

"Being in the Right Place, at the Right Time" or "The Divine 'There' in Elijah's Journey: Cherith and Zarephath"

Text: 1 Kings 17:1-16

The phrase "there" is a recurring theme in 1 Kings 17. It serves as a guiding principle, a geographical marker, and a spiritual instruction. The term "there" represents not merely a physical location but a space of divine operation and intervention.

"There" at Cherith

God instructs Elijah to go "there"—to the brook Cherith. This "there" is a sanctuary of divine promises, provision, providence, protection, and power; ravens bring Elijah food, and he drinks from the brook. God's word is explicit: "You will drink from the brook, and I have directed the ravens to supply you with food there" (1 Kings 17:4). The "there" is a place of preparation and provision, a space where Elijah is alone yet not abandoned, isolated but intimately in tune with God.

"There" at Zarephath

After the brook dries up, God again instructs Elijah to go "there"—this time to Zarephath, where a widow will sustain him. In Zarephath, Elijah encounters a widow in a dire situation. Yet, God says, "I have directed a widow there to supply you with food" (1 Kings 17:9, emphasis added). The "there" transforms from a place of despair to a venue for the miraculous multiplication of resources and an exhibition of divine power.

The Power of "There"

At both Cherith and Zarephath, the word "there" carries a connotation of specific divine action. In both instances, Elijah is commanded to go "there," and both times he obeys. His obedience leads him to places where God's miraculous provision is made manifest. Elijah's "there" at Cherith differs from his "there" at Zarephath, but the principle remains the same: obedience to being "there" leads to divine fulfillment, provision, providence, protection, and wonders.

The Christological Insight: Being "In Christ"

The recurring word "there" in 1 Kings 17 is more than just a geographical marker; it's a divine calling. Whether Elijah was at Cherith or Zarephath, "there" was a space of divine operation. This principle finds its ultimate expression in the New Testament concept of being "in Christ."

Paul speaks in Ephesians 2:6 about us being seated with Christ in heavenly places—"And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus." Just as Elijah was in the right "there," we too are positioned "in Christ," the ultimate "there," where we find spiritual blessings and divine provision.

In Christ, we are situated in a realm of divine favor, spiritual empowerment, and endless possibilities. We don't have to go to a geographical location to experience God's provision

and protection. Our position "in Christ" grants us access to every spiritual blessing (Ephesians 1:3).

The parallels between Elijah's "there" and our position "in Christ" are not accidental but providential. In both cases, the principle is the same: obedience and faith lead us to divine provision and miracles. Elijah had to be obedient to go "there," just as we must be obedient to remain "in Christ" through faith, prayer, and devotion.

The concept of being "there," as exemplified by Elijah, foreshadows the more profound spiritual reality of being "in Christ." May we heed God's call to our specific "there," while continually abiding in our ultimate position "in Christ," where all spiritual blessings and divine provisions are found.

Here are some questions for reflection:

1. Are you in alignment with God's calling for your "there"?
2. Have you reached your "there," or are you still wandering?
3. What is your spiritual posture when your "there" appears barren and desolate?
4. How do you respond when your "there" requires sacrificial obedience?
5. Is your faith steadfast when your "there" is a place of uncertainty and unanswered questions?
6. What transformations are you experiencing in your current "there"?
7. Are you open to divine interruptions that could shift your "there"?
8. How do you sustain hope when your "there" is characterized by trials and tribulations?
9. Have you recognized the divine provisions in your "there," or are you focused solely on its limitations?
10. How are you stewarding the blessings and responsibilities in your present "there"?

These questions aim to inspire introspection and spiritual recalibration, enabling a deeper understanding of one's position in both their "there" and "in Christ."

May we also be attuned to the voice of God, obediently following His direction to our appointed "there," and expecting the unfolding of His miraculous plans in those divinely orchestrated "there".

Amen.