

Truth

Elijah and the Widow of Zarephath

Foundation

Bible passage : 1 Kings 17

If you saw a miracle, would you believe and obey God? The Bible shows us many people who did see miracles but refused to believe or to obey God?

Sometimes people can tell us the truth, but we don't want to listen to what they say because we don't like what they are saying. Elijah was a prophet sent by God with a message for the people of Israel but most of the people did not like the message and they would not listen. We learn that out of a nation of several million people only 6,000 obeyed God.

Under God's judgment there was a long famine, but the Lord acted to protect Elijah and sent him to a village outside Israel called Zarephath. What happened is explained in 1 Kings chapter 17.

God's power is shown in how he prepared the widow to provide for Elijah (v9), the provision of flour and oil (v14) and later the giving of life to her dead son (v22). The woman doesn't seem to be especially moved by the provision of flour and oil, but it is the raising of her son that

"Now I know that you are a man of God, and that the word of the LORD in your mouth is truth."

Historical setting

Elijah was a prophet after the Israelite tribes had split into two kingdoms - Israel in the North and Judah in the south. He lived in the North over 900 years before Christ where all the Kings of Israel "did evil in the sight of the LORD" and most of the people followed their lead.



brings her to see the truth. The key verse in the chapter is verse 24:

And the woman said to Elijah, "Now I know that you are a man of God, and that the word of the LORD in your mouth is truth."

When everyone else thought that Elijah's message was a fake, or else just shut their ears to the truth which Elijah spoke, this foreign woman came to believe that Elijah's message was true, that he spoke the truth.

Many years later Jesus referred to this incident whilst speaking at the synagogue in his hometown of Nazareth. They were all impressed by what he said until he began to speak about Elijah. Jesus pointed out that the prophet had not been sent to a widow of

Israel but to a foreigner and as a result Luke tells us that "all in the synagogue were filled with wrath" (Luke 4.28). Sadly, they had not learned the lesson that God is not interested in our upbringing or background but whether we accept that the word of the Lord is truth and so trust Him and obey Him.



God speaks the truth and wants people to trust Him and obey Him.