

Eliyahu: a Prophet of Fire & Water #1

Who are you Eliyahu?

1. Kings 1, 16, 29-33:

(29) And in the thirty-eighth year of Asa king of Judah Ahab the son of Omri began to reign over Israel; and Ahab the son of Omri reigned over Israel in Samaria twenty-two years.

(30) And Ahab the son of Omri did that which was evil in the sight of Hashem beyond all that were before him.

(31) And it came to pass, as if it had been a light thing for him to walk in the sins of Yehorovam the son of Nebat, that he took as a wife Ezevel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Zidonians, and went and served Baal, and worshipped him.

(32) And he set up an altar for Baal in the house of Baal, which he had built in Samaria.

(33) And Ahab made the Asherah; and Ahab did yet more to provoke Hashem, the God of Israel, than all the kings of Israel that were before him.

2. Kings 1, 17, 1-24:

(1) And Eliyahu the Tishbite, who was of the settlers of Gilead, said to Ahab, "As Hashem, the God of Israel, lives, before whom I stand, **there shall not be dew or rain these years, except according to my word.**"

First Story:

(2) And the word of Hashem came to him, saying,

(3) "Go from here and turn eastward, and hide yourself by the brook Cherith, that is before the Jordan.

(4) And it shall be, that you shall drink of the brook; and I have commanded the ravens to feed you there."

(5) So he went and did according to the word of Hashem; for he went and dwelled by the brook Cherith that is before the Jordan.

(6) And the ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning, and bread and meat in the evening; and he drank of the brook.

(7) And it came to pass after a while, that the brook dried up because there was no rain in the land.

Second Story:

(8) And the word of Hashem came to him, saying,

(9) "Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Zidon, and dwell there; behold, I have commanded a widow there to sustain you."

(10) So he arose and went to Zarephath; and when he came to the gate of the city, behold, a widow was there gathering sticks; and he called to her, and said, "Fetch me, please, a little water in a vessel, that I may drink."

(11) And as she was going to fetch it, he called to her and said, "Bring me, please, a morsel of bread in your hand."

(12) And she said, "As Hashem your God lives, I have not a cake, only a handful of meal in the jar, and a little oil in the cruse; and, behold, I am gathering two sticks that I may go in and prepare it for me and my son, that we may eat it and die."

(13) And Eliyahu said to her, "Fear not; go and do as you have said, but make for me a little cake from it first, and bring it forth to me, and afterwards make for you and for your son.

(14) For thus says Hashem, the God of Israel, 'The jar of meal shall not run out, and the cruse of oil shall not lack, **until the day that Hashem sends rain upon the land.**'"

(15) And she went and did according to the saying of Eliyahu; and she, and he, and her house ate many days.

(16) The jar of meal did not run out and the cruse of oil did not lack, according to the word of Hashem which He spoke by Eliyahu.

Third Story:

(17) And it came to pass after these things, that the son of the woman, the mistress of the house, fell sick; and his sickness was so severe that there was no breath left in him.

(18) And she said to Eliyahu, "What have I to do with you, O you man of God? Have you come to me to make my sin be remembered and to slay my son?"

(19) And he said to her, "Give me your son." And he took him out of her bosom and carried him up into the upper chamber, where he dwelled, and laid him upon his own bed.

(20) And he cried to Hashem and said, "**O Lord my God, have You also brought evil upon the widow with whom I sojourn, by slaying her son?**"

(21) And he stretched himself upon the child three times, and he cried to Hashem and said, "**O Lord my God, please, let this child's soul come back into him.**"

(22) And Hashem listened to the voice of Eliyahu; and the soul of the child came back into him, and he revived.

(23) And Eliyahu took the child, and he brought him down out of the upper chamber into the house and delivered him to his mother; and Eliyahu said, "See, your son lives."

(24) And the woman said to Eliyahu, "**Now I know that you are a man of God, and that the word of Hashem in your mouth is true.**"

Appendix:

3. Deuteronomy 11, 16-17:

Take care not to be lured away to serve other gods and bow to them. For Hashem's anger will flare up against you, shutting up the skies so that there will be no rain and the ground will not yield its produce; and you will soon perish from the good land that Hashem is assigning to you.

