

Everyday FAITH Family Page

Old Testament 4

Law/Gospel

In sin, I complain that God does not give me what I need or deserve. **God daily supplies me with those good gifts that sustain me in body and soul, giving each of them through His Son.**

Bible Words

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above.

James 1:17

From the Catechism

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

What does this mean? I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them. He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him. This is most certainly true.

God Provides for Elijah

1 Kings 17

God's prophets spoke for Him, conveying special messages or teachings to the people and leaders. They advised judges, kings, and military commanders. Prophets were not fortune-tellers, though their messages sometimes revealed future events. Some recorded these messages on scrolls, which we retain in the Old Testament Scriptures.

As role models of holiness and closeness to God, prophets visualized God's Word, sometimes in strange ways. But if a prophet spoke falsely, the Law demanded his or her death (Deuteronomy 18:20).

After the kingdom of Israel split in 931 BC, God's prophets advised those in both kingdoms. The northern tribes became Israel; two southern tribes became Judea.

Elijah was a prophet of the Lord in Israel, the Northern Kingdom, for twenty-three years. During that time, many people worshiped their neighbors' false male and female gods, Baal and Asherah. Baal, the god of rain and thunder, supposedly gave life and health. To expose Baal's falsehood, the Lord sent a drought. (Could Baal stop it? Of course not!)

The drought became very severe. Water dried up. Crops burned. Food became scarce. During this time, the Lord sent Elijah to live by a brook. Each day, the Lord sent ravens with bread and meat to him twice a day.

When the brook dried up, the Lord sent Elijah to live with a widow in Zarephath, a coastal city in a foreign country north of Israel. There, the Lord cared for this foreign widow, her son, and His prophet by providing flour and oil in containers that never emptied.

Later, the Lord raised the widow's dead son through the prophet. The ecstatic mother responded, "Now I know that you are a man of God, and that the word of the Lord in your mouth is truth" (1 Kings 17:24). May we know and trust His Word, our Savior Jesus Christ, too (John 1:14).

Prayer

Jesus, our risen Lord and Savior, care for us and open our hearts to receive by faith Your forgiveness of sin and eternal life, gained for us in Your perfect life, death, and resurrection. In Your name we pray. Amen.