

the Tishbite

#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, Why or why don't you feel the ravens might be thinking: "Ya know, this could be a long commitment and I'm not trained to feed humans. I got a life to live and beside the wife and I are flying South for the Winter. I think I'll just stay quiet and let some other ~~poor slob~~ raven do it?"

[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 responded this way, what could he, with out a doubt, count on?

[5.] v:5 again, If we, as Christians, were drinking from a brook and being fed by ravens, why or why wouldn't 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."

Luke 4:23-28

23 And He said to them, "No doubt you will quote this proverb to Me, 'Physician, heal yourself! Whatever we heard was done at Capernaum, do here in your hometown as well.'" 24 And He said, "Truly I say to you, no prophet is welcome in his hometown. 25 "But 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; 26 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.

[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 possibly want now?

[7.] v:5-6 again, the brook dried up, Pretend we Christians were Elijah. Why might we be surprised at this?

[8.] Why or why shouldn't we, as Christians' think we are exempt from the problems of living?

[9.] question [8.] What do Christians have that the rest of the world doesn't have.

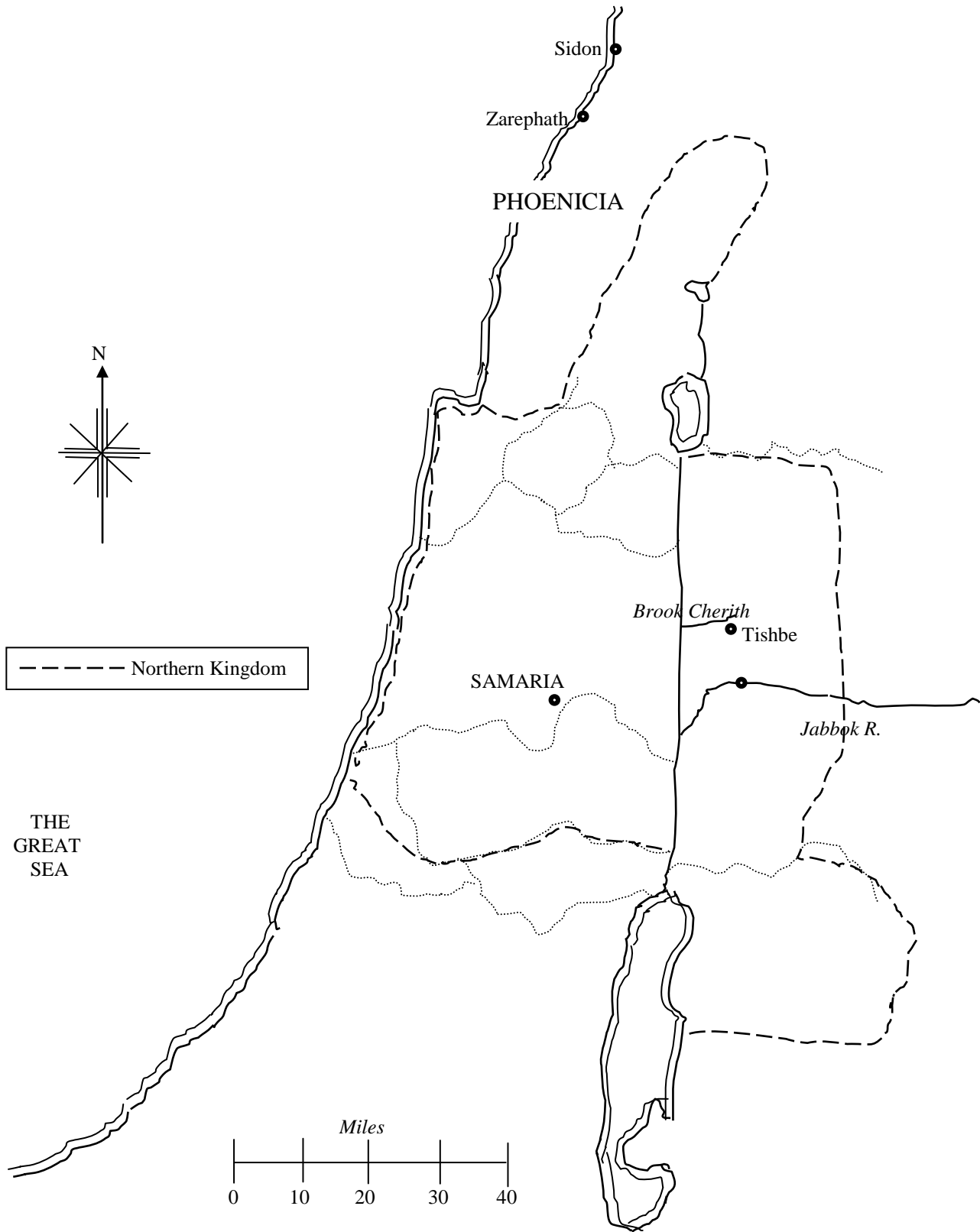
[10.] v:8-9, go to Zarephath, About how far away was this?

[11.] What would you say the "Godly level" was in Israel during the time of Elijah?

[12.] Turn to Luke 4:16-27. Looking at v:24-26, why was Elijah sent to Zarephath?

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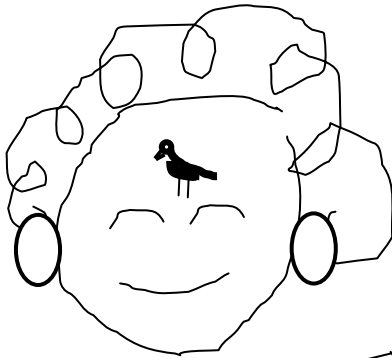


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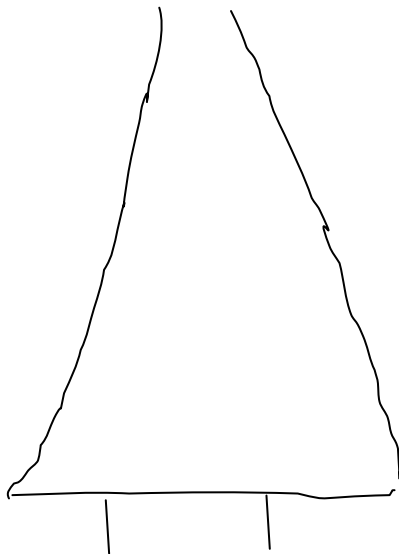
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Luke 4:28-30

28 And all the people in the synagogue were filled with rage as they heard these things; 29 and they got up and drove Him out of the city, and led Him to the brow of the hill on which their city had been built, in order to throw Him down the cliff. 30 But passing through their midst, He went His way.



Has anyone seen
Elijah the Tishbite?



[13.] Luke 4:29, to throw Him down the cliff, What would you say the “Godly level” was in Israel during the time of Christ?

[14.] Romans 10:1, What was Paul’s desire for Israel?

[15.] What would you say the “Godly level” is in Israel during our time?

[16.] What should be our desire for Israel?

Back to I Kings 17

[17.] 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?

[18.] 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 his people and others

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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."

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.

[19.] v:10, Pretend you are Elijah and you come stumbling into Zarephath, tired, hungry and thirsty. What is the best way to identify the widow?

a) ask all the women how their husbands are feeling.

b) check all the women's heels to see if they are tattooed with a tongue of a Raven.

c) submit to the Lord's leading.

d) hold a paste board sign that says "I'm the guy your supposed to care for".

[20.] v:11-12, that we may eat it and die, Remembering the time at the brook, why might Elijah conclude he was at the wrong place at the wrong time.

[21.] v:13-14, What did the Lord promise through Elijah?

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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