

## Promises from God

When Bro. Jim asked me to fill in for him today, I immediately began to pray about what God would have me share with you from HIS WORD! Several have asked me when I was going to preach again concerning the End Times and that was the first thought that came into my mind. However, the longer I spent praying about what God would have me share, the following verse of Scripture kept coming into my thoughts and I finally got Peace that this is what God would have me speak to you about this morning.

**Philippians 4:19 (KJV) - <sup>Php 4:19</sup> But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.**

If you are anything like me, this scripture immediately brings the following question to mind! **CAN GOD REALLY MEET MY NEED?**

To answer this question, there are many illustrations given in the Scriptures, but I want to focus in on this passage in **1 Kings 17:1-24**, as well as some personal testimony about times that God supplied need in my life, unexpectantly and from sources I was completely unaware of.

Intro: There is, without question, a common element that unites all of mankind. Even in this Sanctuary this morning there is one thing which every person in this room has in common: **we all have need!**

**That need may vary as to the type. However, every one of us has a need of some form or type.**

## Promises from God

At different time periods in our lives that need will most likely vary but there will be times in every one of our lives when we will experience a need of some type.

That need may be material in nature and is probably because much of our life focuses on our material need in this life more than any other need. We may also experience emotional needs, and, at other times, a Health need may become the center of our focus. **There will also be times which the greatest need in our lives will be spiritual in nature.**

### **What are we to do when need arises in our lives?**

My natural reaction and I am sure from my experience as a pastor over the years it is the same for you. When a need arises, we begin to worry and doubt begins to rise that God may not or won't meet our need. How do we reconcile that with the Word of God when He tells us the following truths. **Keep in mind that God cannot lie and His Word is TRUTH.**

**Philippians 4:6 (KJV) --** <sup>Php 4:6</sup> Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving **let your requests be made known unto God.**

**Matthew 6:25-33 (KJV) --**

<sup>25</sup> Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?

<sup>26</sup> Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?

<sup>27</sup> Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?

## Promises from God

<sup>28</sup> And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin:

<sup>29</sup> And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

<sup>30</sup> Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, *shall he* not much more *clothe* you, O ye of little faith?

<sup>31</sup> Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?

<sup>32</sup> (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

<sup>33</sup> But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

<sup>34</sup> Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day *is* the evil thereof.

With that, another question comes to mind: **Should we try to meet our own need?** The simple answer is **“Yes!”** **When the need we have is within our power to help ourselves, then we do not really have a need, do we?**

The NEED I am referring to from the Scriptures are those times when we have reached the end of the line. We have done everything we know to do to meet our own need and yet the need is still there. It is when we have exhausted every resource and we are left with the reality of our own inability to meet our need that we then turn our focus on our God.

Our Lord Jesus Christ Himself has given us the answer to getting the needs of life met in Mark 11:22

, ***“And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God.”, Mark 11:22.*** (Ill of fig tree withering)

## Promises from God

Basically, the point I am trying to get across to you and what I intend to show from this passage, is that **we have a God in Heaven who can be trusted to take care of His children!**

Have you ever noticed that when a need arises in our life, so does doubt and worry?

The devil and the flesh start to whisper to our hearts and that soon becomes a shout. “Can God really meet your needs?”

I want to assure you, my church family, this morning, there is a question which faces us this morning. It is a question that we must answer and an issue with which we must come to terms with.

The question is this: “*Can God Really Meet Your Need?*”

I’d like to answer that with an affirmative, “*God Can!*”

Let me try to show you from this chapter of God’s Word in **1 Kings 17**, why I can honestly say that God really can meet your need.

### **I. THE MANY SIDES OF OUR NEEDS**

(Often our needs arise from strange and varied sources. Three are mentioned in this passage.)

**A. V. I Kings 17: 1–7 An Uncommon Service—Elijah’s need arose from His obedience to the will of God.** He was just doing what he was told and then his need came.

