**Week of Oct 13, 2019**

**1 Kings 17:8-16**

**Key Verse:** “And Elijah said unto her, Fear not; go and do as thou hast said: but make me thereof a little cake first, and bring it unto me, and after make for thee and for thy son.”

(1 Kings 17:13)

**8 And the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, 9 Arise, get thee to Zarephath, which belongeth to Zidon, and dwell there: behold, I have commanded a widow woman there to sustain thee. 10 So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, the widow woman was there gathering of sticks: and he called to her, and said, Fetch me, I pray thee, a little water in a vessel, that I may drink. 11 And as she was going to fetch it, he called to her, and said, bring me, I pray thee, a morsel of bread in thine hand. 12 And she said, As the LORD thy God liveth, 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 for me and my son, that we may eat it, and die. 13 And Elijah said unto her, Fear not; go and do as thou hast said: but make me thereof a little cake first, and bring it unto me, and after making for thee and for thy son. 14 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. 15 And she went and did according to the saying of Elijah: and she, and he, and her house, did eat many days. 16 And the barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake by Elijah.**

**Understanding the Scriptures**

In 1 Kings 17 we are introduced to Elijah the prophet, whose name means “My God is the Lord.” Elijah pronounced a three-year drought on the land of Israel, which God honored because Ahab served the pagan god Baal, believing that Baal controlled the rain and food supply. After making this dramatic pronouncement, God commanded Elijah to go to the Kerith Ravine where God would feed him by special delivery from the ravens. After a while, the ravine dried up because there had been no rain. God told Elijah, by faith, to go to a window’s home in Zarephath. Elijah obeyed. Zarephath was a city near Sidon on the Phoenician coast. This was the homeland of Jezebel, God sent Elijah among the Phoenicians, the center of Baal worship to demonstrate that even in the land of Baal, God is sovereign! When Elijah reached Zarephath, he met an unnamed widow woman. Elijah asked this woman for a drink and a piece of bread. Elijah made a promise to this woman that she would have enough food to eat until the drought was over. Even though she thought it would be her last meal, this woman agreed to make a meal for Elijah first, and then for here and her son. It was because of the is woman’s faith that she and her entire household were blessed. A continuing amount of oil and flour was supplied for this woman in the midst of the drought. The widow believed the word of the Lord that was spoken by Elijah. It took a simple act of faith to produce a miracle. Elijah encountered this woman again when her son died unexpectedly. Elijah was staying in an upper room in this woman’s house and she carried her son up to Elijah, who was able to restore her son back to life. This is the first recorded Bible miracle involving someone being restored back to life after having died. The two stories in this passage show Elijah’s statue as a true man of God.

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