

Elijah – A Man Like Us?

Jas. 5:16-18



Jas. 5:16 Confess *your* faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. **The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.**

17 **Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly** that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months.

18 And **he prayed again**, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit.

The last several weeks we have been focusing on the subject of prayer. This morning we will begin a series of messages about a man of prayer, Elijah, that James 5:17 states, "...was a man subject to like passions as we are...".

We have a tendency to look at a person like Elijah as though he is in a different spiritual class than we are, yet the Bible indicates that he was like you and me. The Greek word used here is as follows:

Original Word: ὁμοιοπαθής

Transliteration: homoiopathés

Definition: of like feelings or affections

Usage: of like feelings, having similar passions and feelings, of like infirmities. (**like passions**) <https://biblehub.com/greek/3663.htm>

Acts 14:15 And saying, Sirs, why do ye these things? **We also are men of like passions with you**, and preach unto you that ye should turn from these vanities unto the living God, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein:

In James 5:16b, the Bible makes a strong declaration – “...**The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.**” To teach us the power of prayer and its availability to us, the example of Elijah is given that “he prayed earnestly,” encouraging us to have faith and confidence when we pray.

Jas. 5:17 “**Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are...**”

This morning, we will begin looking at Elijah where the Scriptures introduce us to him in 1 Kings 17:1:

1 Kings 17:1 And Elijah the Tishbite, *who was* of the inhabitants of Gilead, said unto Ahab, As the LORD God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word.

2 And **the word of the LORD came unto him**, saying,
3 Get thee hence, and turn thee eastward, and hide thyself by the brook Cherith, that *is* before Jordan.

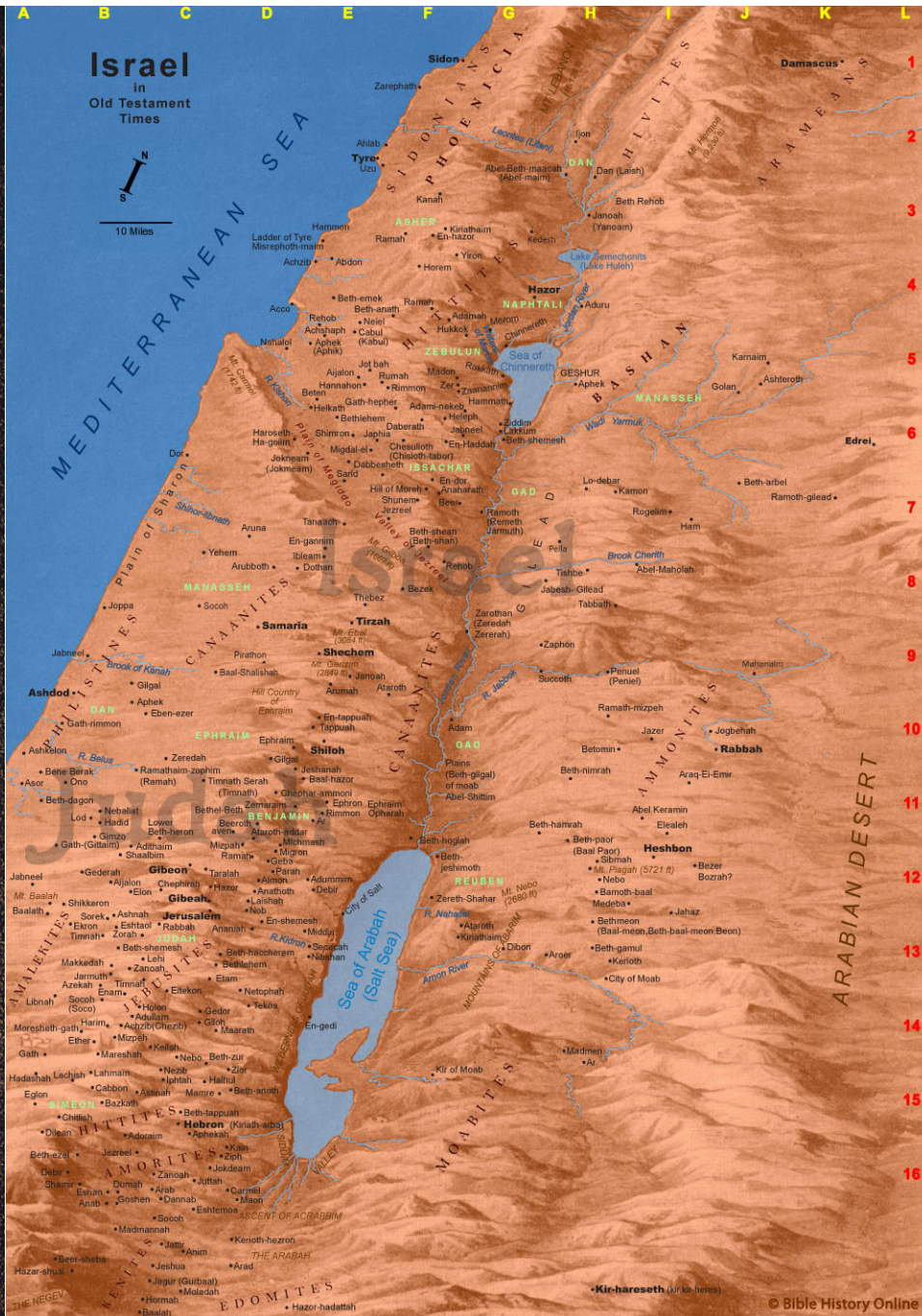
4 And it shall be, *that* thou shalt drink of the brook; and I have commanded the ravens to feed thee there.