**1 Kings 17:1-7 (KJV) - <sup>1Ki 17:1</sup>** And Elijah the Tishbite, *who was* of the inhabitants of Gilead, said unto Ahab, *As the LORD God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain*

## Promises from God

these years, but according to my word.

<sup>2</sup> And the word of the LORD came unto him, saying,

<sup>3</sup> **Get thee hence, and turn thee eastward, and hide thyself by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan.**

<sup>4</sup> And it shall be, *that* thou shalt drink of the brook; and I have commanded the ravens to feed thee there.

<sup>5</sup> **So he went and did according unto the word of the LORD: for he went and dwelt by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan.**

<sup>6</sup> And the ravens brought him bread and flesh in the morning, and bread and flesh in the evening; and he drank of the brook.

<sup>7</sup> And it came to pass after a while, that the brook dried up, because there had been no rain in the land.

(Ill. Have you every experienced and wondered why there are times when you seem to be doing everything just like you are supposed to be doing it and yet need arises.

- You are paying your tithes,
- You are going to church,
- You are living right to the best of your knowledge and ability
- Yet there are troubles and problems which plague your life.

Let me refer you to this promise from **John 16:33 (KJV)** - Jn 16:33

These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. **In the world ye shall have tribulation**; but **be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.**

Let me assure you that whoever got people to believing that once we come to Jesus for salvation that all our troubles are behind us, has pulled off the greatest lie of the ages.

## Promises from God

In reality, instead of being a hedge against trouble, our salvation often opens the door for problems in our lives. The truth of the matter is that we can expect this present life to be a time filled with trouble and adversity.

That is a truth found in **Job 14:1 (KJV)** - <sup>Job 14:1</sup> **Man *that is* born of a woman *is* of few days, and full of trouble.** Peter tells us basically the same thing in 1 Peter 1;6,8, & 4:13.

**1 Peter 1:6 (KJV)** - <sup>6</sup> Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, **ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: (or trials).**

**1 Peter 1:8 (KJV)** - <sup>8</sup> Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see *him* not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:

**1 Peter 4:13 (KJV)** - <sup>13</sup> **But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.**

### B. V. 9–12 An Uncontrollable Situation—

These verses reveal a widow woman who was suffering need because of the wrongdoing of others. Because of the sin of Ahab, Jezebel and the nation of Israel, God sent a drought that affected the area where this widow lived. She was just caught up in an unfortunate situation.

(Ill. There are times like that for you and me. **Through no fault of our own, we find ourselves caught up in unpleasant situations that bring trouble into our lives.** Sometimes we make our own trouble, other times it seems to be able to find us on its own. This

## Promises from God

shouldn't take us by surprise either! Jesus said things would be this way, **Matthew 5:45 (KJV)** - <sup>Mt 5:45</sup> That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for **he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.**

If we expect to receive good in this life, why shouldn't expect our fair share of evil also? **Sometimes life just goes South on us and there isn't a thing we have done to cause it, nor is there much we can do to stop it. Often, pain, sorrow and trouble are just part and parcel of the human experience.**

### C. I Kings 17:17–18 **An Untimely Sorrow**

In these verses, we find a woman who has given much to the Lord and she has received much from the Lord, **yet she is thrown into a time of grief over the untimely death of her only son.** Her world, which seemed to be on track, derailed and filled her with sorrow and pain. Have you ever been there either through the death of a loved one or when they have been diagnosed with a terminal illness and it seems your prayers for them don't even begin to get off the ground.

(Ill. Have you ever been there? It seems like things couldn't get any better. The Lord has been blessing and you have been enjoying the best that God has to give and **then the bottom falls out and all of your hopes and dreams come crashing down around you. It hurts! But, we shouldn't be surprised when things take a turn in this direction.** After all, if it could happen to faithful & holy Job, then it could definitely happen to any person in this room, **Job 1–2.**

(Ill. Let's face it, our troubles have a way of overtaking us when we aren't expecting them. They sneak up on us and they body slam us and leave us dazed, hurting and confused. May we just praise

## Promises from God

the Lord today that our troubles do not have the last word in this matter!)

