

## HERE TO THERE: YOUR PLACE OF BLESSING AND PROVISION

We need to leave our “here” and go “there”—the place where God’s blessing and provision awaits us.

### KEY POINTS

- ❖ 1 Kings 17 brings us to a point in time when Ahab had become King of Israel and reigned in Samaria over Israel for 22 years. It was a trivial matter to King Ahab to commit sin against the Lord. He also had a nonchalant attitude in leading the Israelites into idolatry and into the service of the pagan gods.
- ❖ King Ahab married Jezebel, daughter of Ethbaal 1, Priest-King of the Sidonians. It was Jezebel who steered Ahab towards pagan worship and who ordered the prophets of God to be killed. It was amid this background that Ahab did more to arouse the anger of the Lord than all the kings of Israel before him.
- ❖ It was during this crucial time in the history of Judah and Israel that the prophet Elijah appeared. He became the dominant spiritual force in Israel during the dark days of Ahab’s abandonment of God.
- ❖ 1 Kings 17 begins with Elijah bringing God’s judgment on the nation: “...There will be neither dew nor rain in the next few years except at my word” (v. 1). By this time there had been no “dew” or “rain” for six months.
- ❖ The Lord spoke to Elijah, instructing him to leave his “**HERE**” so that he could get provision “**THERE**.” Dictionary.com defines HERE as “in this place; in this spot”, where a person is currently or presently situated. THERE is defined as “in or at that place, identifying a specific thing or place.”
- ❖ God told Elijah to leave his current physical place in Samaria and go to the Kerith Ravine, where the name Kerith meant a “cutting” or a “separation.” Kerith Ravine symbolically pointed to the “cutting off” or “separation” of Elijah from Ahab for his own safety. A separation had to take place so that Elijah could do what God wanted him to do.
- ❖ It was up to Elijah to be obedient to the word of the Lord and to walk in faith if he wanted to receive his blessing and provision. In leaving his **HERE**, Elijah had to trust the Word of the Lord and believe God.
- ❖ When God speaks, we can hold on to His Word because He is His Word and it never changes. God is a faithful God.
- ❖ We often pray like Jabez, asking God, “Oh, that you would bless me and enlarge my territory” (1 Chronicles 4:10), yet being unwilling to leave our **HERE** to go **THERE** where the blessing is because we may be uncomfortable.
- ❖ Our comfort zone may be limiting our growth in God, stunting our spirituality and stifling our forward momentum. We need to be like Elijah and leave our comfort zone.
- ❖ Sometimes our **HERE** is our mentality. It’s only when we leave our **HERE**, our current perspective that’s influencing our worldview, and go **THERE**, by being transformed by the renewing of our minds, that we will be able to test and approve God’s will (Romans 12:2).
- ❖ John 4:24 tells us that “God is spirit, and his worshippers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.” What is truth? “Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth” (Jn. 17:17).

**KEY SCRIPTURE:** 1 Kings 17:1-16  
(all scripture in NIV unless otherwise noted)

- ❖ Our minds can only be renewed and regenerated by the living Word of God and by the Spirit of God. The onus is on us to shift or move from **HERE** to **THERE**, our place of blessing and provision.
- ❖ When the brook at Kerith Ravine, his **HERE**, ran dry, the Word of the Lord came to Elijah again, this time directing him to Zarephath, his **THERE** (1 Kgs. 17:8-9). God knew the brook would dry up, so He made provision for Elijah ahead of time in the form of a widow who would provide him with food
- ❖ When Elijah got to the Zarephath town gate, he found the widow gathering sticks. The widow was in a desperate position. Her current **HERE** placed her at the brink of death, but God chose this poor, gentile woman to be a source of provision for Elijah.
- ❖ The widow had to be at her **THERE** near the town gate, so that she could meet the prophet Elijah, who would be the source of *her* blessing and provision.
- ❖ That place called “**THERE**” in our lives is very important. It’s a place of great possibilities and new hope, and where we can be divinely set up to receive God’s provision. We need to hear what God is saying to us so that we can be at the right place at the right time. God positions us to receive His provision but we need to be **THERE** (see Jeremiah 29:11).
- ❖ God promised the widow that if she exercised her belief in Elijah **HERE**, where she had little, that her **THERE** would bring an abundance of flour and oil until the rains came back. The widow trusted in the words of Elijah, whose God lives, and gave him food to eat. God, true to His word, supplied the widow with flour and oil until the rain came.
- ❖ God’s promises to us will always be fulfilled. When the word of the Lord comes to us and asks us to move from **HERE** to **THERE**, we need to be obedient, because God has already made provision for us **THERE**. So, go in the direction God is leading you to go. Go to the place where God’s blessing and provision awaits.

### DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. Discuss at least three figures in the Bible who had to step out of their comfort zone (e.g., Gideon). What was their particular situation, the fear they expressed, and how did they eventually step up/out?
2. Were you ever in a “comfort zone” that was limiting? Were you, like Elijah, instructed by God to leave that safe place—your “here”—to venture into an unknown “there”? What was the situation and had the way already been paved? In what way?

### PRAYER TIME

Lord, help me to step out of the “here” and go to the “there”, the place of Your blessings and provision. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Start-up: When you are lost, what methods do you use to get yourself back on course?

