, the brook dried up, Pretend we Christians were Elijah. Would you rather stay right there or look to moving on?

[8.] Something to think about. The Bible teaches that all believers "are not their own" (I Cor 6:20). whose life plan are we to follow, our own or the Lord's?

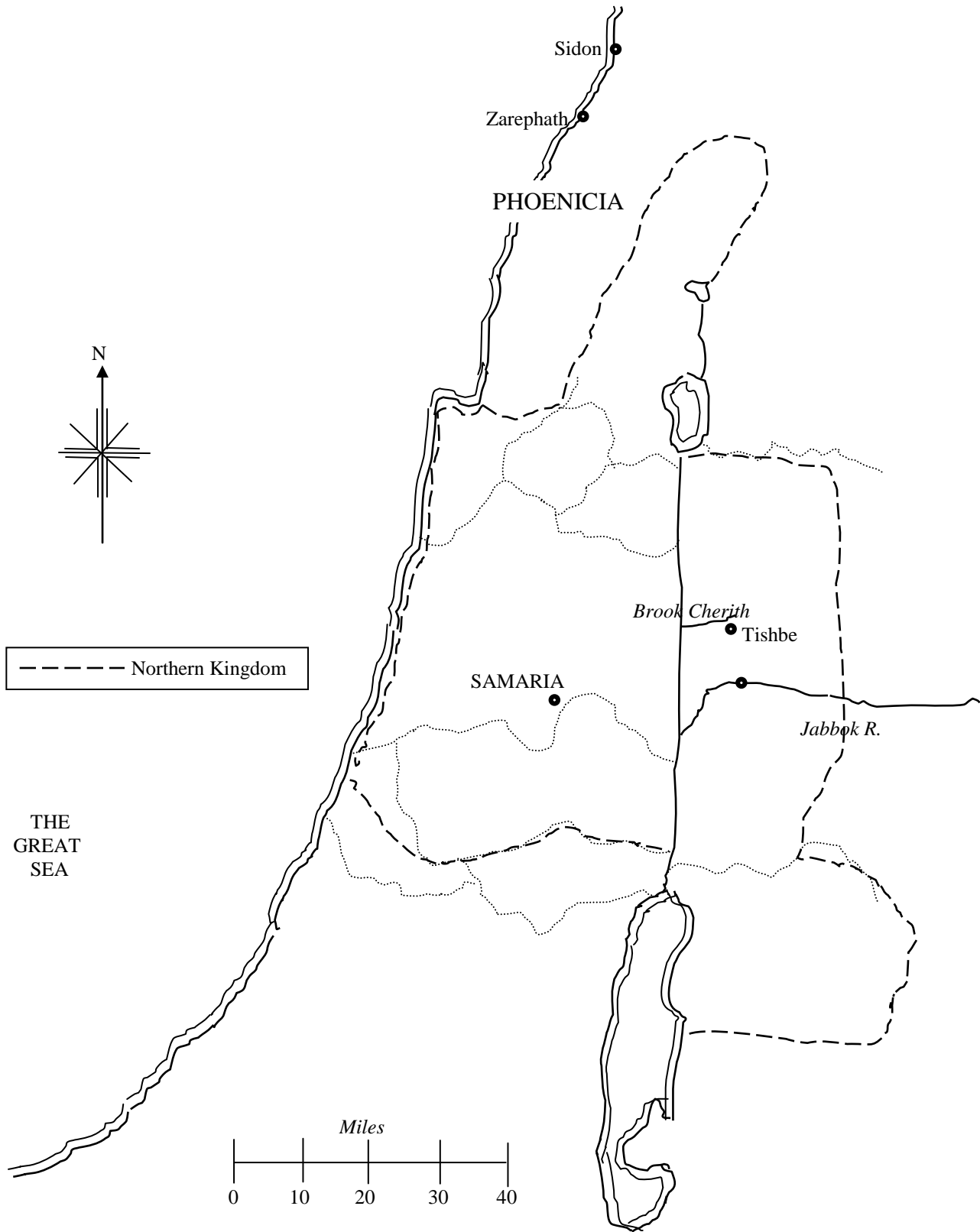
[9.] v:8-9, go to Zarephath, About how far away was this? (map pg 3)

[10.] question [9.] Zarephath, From what we have learned so far, what would you expect this place to be like?