4 And it shall be, *that* thou shalt drink of the brook; and I have commanded the ravens to feed thee there.

5 So he went and did according unto the word of the LORD: for he went and dwelt by the brook Cherith, that *is* before Jordan.

6 And the ravens brought him bread and flesh in the morning, and bread and flesh in the evening; and he drank of the brook.

7 And it came to pass after a while, that **the brook dried up**, because there had been no rain in the land.



<https://www.bible-history.com/geography/ancient-israel/israel-old-testament.html>

I. ELIJAH'S EXPERIENCE IN THE CONFRONTATION, 1 Kings 17:1

A. The Fearless Confrontation, 1 Kings 17:1

1 Kings 17:1 And Elijah the Tishbite, *who was* of the inhabitants of Gilead, said unto Ahab, As the LORD God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word.

The name "Elijah" means "**My God is Jehovah.**"

1 Kings 16:30 And **Ahab** the son of Omri **did evil in the sight of the LORD above all that were before him.**

31 And it came to pass, **as if it had been a light thing** for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that **he took to wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Zidonians, and went and served Baal, and worshipped him.**

32 And he reared up an altar for Baal in the house of Baal, which he had built in Samaria.

33 And Ahab made a grove; and **Ahab did more to provoke the LORD God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel that were before him.**

B. The Faithful Conversation, Jas. 5:17

Jas. 5:17 **Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly** that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months.

"Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God!" – William Carey

<https://www.christianitytoday.com/history/people/missionaries/william-carey.html>

Psa. 106:23 Therefore he said that he would destroy them, **had not Moses his chosen stood before him in the breach**, to turn away his wrath, lest he should destroy *them*.

Our “gap” is found in Rom. 12:1-2 =
“Good – Aceptable – Perfect” will of God.

Rom. 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye **present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.**

2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may **prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.**

- When the Lord wants us to “stand in the gap,” we need to remember...

Jas. 5:17 “**Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are...**”

- As the Lord strengthened Elijah, so can He strengthen us!

Phil. 4:13 **I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.**

II. ELIJAH'S EXPERIENCE IN CHERITH, 17:2-7 (Cherith = "cutting")

1 Kings 17:2 And **the word of the LORD came unto him**, saying,

3 Get thee hence, and turn thee eastward, and hide thyself by **the brook Cherith**, that *is* before Jordan.

4 And it shall be, *that* thou shalt drink of the brook; and I have commanded the ravens to feed thee there.

5 So he went and did according unto the word of the LORD: for he went and dwelt by the brook Cherith, that *is* before Jordan.

6 And the ravens brought him bread and flesh in the morning, and bread and flesh in the evening; and he drank of the brook.

