

TREASURE IN JARS OF CLAY



Elijah

Elijah lived and prophesied in times that were truly dangerous for God's people. Ahab, king of the northern ten tribes, had married Jezebel, a Canaanite princess. Ahab yielded to Jezebel's strong lead as she not only promoted the worship of Baal, but also hunted down and killed the prophets of God. It is before this king of Israel that Elijah dared to appear to announce the judgment that God would send. What did God warn, through Elijah, would happen to Israel? (1 Kings 17:1) _____

According to James 5:17, how long did this last? _____

Elijah survived by God's provision through unlikely resources like ravens and non-Israelite widows until it was time for him to return before Ahab. Who did he ask to announce his arrival? (1 Kings 18) _____

Why was this man afraid of the task? _____

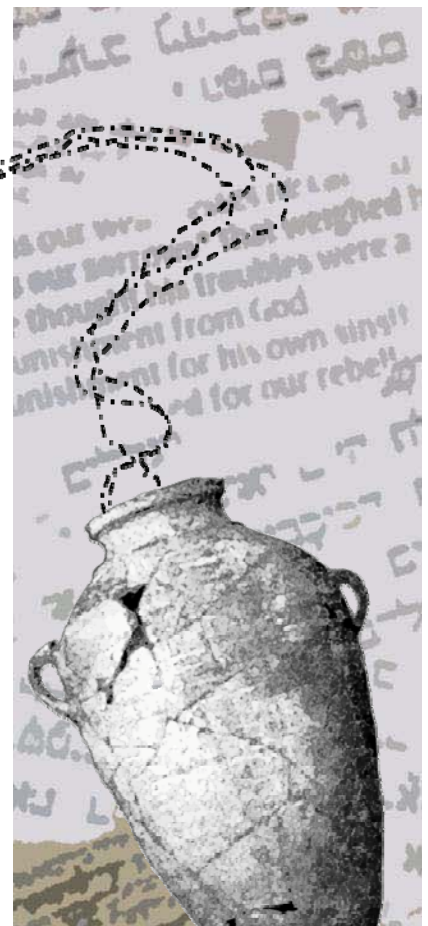
What result had the hard years of famine had on the spiritual practices of Ahab and Jezebel? _____

What challenge did Elijah present to Ahab in their second recorded encounter? _____

Who was the challenge actually for? _____

Why do you think Elijah lost courage after this bold act? _____

How was the experience of Elijah in 1 Kings 19:9-13 similar to that of Moses in Exodus 33? _____



"But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us."

2 Corinthians 4:7

READ:

- 1 Kings 17:1– 2 Kings 2:11
- 2 Chron. 21:12-15

CHRONOLOGY:

875-848 BC

New Testament Elijah

What are the final words of the Old Testament in Malachi 4:4-6? _____

How did Jesus say these words were fulfilled in Matt. 11:11-15? _____

Who was Christ Himself thought by some to be? (Matt. 16:13,14) _____

Who appeared with the transfigured Jesus in Matt. 17:2-4? _____

What did Jesus mean by His comments about Elijah in Matt. 17:10-13? _____

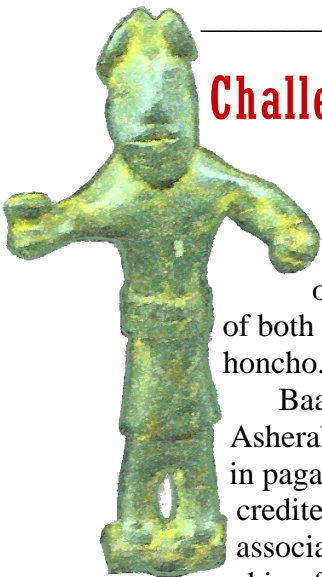
At His crucifixion, some thought Jesus was calling out to Elijah. What does Matt. 27:49 indicate that they thought Elijah might do? _____

How does Luke 1:17 compare John the Baptist and Elijah? _____

How did John the Baptist respond when asked if he was Elijah? (John 1:19-21) _____

There are many who think John the Baptist actually was Elijah. How would you argue for, and against that claim? _____

Challenging Baal on his own turf



We see Baal referred to many times in Scripture. Not only was Baal the chief male god among the Phoenicians, the word is also used in a more generic sense meaning master of a house, land-owner, etc. (Unger 131) In this way it is used as a prefix in the names of both towns and men. So, Baal means, the one in charge, top dog, head honcho. As such, it is attached to many biblical names of people and places.

