

Reflection from the “First book of Kings, and “From the beginning of the treatise On the Mysteries by Saint Ambrose, Bishop.

We start out with a brief history of Ahab’s reign as King of Israel, and we are told that he was the wickedest king in the eyes of God, worse than all who went before him even Jeroboam. His marriage to Jezebel led him to serve Baal, and even build an altar to worship him in Samaria. This act pushed the people of God further away from him.

At this point we are introduced to the prophet Elijah, and at God’s word told Ahab that there would be no more rain. The challenge was issued, and Ahab who had Baal, the god of rain and storms, in his pocket, set out to prove Elijah and God wrong. But Elijah was not proven wrong, for Israel entered into a period of famine, and Israel enjoyed neither summer dew nor autumn and spring rains. We feel this drought when we sin and turn our back on God. It is that unquenchable thirst, that can only be relieved when we go to reconciliation and get back into communion with God.

Now because Elijah was right he had to go into hiding, and God led him to Wadi Cherith where he had ravens to feed him and a brook for water. He remained there until God told him to go back to Ahab and God would send rain. Then God directed Elijah to leave and go to Zarephath and find the widow. So, Elijah did as God commanded. This is what we are called to do thru the sacraments, we are baptized with the water into the trinity and confirmed in the Spirit with chrism oil and acknowledge we believe the creed that we proclaim every Sunday at Mass.

The widow even though she is not of the same belief, obeys Elijah and is rewarded by God. She was all set to die in the beginning, telling Elijah that she only had enough for her and her son and then they would die. Putting her faith in a God that she had little or no prior knowledge of, must have been difficult to comprehend, and yet she took that leap of faith, and was rewarded for it.

As we reflect on these two readings the one clear message is our obedience to God and have faith that God will provide for all our needs. The Holy Spirit gives us the tools necessary to carry out Gods plan, and we need to trust that God knows best for us. God will never give us more that we can handle, and he is always right there in the yoke beside us.