

# AMITY BIBLE CHURCH

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*"To Know God and To Make Him Known"*

## SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY NOTES

— July 8, 2018 —

*Pastor Leslie Smith*

**SERIES: Praise Your Way Through**  
**SERMON: Praising God from a Dry Place**  
**TEXT: 1 Kings 17:1-16**

### **Central Message:**

When we consider the story of Elijah and the fact that the Lord told him to go and hide himself by the brook, Cherith, on the east side of the Jordan, God also promised to send ravens to feed him. My guess is that Elijah was not exactly thrilled with that promise. It's hard enough to have to hide yourself in a dry and desolate region, but it compounds the situation when you are told that you are going to be fed twice a day by unclean birds. The whole thing was unusual because ravens are not normally known for their compassionate natures. Under no circumstances would they bring food to a man, much less do it twice a day. So what should we learn from the story of Elijah and the ravens? I believe we see how far God will go to demonstrate His ability to care for his people, but even more, we see His desire to spend time with us.

In 1987, a singer by the name of Larnell Harris released a beautiful song entitled "I Miss My Time With You". The lyrics speak of a God who longs for time with His children. Scripture speaks to this fact even more eloquently.

### **Jeremiah 2:1-3**

*"The Lord gave me another message. He said, <sup>2</sup> "Go and shout this message to Jerusalem. This is what the Lord says: 'I remember how eager you were to please me as a young bride long ago, how you loved me and followed me even through*

*the barren wilderness. <sup>3</sup> In those days Israel was holy to the Lord, the first of his children. All who harmed his people were declared guilty, and disaster fell on them. I, the Lord, have spoken!”*

## **Jeremiah 2:31-32**

*“O my people, listen to the words of the Lord!*

*Have I been like a desert to Israel?*

*Have I been to them a land of darkness?*

*Why then do my people say, ‘At last we are free from God! We don’t need him anymore!’*

*<sup>32</sup> Does a young woman forget her jewelry,  
or a bride her wedding dress?*

*Yet for years on end my people have forgotten me.”*

There are times when God longs to spend time with His children, and He will go to great lengths to cause us to make time for Him in our lives. Such was the case with Elijah.

Here at Amity, we may be unintentionally fostering situations where certain stewards are too busy serving to spend time alone with God and opening the door to spiritual and emotional dryness. This happens when God decides to hide Himself temporarily.

Elijah found himself in a dry place, and God showed him that with the right focus, he could praise his way through.

**We can praise God in dry places if we know that our pain has a purpose.**  
**(1 Kings 7:1)**

*The Main Players*

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*“To Know God and To Make Him Known”*

Elijah was a virtual unknown...his name means “my God is Jehovah”. Ahab was the son of Omri, an evil king of Israel. He was a Baal worshipper and the husband of Jezebel. Baal is the Canaanite god of nature and fertility.

Elijah predicted a drought, which was a direct affront to Ahab and his god. So, why would God put Elijah in jeopardy by directing him to repudiate the king and his god, and to do it so brazenly?

There are probably a number of reasons, so let’s look at a couple of possibilities.

Maybe God wanted some “*alone time*” with Elijah and He knew that Elijah was not going to make the time on his own. God wants “*alone time*” with us so that we can get to know Him. God wants us to passionately pursue Him and His purpose. There will be times when spending time alone with God will require that He allow us to be in a dry place so we don’t forget how to praise.

**We can praise God in dry places if we know that every *plan* has to operate according to God’s divine *providence*.**

***(1 Kings 17:2-7)***

We struggle to accept the fact that God is absolutely sovereign. *Everything works according to God’s will*. We also struggle with God’s providence. God is actively involved in bringing His will to pass. That is *providence*. God providentially sent Elijah to a dry place, and He knew that the little water there would soon dry up.

**We can praise God in dry places if we know that His *provision* is more than adequate for our *predicament*.**

***(1 Kings 16:8-16)***

God wanted Elijah to learn how to praise Him in a dry place, so He sent him to get help from someone who had a greater need than he did.

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Elijah saw God meeting his needs even as he was committing himself to meeting the needs of the widow and her son. You may not dine on imported mineral water and filet mignon, but God is more than enough.