### II. THE MANIFEST SUPPLY OF OUR GOD

(Your need may have caught you off guard and left you standing there with your chin on your chest wondering what happened, but your trial did not catch our God by surprise. He was not caught off guard by what came about in your life. **In fact, He knew it was going to happen before the foundation of the world, a great truth which we have a hard time believing or understanding.**

To take this though even further let me say that He even orchestrated this event in your life to help you become more like Him, **Romans 8:28-30 (KJV)** - <sup>Ro 8:28</sup> And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose.

<sup>29</sup> For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate *to be* conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

<sup>30</sup> Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

Since God knew about it, and since He even had a hand in it, let me assure you He has also made some preparations for it. You see, your need is merely the evidence of God's supply for you in waiting.)

#### A. I kings 17:3–4 God's Past Preparations



## Promises from God

Thousands of years before Elijah needed a drink of cool, clear water, the finger of God traced out the path of this little brook. God knew that His servant would need this provision and God made away for Elijah long before the need ever arose.

Ill. The name of the brook was “Cherith”. **This is a Hebrew word which means “cutting.”** Cherith is referred to as a *nahal* in Hebrew (נַחַל, *nahal*), a seasonal stream often described in a [MENA](#) context as a [wadi](#), from the Arabic term وادي (*wādī*). **To me this shows that our need can be looked at as only for a season.**

Ill. Let’s follow this thought and bring it up to our day. If God knows all about my troubles before they come, and if God has a hand in my troubles, and He does, **then why do we go through the troubles we do in this present life?**

Isa 45:7, “I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these things.” **and do all things really work together for my good?**

According to God’s Word, these things really do work together for our good.

2 Corinthians 4:17 (KJV) <sup>2Co 4:17</sup> For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;

Romans 8:18 (KJV) - <sup>Ro 8:18</sup> For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

Romans 8:28 (KJV) - <sup>Ro 8:28</sup> And we know that all things work

## Promises from God

**together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose.**

These are all truths from God's Word so it stands to reason God has already taken all the steps necessary to meet your need before it ever arises. Although it may seem that the Lord isn't moving and He is just going to leave you to twist in the breeze, the truth is, God has already met our need, before the need ever arose! **He will manifest that supply in His own way and in His own time.** Your duty is to be patient and faithful to the Lord and to His will for your life. **He will take care of you,**

Ps 84:11, "For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: **no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.**"

Ill. One of God's past provisions is more clearly seen in the area of our salvation. **Before there was ever a sinner to save, God has already given up His Son Jesus to be the means of salvation for all who would place their faith in Him.**

**God met your salvation need before you ever had any!**

Revelation 13:8 (KJV) - <sup>Rev 13:8</sup> And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

Believe me, if God can meet this greatest of all needs, and He did! **Then He will have no problem taking care of all the need you have!**

### B. I KINGS 17:6 God's Present Supply

In this verse, we see Elijah being fed by the ravens. God knew that His man needed to eat and **God supplied the necessities of life for the man of God.** Notice that God's methods were at the same time

## Promises from God

miraculous and ordinary. They were miraculous in that God used ravens to bring food to the prophet and ordinary in that He used a common fowl of the air to get His will done.

(Ill. I want you to know that the Lord has promised to meet your need, Phil. 4:19! However, **I want you to know also that this promise is conditional!**

The Philippian believers had sacrificed to give to missionaries and to Paul and God tells them that He will take care of their needs. This is not a blanket promise that Christians can lift out of context and apply across the board!