Baal, the god, was the son of El, the father of gods. El's consort was Asherah, who was also the mistress of Baal. The two are frequently paired in pagan worship. Baal was the god of farm, flock, and family, and was credited with fertile increase in all three. Ensuring his success, he was also associated with Hadad, the god of the storms that brought the rains. Worship of both Baal and Asherah often occurred on hilltops, called high places. It was a licentious affair, with male and female prostitutes as a tribute to Baal's blessing of fertility. (Unger 484-485) Often these high places had also been used to build altars to God. Mt. Carmel, where Elijah challenged the prophets of Baal to a showdown, was one such high place.

What lengths did the prophets of Baal go to in their attempt to arouse their god? _____



and the people said nothing...

According to 1 Kings 18:20, who was present to witness Elijah's challenge to the prophets of Baal? _____

What question did Elijah ask of them in v. 21? _____

How did the people, God's people, respond? _____

How is this similar to the challenge that Joshua gave the Israelites in Joshua 24:15? _____

How does the response of the people compare? _____

What do you think the response of people today would be? _____

On what grounds did Elijah ask God to perform a miracle according to 1 Kings 18:36-39? _____

How did the people respond? _____

Why did Elijah feel alone? _____

Was he? (Romans 11:2-4) _____



The Raven

Fancy unto fancy, thinking
what this ominous bird of
yore -
What this grim, ungainly,
ghastly, gaunt, and omi-
nous bird of yore
Meant in croaking
'Nevermore.'
(Poe)

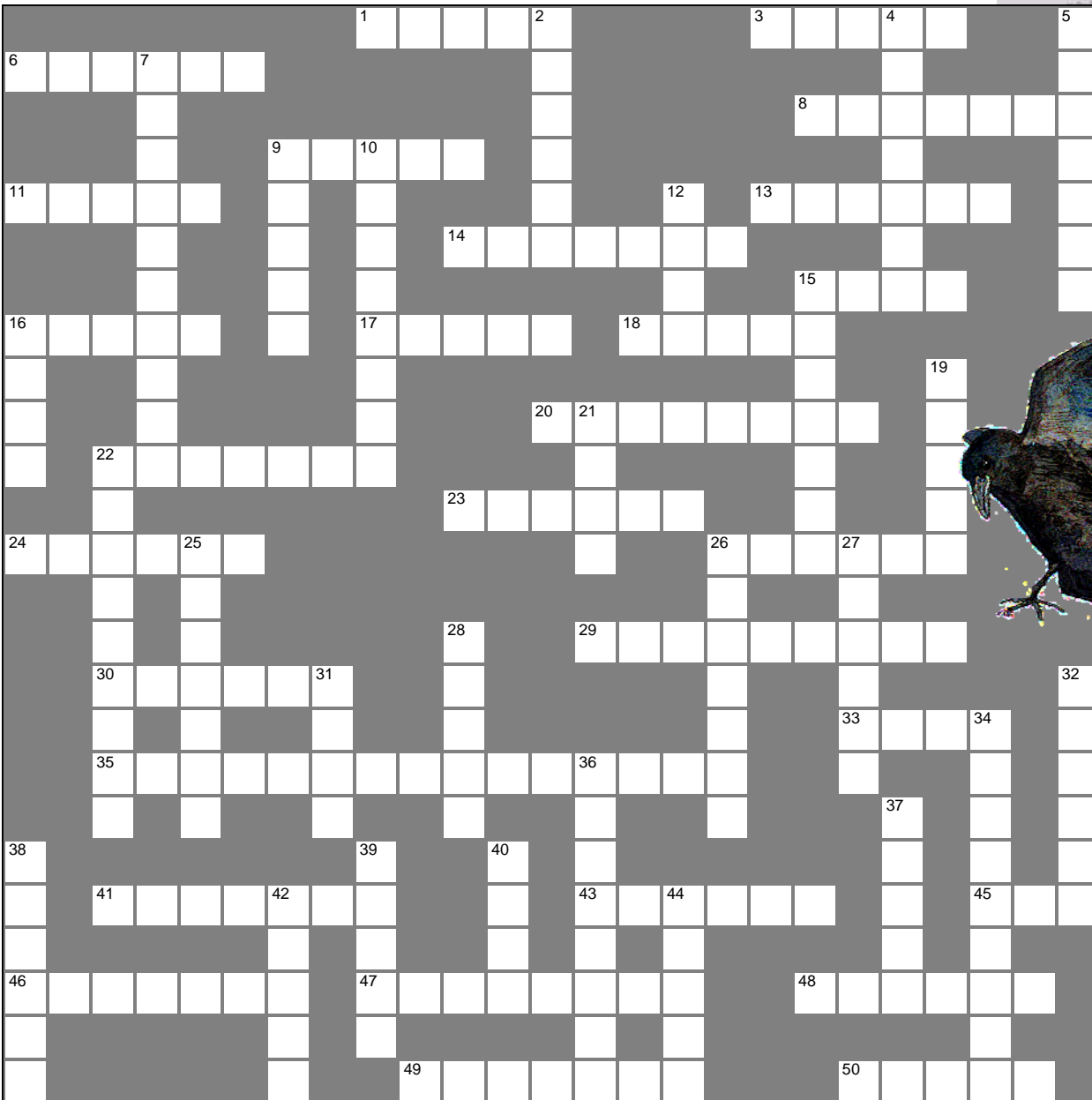
I am intrigued by the fact that God chose the raven to bring food to Elijah while he was riding out the famine. The raven is an eater of carrion, so would have been considered unclean by God's people. (Lev. 11:15, Deut. 14:14) It is seldom seen in a positive light, even today. I imagine that the dove would have presented a much more attractive and pleasing picture, gliding down with a heavenly feast for Elijah. Instead, we find a zealous follower of God eating food "contaminated" by an unclean deliverer. Why do you think God chose the raven to provide for Elijah's needs? _____

