

The " I AM " And Me.

A Reading from 1 Kings 17:17-24 NRSV

The son of the woman, the mistress of the house at Zarephath, became ill; his illness was so severe that there was no breath left in him. She then said to Elijah, "What have you against me, O man of God? You have come to me to bring my sin to remembrance, and to cause the death of my son!" But he said to her, "Give me your son." He took him from her bosom, carried him up into the upper chamber where he was lodging, and laid him on his own bed. He cried out to the LORD, "O LORD my God, have you brought calamity even upon the widow with whom I am staying, by killing her son?" Then he stretched himself upon the child three times, and cried out to the LORD, "O LORD my God, let this child's life come into him again." The LORD listened to the voice of Elijah; the life of the child came into him again, and he revived. Elijah took the child, brought him down from the upper chamber into the house, and gave him to his mother; then Elijah said, "See, your son is alive." So 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."

A Reading from Luke 7:11-17 NRSV

Soon after healing the centurion's slave, Jesus went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd went with him. As he approached the gate of the town, a man who had died was being carried out. He was his mother's only son, and she was a widow; and with her was a large crowd from the town. When the Lord saw her, he had compassion for her and said to her, "Do not weep." Then he came forward and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, "Young man, I say to you, rise!" The dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. Fear seized all of them; and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has risen among us!" and "God has looked favorably on his people!" This word about him spread throughout Judea and all the surrounding country.

John 11:25 (Net) Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live even if he dies, 26 and the one who lives and believes in me will never die.

When Jesus says ***I Am*** he, is relating to His ***Divinity and Oneness with God.***

There are a myriad of times in the scriptures that the term I AM in reference to Christ, is referred to. We need to remember just as Christ was at one with the Father, we are as well, as His adopted sons and daughters of God. So when we look at these passages of scripture where Christ uses the term I Am, it should bring our attention to the Oneness Christ had with the Father, and remind us of the Oneness we have with Him.

Christ Is connecting Himself To the I AM of the OT.

Exodus 3:14- I Am That I Am.

John 8:58- Before Abraham Came Into Existence, I AM.

John 11:25- I Am The Resurrection And The Life.

John 9:5 I AM- The Light Of The World.

John 6:48 I AM- The Bread Of Life.

John 10:14 I AM- The Good Shepherd.

The " I AM'S " Resurrection Power, Old Testament.

The widow incorrectly blamed herself for her son's predicament (v. 18; cf. John 9:2-3). Elijah realized that only God could bring the boy back to life, so he called on God in prayer to do so (vv. 20-21). Often in cases of miraculous restoration God's servant placed his hand on the afflicted one. He did so to indicate that the power of God in him was passing to the needy individual (cf. Matt. 8:3). In this instance Elijah placed his whole body against the boy's body for the same reason (v. 21; cf. 2 Kings 4:34; