

Message Notes

“Step Aside”

1 Kings 17:3-7

August 28, 2016

A Creative Plot

- ◆ *In Ben Hur: The Tale of the Christ*

- ◆ **The Book**

- “The most influential Christian book of the 19th century.”

- ◆ **The Blockbuster (Movie Trailer)**

- “Finding great stories is the key factor (for our films). And for us as Christians, it’s about finding great stories where we can share the message of Jesus. . . . We want to encourage Christian audiences by making movies with the message of the Gospel, but Christians must show up at the theaters.” (Mark Burnett)

- ◆ *In Elijah: A Tale of Commitment*

- ◆ **His Abrupt Arrival**

- And Elijah the Tishbite, of the inhabitants of Gilead, said to Ahab, “As the LORD God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, except at my word.” (1 Kings 17:1 NKJV)

- But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty. (1 Corinthians 1:27 NKJV)

- ◆ **His Awakened Alarm**

- ◆ **The Crisis of His Day . . .**

- “One does not break God’s laws. Rather, His laws break those who transgress them. It is inevitable.” (Phillip Keller)

- ◆ **. . . Is the Crisis of Ours**

- ◆ **False Freedom**

- “. . . the cultural revolution (of the 1960s) attacked traditional virtue in the name of ‘liberation’ and individual ‘self-fulfillment.’ Instead of impulse control, the queen of the virtues since the ancient Greeks, ‘if it feels good, do it’ became the highest good. All authority came under assault, all rules and laws transformed into instruments of ‘oppression.’ . . . Meanwhile, churches, once the defender of traditional virtues, have lost their authority in the public square.” (Bruce Thornton)

- ◆ **Fatal Faith**

- “A god exists who created and ordered the world and watches over life on earth; God wants people to be good, nice and fair to each other, as taught in the Bible and by most world religions; the central goal of life is to be happy and to feel good about oneself; God is not involved in my life except when I need God to solve a problem; good people go to heaven when they die.” (Kenda Dean in *Almost Christian*)

A Curious Plan

◆ God's Surprising Directive

Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "Get away from here and turn eastward, and hide by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan. And it will be *that* you shall drink from the brook, and I have commanded the ravens to feed you there."

(1 Kings 17:2-4 NKJV)

◆ God's Sovereign Delay

◆ He Led His Servants

◆ He Provided for His Saints

Yes, they spoke against God: they said, "Can God prepare a table in the wilderness?"

(Psalm 78:19 NKJV)

"Are you worried about your future? Fear not. Don't rush the river. Enjoy these days as part of God's plan for your life. Go with the flow, and soon enough God will bring you into a safe harbor. Enjoy the blessings of today and remember that everything good comes from your Father in heaven. God's delays teach us to trust Him in new ways."

(Chuck Swindoll)

◆ God's Serious Designs

◆ To Give Direction

So he went and did according to the word of the LORD, for he went and stayed by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan.

(1 Kings 17:5 NKJV)

"The key to unlocking the meaning of Elijah hiding at Cherith is to equate Elijah with the Word of God. When Elijah stood before Ahab and said there would be no dew or rain 'except at my word,' we should see the Word of God converging and coinciding with the prophet himself. From that moment, the Word of God became for all practical purposes totally embodied in and identified with the prophet."

(Robert Ellsworth)

"Behold, the days are coming," says the Lord GOD, "that I will send a famine on the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD. They shall wander from sea to sea, and from north to east; they shall run to and fro, seeking the word of the LORD, but shall not find *it*."

(Amos 8:11-12 NKJV)

◆ To Give Hope

The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning, and bread and meat in the evening; and he drank from the brook. And it happened after a while that the brook dried up, because there had been no rain in the land.

(1 Kings 17:6-7 NKJV)

◆ To Give Preparation

"For Elijah, the interval at Cherith was one of enormous implications. If he could stand the solitude, the isolation, the immobilization, the defamation and the humiliation, then he could endure almost anything. . . . No, God's ways and our ways are not the same. His methods and ours are not the same. His methods for turning out tough, triumphant people and ours are not the same."

(Phillip Keller)