



ADVANCED TRAINING

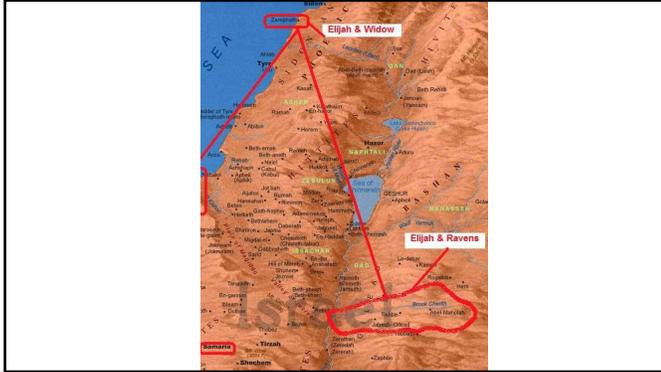
- In most professions, everyone needs a basic training. The Masters degree sharpens the focus. The Doctorate amplifies those skills. Then you specialize ...
- At Cherith, Elijah learned the foundational truth of learning to trust God, One day at a time.
- At Zarephath, he would receive a deeper and more challenging version of what he had learned at Cherith
- Both taught one lesson. Dependence on God, Obedience to God.
- Bonhoeffer said, "Only he who believes is obedient. Only he who is obedient believes."

ADVANCED TRAINING

- Today we want to look at 3 things
 - I. A Review of Cherith
 - II. The Experience of Zarephath
 - III. The Lessons of Zarephath
- The name Cherith comes from the Hebrew verb "to cut"
- At Cherith, Elijah had been cut off from many things
- He was not cut off from the Love of God
- In the Solitude, God was teaching him dependence on Him
- Now Elijah faced a new predicament. The brook dried up.

THE EXPERIENCE IN ZAREPHATH

- The name Zarephath comes from the word to refine, to melt, purge.
- James 1:2-4; Mal.3:2,3; Are we willing to pray, "Turn up the heat Lord!"
- A. God's Command
 - God knew where Elijah was and was aware of the brook and had already arranged a bed and breakfast for him
 - Zarephath was 75-100 miles away
 - Tyre – Sidon, Tribe of Dan to the North



THE EXPERIENCE IN ZAREPHATH

- The trip would have been threatening with Ahab looking for him
 - The supply was humbling
 - Sometimes humbling tasks prepare us for the greater task
- B. Elijah's Obedience – 2 tests were waiting for him
1. The test of first impressions – Mat.7:1-2
 2. The test of physical impossibilities
 - We see her meager resources
 - Her immediate plan
 - Her fatalistic attitude

THE EXPERIENCE IN ZAREPHATH

- The Lord gives His faith promise – vs.13,14
 - DO NOT FEAR!
1. He dealt with her fear - vs.13-14
 2. He tested her faith – vs13
- There was a promise and now he was asking her to put faith to her cooking. The promise hinged on obedience.
 - If you do this, I will do this.
 - Only he who believes is obedient. Only he who is obedient, believes

THE EXPERIENCE IN ZAREPHATH

- C. God's Faithfulness
- The woman did her part and God did his part.
 - God is faithful – That is the experience of Zarephath
- III. The lessons of Zarephath
- A. God's leading is often surprising
 - B. Beginning days are often the hardest – Don't quit
 - C. God's promises often hinge on obedience
 - D. God's provisions are often just enough
- Only he who believes is obedient. Only he who is obedient believes