

ONLY GOD

Elementary
Week 1

PARENT BIBLE STUDY

Read: 1 Kings 17:1-7

King Ahab led the Israelites away from God to worship a false idol called Baal—that was the god of rain. So God sent Elijah to announce that no rain, *not even any dew*, would fall on Israel.

Elijah was not only confronting King Ahab, he was also discrediting Baal. Elijah was in a sense saying, “You and your god are fake and powerless.” It was a double hit to Ahab’s ego.

Day after day passed with no water. Day after day passed that King Ahab prayed to Baal with no answer. The god of rain sent no rain. Ahab’s panic, turned to fury. He was powerful and dangerous, and his anger was aimed at Elijah.

But God wanted King Ahab to know that only the Lord is God. God wanted *all of Israel* to know the Lord is God. And God wanted Elijah, his prophet, to know that the Lord would **protect** him, **provide** for him, and **prepare** him for what was coming next.

So God **protected** Elijah by keeping him away from King Ahab until just the right moment. God told Elijah to hide in the desert. There in the desert God also **provided** for Elijah. Each day, God sent ravens to bring Elijah food, and each day a small brook delivered enough water to keep him hydrated. It wasn’t a glamorous way to sustain life, but no doubt Elijah learned exactly *who* was the source of his life.

God also **prepared** Elijah. The desert wasn’t comfortable. It was probably miserable at times. But God was intentionally preparing Elijah for some big things, including confronting not only King Ahab, but also the prophets of Baal. Elijah needed that time in the desert to remember and to have confidence in exactly who God was: the one, true, powerful God.

Are you in a desert? In the desert times of our lives, it may be easier to focus on what God is NOT doing rather than what he IS doing. **Look for the ravens and the brook in your own life.**
How is God providing for you?

Do you see ways God is protecting you? Do you believe God is preparing you for something?