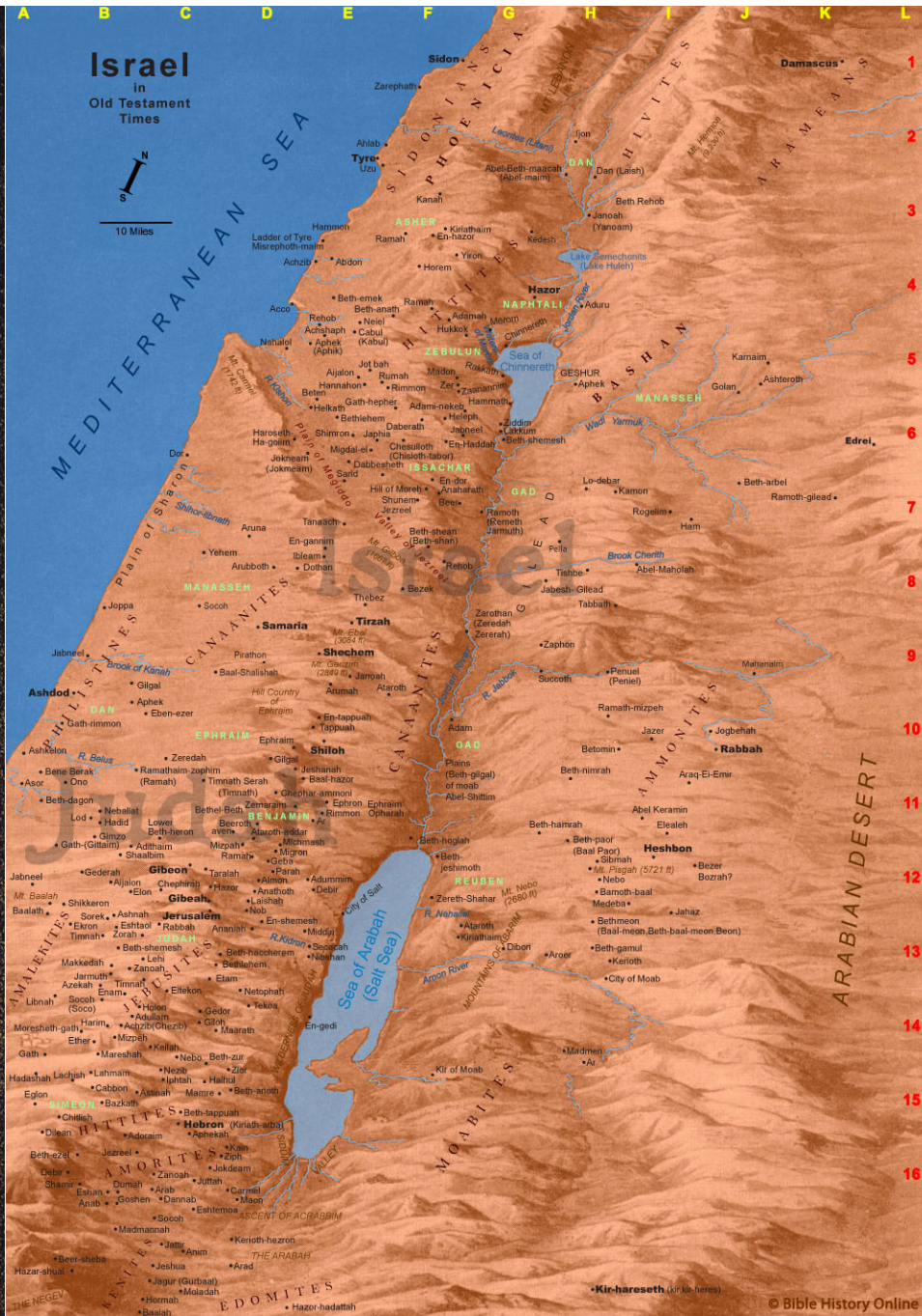
7 And it came to pass after a while, that **the brook dried up**, because there had been no rain in the land.

A. The Command, 1 Kings 17:2-4

1 Kings 17:2 And **the word of the LORD came unto him,** saying,

3 Get thee hence, and turn thee eastward, and hide thyself by **the brook Cherith**, that *is* before Jordan.

4 And it shall be, *that* thou shalt drink of the brook; and **I have commanded the ravens to feed thee there.**



<https://www.bible-history.com/geography/ancient-israel/israel-old-testament.html>

Original Word: כְּרִית

Transliteration: Kerith

Definition: a brook where Elijah was hidden = “a cutting”

<https://biblehub.com/hebrew/3747.htm>

Prov. 22:3 **A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself:** but the simple pass on, and are punished. (Prov. 27:12)

- The Lord promised, and provided for Elijah – **“THERE.”** (17:4)
- Elijah didn’t look for greener pastures – He waited patiently on the Lord.

Jas. 5:17 **“Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are...”**

B. The Commission, 1 Kings 17:5-7

1 Kings 17:5 So **he went and did according unto the word of the LORD**: for he went and dwelt by the brook Cherith, that *is* before Jordan.

6 And the ravens brought him bread and flesh in the morning, and bread and flesh in the evening; and he drank of the brook.

7 And it came to pass after a while, that **the brook dried up**, because there had been no rain in the land.

- Elijah was obedient, walking by faith as God commanded – v. 5.
- The ravens were obedient – v. 6.
- There is no mention of any discontent in Elijah's attitude.
- Perhaps Elijah was Paul's role model of encouragement:

Phil. 4:11 Not that I speak in respect of want: for **I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.**
12 I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: **every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry,** both to abound and to suffer need.

Phil. 4:19 But **my God shall supply all your need** according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Heb. 13:5 *Let your conversation be without covetousness; and **be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.***

- Remember Abraham's faith in offering up Isaac.

Gen. 22:8 And Abraham said, My son, **God will provide himself a lamb** for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together.

C. The Challenge, 1 Kings 17:7

1 Kings 17:7 And it came to pass after a while, that **the brook dried up**, because there had been no rain in the land.

“...after a while...” – slowly losing the blessing of God's provision

Job 1:21 And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: **the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.**

- Elijah suffered as a result of his own prayer!

Jas. 5:17 **“Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are...”**

Conclusion

Elijah is experiencing “life lessons” from the Lord.

- God looks for special people during difficult times to accomplish His purpose.
- God’s methods may be surprising to us, but we must be obedient...by faith.
- God deems us very important for His work, His way, for His glory.
- God wants us set aside for His training, for His glory, and for our benefit.
- God’s direction includes His provision, protection, and preparation.
- God reveals His will for our lives as we need to know it.
- God dries us the brook of His provision in order to lead us to His next step for our lives.

Heb. 13:5 *Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, **I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.***

Rom. 8:28 And **we know that all things work together for good to them that love God**, to them **who are the called according to *his* purpose.**

Isa. 49:14 But Zion said, The LORD hath forsaken me, and my Lord hath forgotten me.

15 Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, **they may forget, yet will I not forget thee.**

16 Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of *my* hands; thy walls *are* **continually before me.**