4. Psalms 147, 9:

[God] gives the beasts their food, to the **raven's brood what they cry for.**

5. Job 38, 41:

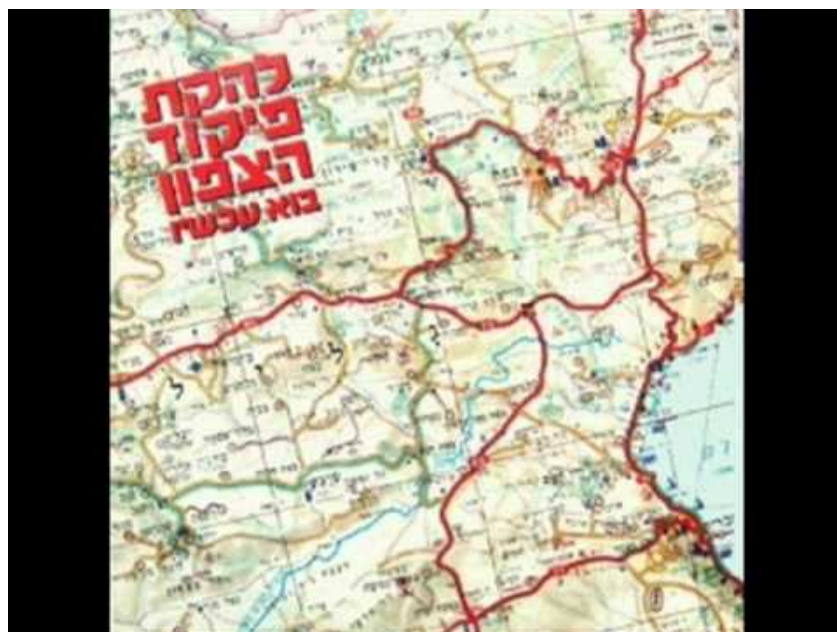
Who provides food for the raven when his young cry out to God and wander about without food?

6. Bereshit 6, 7:

He sent forth the raven and it went back and forth until the waters had dried up from upon the earth. Rashi: **UNTIL THE WATERS WERE DRIED UP** – The raven was prepared for another mission during the time when the rain was withheld and the waters dried up in the days of Elijah, as it is said, (1 Kings 17:6) "And the ravens brought him bread and flesh".

7. Shmot 16, 8:

Since it is Hashem," Moses continued, "who will give you flesh to eat in the evening and bread in the morning.



8. Naomi Shemer, the Jar of Flour, 1986:

אני קורא בספר מלכים
בפרק השבעה עשר
אני קורא על איש האלוהים
אשר אמר

I'm reading in the Book of Kings,
In Chapter Seventeen,
I'm reading about a man of God
Who said:

כד הקמח לא תיכלה וצפתת השמן לא תחסר עד אשר יבוא מטר על פני האדמה	The flour-jar shall not be depleted, And the oil-jug shall not run dry, Before the rain will come Upon the face of the earth.
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וכאשר יבשו הנהלים
והמטר בושש לבוא
האיש ההוא חצב את המילים
מלבבו
כד הקמח...

And when the rivers run dry,
And the rain is late in coming,
That man drew these words
From his heart:
The flour-jar...

אולי האיש ההוא ידע מחסור
אולי טעם משורש מר
אולי בהתעמף עליו נפשו
הוא שב ושר
כד הקמח...

Perhaps that man understood hardship,
Perhaps he tasted of the bitter herb,
Perhaps when his soul engulfed him
He sang once more:
The flour-jar...

ובימים האלה הקשים
ימי אל טל ואל מטר
תמיד אני חוזר לאיש ההוא
ואני נזכר
כד הקמח...

And in these difficult days,
Days of no dew and no rain,
I always return to that man
And I remember –
The flour-jar...

9. Talmud Taanit 2a:

Rabbi Yoḥanan said: There are three keys maintained in the hand of the Holy One, Blessed be He, which were not transmitted to an intermediary, i.e., God tends to these matters Himself. And they are: The key of rain, the key of birthing, and the key of the resurrection of the dead.