WEEK OF SUNDAY, JULY 6, 2025

### NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week’s message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

✓ (Reminds me/Confirms) 💡 (New idea) 🤔 (Think about)

! (Do this) ❤️ (Speaks to my heart) ➡️ (Must share)

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### PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

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Go deeper with your Life Group family.  
CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE  
WORD

**PRAYER FOCUS:** U.P.C.I. Ontario District departments, leaders, participants

**Daily Devotions:** Monday-Friday (except public holidays) @ 6:30 a.m.; Monday-Thursday @ 9:00 p.m.;

**Corporate Prayer:** Monday, Wednesday & Friday (all day), (in-person Friday @ 7:00 p.m.); Sunday @ 6:00 p.m.

**Zoom ID:** 898 3191 5909 **Phone Access:** 647-374-4685

#### FAITH SANCTUARY DONATIONS

To donate online, please go to [www.faithsanctuary.com/give](http://www.faithsanctuary.com/give)

For email transfers, please use [donate@faithsanctuary.com](mailto:donate@faithsanctuary.com)



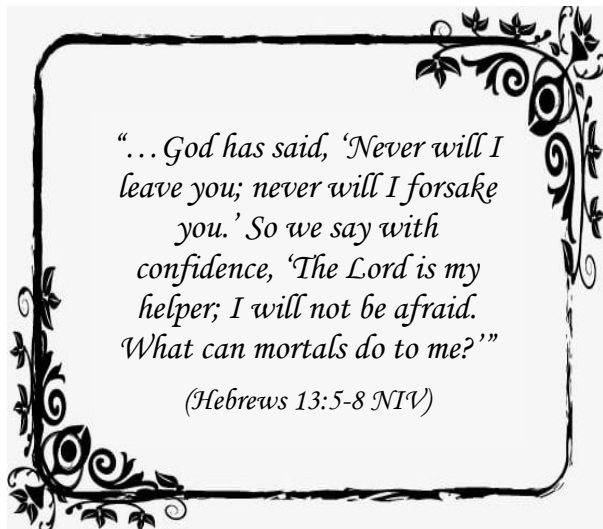
#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### STOREHOUSE

The storehouse is in need of the following non-perishable food items:

Pasta, rice, sugar, canned sardines, peas, beans, corned beef, soup, condensed milk, etc.

Contact: Bro. Richard or Sis. Naomi Daley



#### **FAITH SANCTUARY WEEKLY SERVICES**

**Sunday Bible Study @ 10:00 a.m.**

**Sunday Worship Service @ 11:00 a.m.**  
(Listen via phone: 1-844-268-4848)

**Monday Berean Bible Study @ 6:30 p.m.**  
(Zoom, Facebook, YouTube)

**Wednesday Bible Study @ 7:30 p.m.**  
(In person and via Zoom)

**Friday Evening Service @ 8:00 p.m.**  
(In person and via Zoom)

**Life Group Meetings – individually scheduled**  
(see ushers for information)

## **FAITH FOUNDATIONS**

### **GOD**

We believe there is only one God: the eternal, holy, loving, all-knowing, all-powerful, omnipresent Spirit, creator of all (Deuteronomy 6:4; 1 Timothy 1:17; Leviticus 19:2; 1 John 4:8; Hebrews 4:13; Revelation 19:6; Jeremiah 23:24; John 4:24; Isaiah 44:24; Colossians 1:16).

### **GOD'S WORD**

We believe the Holy Scriptures—The Bible—is God's true and complete Word to humanity, verified most notably through fulfilled prophecies concerning Jesus Christ (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Isaiah 41:21-23, 42:8-9, 46:9-10; Luke 24:25-27; John 17:17).

### **GOD'S CREATION**

We believe all people were created in the image of God for His pleasure, to be His children, His church and His bride, living in eternal love and fellowship with Him (Revelation 4:1; Genesis 1:27; John 1:12-13; Romans 8:16; Ephesians 5:25-32; Revelation 19:7).

### **HUMANITY'S FALL**

We acknowledge that we have all sinned and failed to fulfill God's plan and purpose for our lives, through willful disobedience to the word of God and our own conscience. All sinful acts lead to separation and alienation from God's pure, holy presence, eventually resulting in both physical and spiritual death (Romans 3:23, 6:23a).

### **THE GOSPEL**

We believe that Jesus Christ is the Almighty God, fully divine and fully human (1 Timothy 3:16). He came to Earth and suffered death by crucifixion, willingly substituting Himself for us in receiving God's judgment against sin (Isaiah 53:5). But God raised Him from death (Acts 5:30), and He now offers eternal life to all who will believe in Him (John 3:14-17, 6:29; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21; Romans 6:23b; Ephesians 2:4-9). Faith is sparked within us when we hear the gospel, the "good news" that Jesus died, was buried and rose from the dead for our benefit (Romans 10:14-17; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

### **OUR FAITH RESPONSE**

Hearing the gospel is intended to lead us to repentance, a divinely inspired change of heart that causes us to turn away from our sins and turn to God (2 Corinthians 7:9-10; 2 Timothy 2:24-26). Faith and repentance lead us to obey the scriptural command to be baptized in Jesus' name for the forgiveness of our sins and to receive His gift of the Holy Spirit. His Spirit gives us the power to live a righteous, godly life, joyfully sharing the good news of our new life in Christ with others (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38, 4:12; 1 Peter 1:22-23).

### **CHRIST'S RETURN**

We believe our Lord Jesus Christ will soon return to Earth to receive His people to Himself and establish His righteous, eternal kingdom (John 14:3; Matthew 25:34).

**JULY 6, 2025**



**Feed Canada to Feed the World**



**Pastor:**  
**Rev. Adrian W. Peel**

***"The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged."***  
***Deuteronomy 31:8 (NIV)***

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