

~ZAREPHATH (108)

(Zar'e-phath) [possibly from a root meaning, refine]

- **A Phoenician town belonging to or apparently dependent upon Sidon in Elijah's day. At **Zarephath** the prophet was shown hospitality by a poor widow, whose flour and oil were miraculously sustained during a great famine and whose son Elijah, in God's power, subsequently raised from death.**
- **The word of Yehowah now came to him, saying; (1 Kings 17:8)**
- **Rise up, go to **Zarephath**, which belongs to Sidon, and you must dwell there. Look! I shall certainly command there a woman, a widow, to supply you food. (1 Kings 17:9)**
- **Accordingly he rose up and went to **Zarephath** and came into the entrance of the city, and, look! A woman, a widow, was there gathering up pieces of wood. So he called to her and said, Please, get me a sip of water in a vessel that I may drink. (1 Kings 17:10)**
- **When she began to go and get it, he went on to call to her and say; Please, get me a bit of bread in your hand. (1 Kings 17:11)**
- **At this she said; As Yehowah your God is living, I have no round cake, but a handful of flour in the large jar and a little oil in the small jar, and here I am gathering up a few pieces of wood, and I must go in and make something for myself and my son, and we shall have to eat it and die. (1 Kings 17:12)**
- **Then Elijah said to her; Do not be afraid. Go in, do according to your word. Only from what is there make me a small round cake first, and you must bring it out to me, and for yourself and your son you can make something afterward. (1 Kings 17:13)**
- **For this is what Yehowah the God of Israel has said; The large jar of flour itself will not get exhausted, and the small jar of oil itself will not fail until the day of Yehowah's giving a downpour upon the surface of the ground. (1 Kings 17:14)**
- **So she went and did according to Elijah's word, and she continued to eat, she together with him and her household, for**

days. (1 Kings 17:15)

- The large jar of flour itself did not get exhausted, and the small jar of oil itself did not fail, according to Yehowah's word that he had spoken by means of Elijah. (1 Kings 17:16)
- And it came about after these things that the son of the woman, the mistress of the house, fell sick, and his sickness came to be so severe that there was no breath left in him. (1 Kings 17:17)
- At this she said to Elijah; What do I have to do with you, O man of the true God? You have come to me to bring my error to mind and to put my son to death. (1 Kings 17:18)
- But he said to her; Give me your son. Then he took him from her bosom and carried him up to the roof chamber, where he was dwelling, and laid him upon his own couch. (1 Kings 17:19)
- And he began calling to Yehowah and saying; O Yehowah my God, is it also upon the widow with whom I am residing as an alien that you must bring injury by putting her son to death? (1 Kings 17:20)
- And he proceeded to stretch himself upon the child three times and call to Yehowah and say; O Yehowah my God, please, cause the soul of this child to come back within him. (1 Kings 17:21)
- Finally Yehowah listened to Elijah's voice, so that the soul of the child came back within him and he came to life. (1 Kings 17:22)
- Elijah now took the child and brought him down from the roof chamber into the house and gave him to his mother, and Elijah then said; See, your son is alive. (1 Kings 17:23)
- Upon that the woman said to Elijah; Now, indeed, I do know that you are a man of God and that Yehowah's word in your mouth is true. (1 Kings 17:24)
- For instance, I tell you in truth, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, so that a great famine fell upon all the land. (Luke 4:25)
- Yet Elijah was sent to none of those women, but only to

Zarephath in the land of Sidon to a widow. (**Luke 4:26**)

- It later marked an extremity of former Canaanite territory foretold to become the possession of Israelite exiles.
- And as for the exiles of this rampart, to the sons of Israel will belong what the Canaanites possessed as far as **Zarephath**. And the exiles of Jerusalem, who were in Sepharad, will take possession of the cities of the Negeb. (**Obadiah 1:20**)
- The name is preserved in that of Sarafand, about 13 kilometers (8 miles) South-Southwest of Sidon, though the ancient site may have been a short distance away on the Mediterranean shore.