1 Kings 17:8, "Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying,"

A. The Command (v.9a)

1 Kings 17:9a, "Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and stay there;"



Luke 4:23, "And He said to them, 'No doubt you will quote this proverb to Me, "Physician, heal yourself! Whatever we heard was done at Capernaum, do here in your hometown as well."

Luke 4:24, "And He said, 'Truly I say to you, no prophet is welcome in his hometown."

Luke 4:25, "But I say to you in truth, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the sky was shut up for three years and six months, when a great famine came over all the land;

Luke 4:26, "and yet Elijah was sent to none of them, but only to Zarephath, in the land of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow."

B. The Promise (v.9b)

"Behold, I have commanded a widow there to provide for you."

Two Key Doctrines

Faith-Rest Drill

Grace Orientation

2 Pet. 1:3, "seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.

2 Pet. 1:4, "For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, in order that by them you might become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust."

Ephesians 1:3, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,"

GRACE ORIENTATION

- Humility
- Authority orientation
- Relaxed mental attitude
- Mastery of the details of life

Philippians 2:8, "Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."

1 Kings 17:13–14

"Do not fear; go, do as you have said, but make me a little bread cake from it first, and bring it out to me, and afterward you may make one for yourself and for your son.

"For thus says the Lord God of Israel, 'The bowl of flour shall not be exhausted, nor shall the jar of oil be empty, until the day that the Lord sends rain on the face of the earth."

1 Kings 17:15, "So she went and did according to the word of Elijah, and she and he and her household ate for many days."

1 Kings 17:17, "Now it came about after these things that the son of the woman, the mistress of the house, became sick; and his sickness was so severe that there was no breath left in him.

1 Kings 17:18, "So she said to Elijah, 'What do I have to do with you, O man of God? You have come to me to bring my iniquity to remembrance and to put my son to death!"

Apologetics, is the branch of theology which provides a rational defense of the truths of the Scripture.

How do we know the Bible is the word of God? How do we know that someone's claim to Scripture, or to be a prophet, is true or not? How do we know that the Bible's claim that Jesus rose from the dead is true or not?

Apologetics includes

1. Understanding the correct way to present the arguments for the veracity of Scripture;

- 2. The correct use of evidence within the Bible for the truthfulness of Scripture.
- 3. Apologetics is most simply being able to explain to people why you believe what you believe.

1 Pet 3:15, "but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense [apologia] to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;"

Acts 22:1, "Brethren and fathers, hear my defense which I now *offer* to you."

1 Cor 9:3, "My defense to those who examine me is this:"

1 Kings 17:17, "Now it came about after these things that the son of the woman, the mistress of the house, became sick; and his sickness was so severe that there was no breath left in him.

1 Kings 17:18, "So she said to Elijah, 'What do I have to do with you, O man of God? You have come to me to bring my iniquity to remembrance and to put my son to death!"

Phil 1:7, "For it is only right for me to feel this way about you all, because I have you in my heart, since both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers of grace with me."

Phil 1:16, "the latter *do it* out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel;"

Acts 1:3, "To these He also presented Himself alive after His suffering, by many convincing proofs [τεκμηριον (tekmērion), proof], appearing to them over a period of forty days and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God."

Belief is not in an intellectual vacuum, that is mysticism.

God expects us to think and provides in history validation and objective documentation for

Who He is, What He can do, and Why alternatives are false

Polemics

Webster's Eleventh Collegiate Dictionary

1 an aggressive attack on or refutation of the opinions or principles of another

OED polemics n the art or practice of dispute or argument, as in attacking or defending a doctrine or belief.

Pocket Dictionary of Theological Terms polemics

... A polemic can also be the aggressive refutation of another position or principle. In theology, polemics often refers to the attempt to show the superiority of Christian teaching over its rivals by means of a systematic, ordered delineation of the Christian belief system (a systematic theology) that shows the internal consistency of Christian doctrine as well as its congruence with human knowledge as a whole.

Signs and wonders confirm, provide credentials (2 Cor 12:12)

Two witnesses: Word and signs

God always validates externally through objectifiable evidence which is what separates Christianity from mysticism.

Deut. 13:1, "If a prophet or a dreamer of dreams arises among you and gives you a sign or a wonder,

Deut. 13:2, "and the sign or the wonder comes true, concerning which he spoke to you, saying, 'Let us go after other gods (whom you have not known) and let us serve them,"

Deut. 13:3, "you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams; for the LORD your God is testing you to find out if you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul."



Statuette of Baal, the Canaanite weather god," from Minet-el-Beida (15th–14th century B.C.).

Ba'al controlled fertility through rain; thus the god of thunder, lightning, rain, and productivity, prosperity, and life.

Ba'al was also part of a dying-rising god pattern. At the height of the summer drought, he was slain by Mot the god of death. His mother Anath searches for him, finds him, and restores him to life.

1 Kings 17:19, "He said to her, 'Give me your son.' Then he took him from her bosom and carried him up to the upper room where he was living, and laid him on his own bed.

1 Kings 17:20, "He called to the LORD and said, 'O LORD my God, have You also brought calamity to the widow with whom I am staying, by causing her son to die?"

1 Kings 17:21, "Then he stretched himself upon the child three times, and called to the LORD and said, 'O LORD my God, I pray You, let this child's life return to him."

- 1 Kings 17:22, "The LORD heard the voice of Elijah, and the life of the child returned to him and he revived [chayah, "he lived"].
- 1 Kings 17:23, "Elijah took the child and brought him down from the upper room into the house and gave him to his mother; and Elijah said, 'See, your son is alive.'"
- 1 Kings 17:24, "Then the woman said to Elijah, 'Now I know that you are a man of God and that the word of the LORD in your mouth is truth."

John 11:25, "Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies,

John 11:26, "and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?"

John 14:19, "After a little while the world will no longer see Me, but you will see Me; because I live, you will live also."