[11.] v:8-9 again, I have commanded a widow, Why would Elijah expect the widow to, without question, feed him?

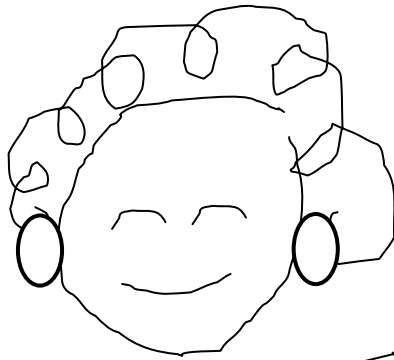
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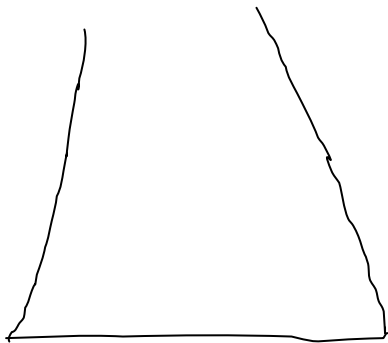


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Has anyone seen  
Elijah the Tishbite?



10 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." 11 As she was going to get it, he called to her and said, "Please bring me a piece of bread in your hand." 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."

[12.] v:8-9 again, commanded a widow, If you were the widow, how would your life feel different now that you were commanded to provide for some stranger?

[13.] v:8-9 again, Zarephath, Looking at the map (pg 3), what would be the safest route you travel to get there?

[14.] still v:8-9, In sending Elijah to Zarephath the Lord was teaching Elijah:

- a) how to read a map
- b) international diplomacy
- c) about God's power

[15.] v:8-9 again, Sidon, From these lessons, who do we know that came from here?

[16.] v:10-12, As the Lord your God lives, How did Elijah know that the widow knew of him even though Elijah couldn't identify the widow?

[17.] v:10-12 again, that we may eat it and die, What did the widow say that revealed her circumstance to Elijah?

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13 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. 14 "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.'"

15 So she went and did according to the word of Elijah, and she and he and her household ate for many days. 16 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.

[18.] v:10-12 again, that we may eat it and die, Why might Elijah conclude that he she was not the person the Lord commanded to feed him?

[19.] v:13-14, Do not fear, Why did the widow have reason to be afraid?

[20.] v:13-14 again, , For thus says the Lord God of Israel, What did Elijah promise the widow?

[21.] v:15-16, she went and did, Had she not exercised faith, what do you think would have happened to the widow?

### Appendix I

*Ravens*, all-black creatures — dual and contradictory images — birds of both life and death.

“Long recognized as one of the most intelligent birds, the raven also has a less than savory image throughout history as a scavenger that does not discriminate between humans and animals. Ingenious and versatile, ravens are members of the crow family, which includes jays and magpies. They are found everywhere in the northern hemisphere and adapt to very different terrain, from deserts to mountains — a feat requiring high intelligence.

They learn to find food even in the harshest conditions, such as the dead of winter in Yellowstone National Park. As scavengers, ravens know how and when to take advantage of other animals to help them cadge a meal they couldn't otherwise reach. In Yellowstone, bison that don't survive the harsh winter attract coyotes, whose sharp teeth and strong jaws rip open the tough, frozen hides — making the meat accessible to watchful ravens. They also have been seen following wild wolf packs to a kill; some stories even have ravens flying ahead of the wolves to lead them to prey.”

NATURE, PBS

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**NOTES**