In what ways was the provision of the widow of Zarephath similar? (Luke 4:25,26) _____

Have you ever experienced the provision of God through an unlikely, even questionable, or "shady", source? _____



PUZZLE PAGE - Elijah



A MAN JUST LIKE US?

James points out in James 5:17 that Elijah was a man “just like us”, then proceeds to tell of the miraculous results of his prayers. What instructions are given on prayer in the verses (13-16) just proceeding that statement? _____

Do you believe that you are just like Elijah? Why or why not? _____

What does your life show? _____

Clues

Across

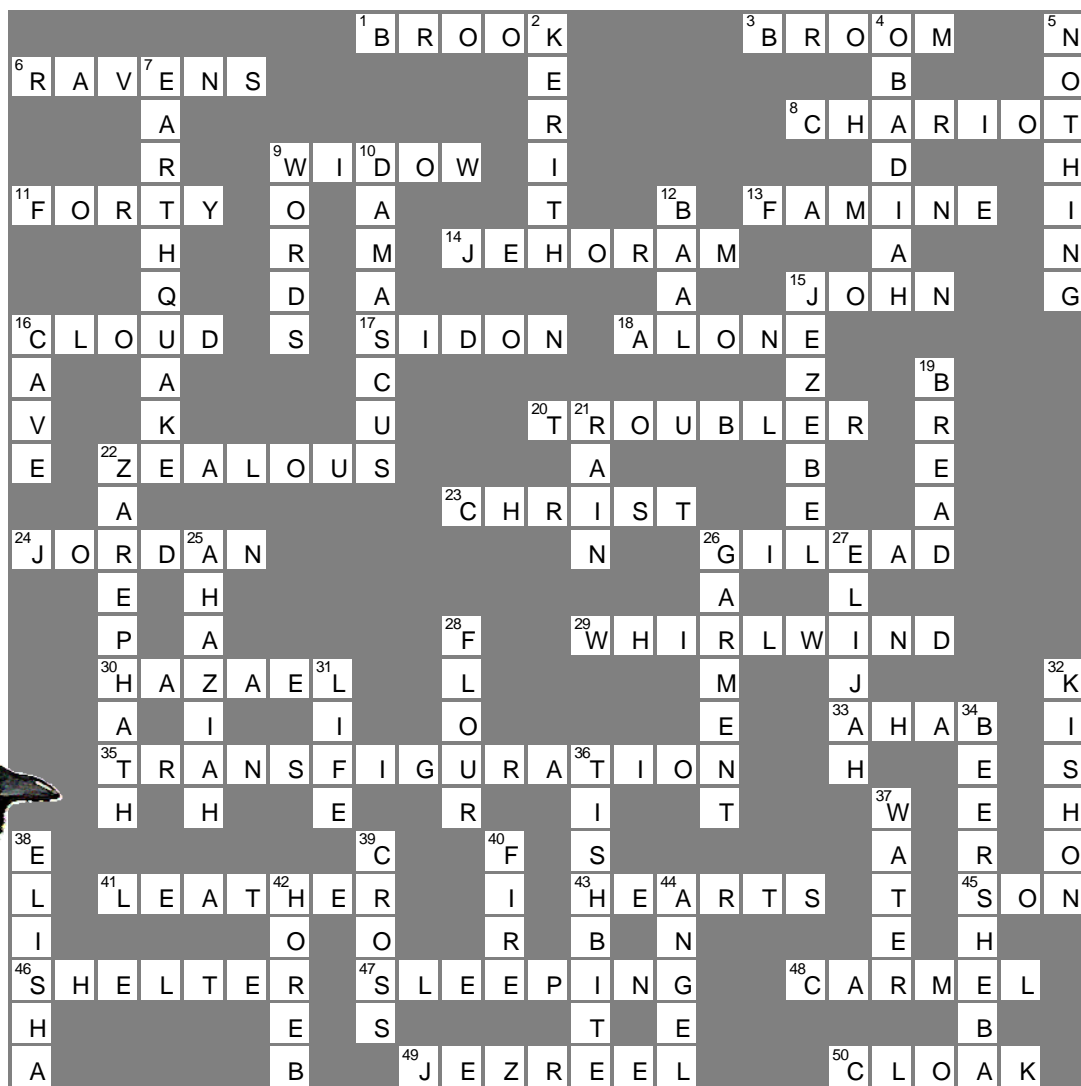
- 1 he drank from this 1 Kings 17 (5)
- 3 kind of tree that Elijah sat under in despair 1 Kings 19 (5)
- 6 fed him 1 Kings 17 (6)
- 8 Elisha was seperated from him by this 2 Kings 2 (7)
- 9 there were many of these in his day Luke 4:25 (5)
- 11 number of days and nights he traveled to Horeb 1 Kings 19 (5)
- 13 there was a severe one here 1 Kings 18
- 14 he sent a letter to this king of Judah 2 Chron. 21:12 (7)
- 15 took on Elijahs prophetic role Matt. 11:14 (4)
- 16 his servant saw one rising from the sea 1 Kings 18 (5)
- 17 region where the widow God sent him to lived Luke 4:26 (5)
- 18 he thought he was 1 Kings 19 (5)
- 20 Ahab called him this 1 Kings 18 (8)
- 22 he had been this for the Lord 1 Kings 19
- 23 some mistook him for Elijah Matt. 16:13,14 (6)
- 24 last place that Elijah and Elisha were together 2 Kings 2 (6)
- 26 area he was from 1 Kings 17 (6)
- 29 what he went to heaven in 2 Kings 2 (9)
- 30 to be anointed king of Aram 1 Kings 19
- 33 evil king of Israel (4)
- 35 appeared with Moses at the _____ of Jesus Matt. 17:1-3 (15)
- 41 he wore a belt made of this 2 Kings 1 (7)
- 43 he will come and turn that of fathers to their children Mal. 4:6 (6)
- 45 the widow's was raised from dead 1 Kings 17 (3)
- 46 Peter offered to make one for him Matt. 17:4 (7)
- 47 he suggested that Baal might be doing this 1 Kings 18 (8)
- 48 mount where Elijah arranged a show-down with the prophets of Baal and Asherah 1 Kings 18 (6)
- 49 he ran here from Mt. Carmel on foot 1 Kings 18 (7)
- 50 he put this over his face to go before the Lord 1 Kings 19 (5)