**I believe that God will let us experience need to get us in line with His plan for our lives.**

**Will He take care of you? Yes! Does He love you? Yes!**

**Just don't expect God to bless your mess!** If you are tithing, and you are being faithful to the Lord, I believe with all my heart that He will meet the need which arises in your life. I can assure you He has done that over and over again in my life. **He tells us in no uncertain terms what He expects and what He will do, Matthew 6:33 (KJV) - <sup>Mt 6:33</sup> But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.**

### **C. I KINGS 17:14 God's Promise For Tomorrow**

Ill. Elijah's demand and the widow's response. **Elijah tells her not to worry, because the Lord will give her what she needs out into the future!**

Ill. **The future is always uncertain and we never know what kinds of needs may arise even in the next few minutes, but we have the precious promise of the Lord that He is with us. Hebrews 13:5**

## Promises from God

(KJV) - <sup>Heb 13:5</sup> *Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, **I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.***

He also knows the way we take, **Job 23:10 (KJV) - <sup>Job 23:10</sup> But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.**

**Deep in my heart I KNOW that He will look out for us all the way home to glory! I may not know what will come in the morning, but I do know One who has already been to tomorrow and holds tomorrow in HIS HAND and HE also holds me in HIS HAND.**

How can we not trust the ONE knows the future and trust He has already made preparations for our arrival. In **John 14:2 (KJV) He promises us - <sup>Jn 14:2</sup> In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.**

**Let me close with a couple of personal illustrations.**

When I was in Southwestern Seminary and had registered for the fall term, I did not have enough funds available to purchase the books for the classes I had signed up for (over \$300.00). When I got back home that afternoon and picked up my mail there was an envelope in the mail from the real estate company that had sold my house and my heart began to fear and doubt as the first thought that came to mind was that there was something wrong in the sale of my house and that the letter was going to be asking for an additional fee which I did not have the funds to do. HOWEVER, even though I delayed in opening the envelope, I finally had to. To my surprise there was an escrow refund check and it was enough to pay for all the books for my classes with a little left over.

There are countless stories of things that God has done in my life in unexpected ways and means and HE still continues to do so.

## Promises from God

When Sue and I became involved in missionary work in Honduras we didn't have a clue as to how we were going to be able to pay for plane fare, lodging, etc. One day I received a call from ATT wanting to purchase 20 x 20 lease on part of our land and they were offering \$1000.00 for the lease. When their agent came out to look at the location and we began to talk, he told me he was a deacon in a Baptist church and he didn't know if they had told me what they were offering for the lease but it was \$3500.00 and wanted to know if that was acceptable....enough to pay for one of our mission trips completely.

Another time, when I was at a Chiropractic visit, their computer was acting up and I asked if they would let me try to find the issue which I was able to do. During the course of my treatment, the Dr. asked me what was going on in my life and I shared about our mission work. A few days later, a letter came from his office which I was sure was a bill so I took my time in opening it. To my surprise when I finally decided to open it, there was a check for \$1000.00 to help in our mission work.

When I was having some health issues, a doctor told me, after inspection with a scope, that I had bladder cancer and needed to have surgery ASAP. I called for the elders of the church to come pray over me. The doctor set me up for the surgery and when it was over and I awakened from the anesthesia, He shook his head saying in all of his years of practice he had never misdiagnosed anyone, but he found no trace of cancer, so all the praise goes to our Lord. Two other times I have been diagnosed with cancer, one of them being melanoma which was confirmed positive by a biopsy and then removal of the spot.

**God is faithful to His Word** so I called for the elders of the church to come and pray over me before the surgery. That was well over 30+ years ago and I haven't ever had to have chemo nor radiation treatment and am still cancer free.

## Promises from God

So let me close by assuring you, not only from my own personal experiences and there are many more, including health and other issues. **I have no reservations about proclaiming to you, that no matter where the road of life leads you, no matter what problems arise to greet you along the way, our God is always ready with the necessary means to meet the need of those who have put their trust in HIM.**

Father, you have promised through your Word that you will meet all our need according to your riches in glory through Christ Jesus and I release that promise into the hearts and lives of every individual here and even those who have heard through our live stream. I also release the promise of your Word in **Isaiah 55:11 (KJV) - <sup>Isa 55:11</sup> So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it. May it be so in Jesus name. AMEN!**