

1 Kings 15-17

Major Plot: **While Judah's recovery from idolatry is inconsistent, Israel's path in idolatry just went from bad to worse; & the Lord would use Elijah to speak to & against Israel**

1. Historical Narrative

Scene 1: ***Judah was led by kings who were inconsistent***

- a. Abjiah continued in Rehoboam's sins & was unfaithful (unlike David) (15:1-8)
- b. Asa did right before God (like David); he removed temple prostitutes & idols (but not the pagan shrines (15:9-24)

Scene 2: ***Israel was led by kings who were from bad to worse***

- a. The succession of kings was marked by their doing evil in the sight of God & continuing in the sins of Jeroboam (15:25-16:28); Nadab (15:25-31); Baasha (15:16-22, 15:27-16:7); Elah (16:8-10); Zimri (16:11-20); Tibni (16:21-22); Omri (16:16-28)
- b. The downward path led to Ahab who was more evil than all the kings before him (16:29-34)

Scene 3: ***God called Elijah to speak to & against Israel & her king, Ahab***

- a. Elijah prophesized a severe drought & it happened as declared (17:1-2)
- b. Elijah was clearly the prophet sent by God (17:24) as can be seen by
 - how God provided for him miraculously through the ravens (17:3-11)
 - how God used him to provide the widow with a continuous supply of flour (17:12-16)
 - how God used him to raise the widow's son from the dead (17:17-23)

2. Original Audience

To the Israelites during the exile & when they return from exile, they were given glimpses of how life that is lived in faithfulness to God looked like, as could be seen during the reign of Asa in Judah (as opposed to the reign of the Israelites' kings). The life of Elijah is also a display of how God provides for & works miraculously among His people even in very adverse circumstances

3. Significance to Jesus Christ

The miraculous works of Elijah during the challenging time under the tyranny of Ahab points to the miraculous life & works of Christ, in turning us away from the tyranny of sin. The continuous supply of the flour as well as the raising of the widow's son from the dead, not only points to Jesus' feeding of the multitude (with basketsful of leftovers) & the raising of Lazarus, they also point to how Jesus is the Living Water & the Bread of Life as well as to His own resurrection from the dead.