Down

- 2 ravine where he hid 1 Kings 17 (6)
- 4 in charge of Ahab's palace 1 Kings 18 (7)
- 5 what the people said in response to his challenge 1 Kings 18 (7)
- 7 God was not in this 1 Kings 19 (10)
- 9 John the Baptist used his John 1:23 (5)
- 10 God told him to go to this desert 1 Kings 19 (8)
- 12 Jezebel worshipped this god 1 Kings 18
- 15 queen of Israel who killed the Lotrd's prophets 1 Kings 18 (7)
- 16 he spent the night in one 1 Kings 19 (4)
- 19 he asked a widow for this 1 Kings 17 (5)
- 21 prayed that it would not do this James 5:17 (4)
- 22 was sent to a widow here Luke 4:25,26
- 25 sent this king a message that he would die 2 Kings 1 (7)
- 26 his was made of hair 2 Kings 1 (7)
- 27 will be sent before the great and dreadful day of the Lord Mal. 4:5 (6)
- 28 the widow's did not run out 1 Kings 17
- 31 he asked the Lord to take his 1 Kings 19
- 32 valley where the prophets of Baal were slaughtered 1 Kings 18 (6)
- 34 town in Judah where he left his servant 1 Kings 19 (9)
- 36 he was one 1Kings 17 (8)
- 37 he covered his offering with this 1 Kings 18 (5)
- 38 his successor 1 Kings 19 (6)
- 39 some thought Christ called for him while here Matt. 27:47 (5)
- 40 consumed the captains amd men sent for him 2 Kings 1 (4)
- 42 the mountain of God, also called Sinai 1 Kings 19 (5)
- 44 food and drink were supplied for him by this 1 Kings 19 (5)



Puzzle answers:



Sources:

p.2 Challenging Baal

Unger, Merrill F. The New Unger's Bible Dictionary. Chicago:Moody Bible Institute, 1988.

p. 3 The Raven

Poe, Edgar Allan. "The Raven." H. Behme, 4 OCT 2007. Web. 17 Jan 2011. <<http://www.heise.de/ix/raven/Literature/Lore/TheRaven.html>>.

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