

Small Group Study Notes

1 Kings 15:33- 17:24 (16:29-17:24)

1. What do you think the little story in v34 is seeking to convey?
2. The culture of Israel is slowly becoming more and more like the Canaanite culture. What were the main features of Canaanite culture (Lev 18:24-28 is an introduction)?
3. In the next chapter Elijah is going to confront the Canaanite world view head on. But he wants to do it in the context of a drought. Why?
4. In the drought God provides supernaturally for Elijah but not for the 7,000 others who, we know, are equally committed to God (19:18). How did God expect them to cope and why the difference?
5. The request of Elijah to the widow was “share what you have”. This was not a unique word to her; it is the same word that comes to all of us. We know that Solomon was a selfish man (the forced labour for a start 9:15) and he had unbelievable wealth. We know this woman was generous and she had little. So is it easier to be generous when you have little or when you have much?
6. The widow sees the death of her son as in some way connected to her sin (v18). Meanwhile Elijah does not see her sin as being a barrier to God working a miracle of resurrection. What would you say lay behind the woman’s thinking and what would you say lay behind Elijah’s thinking?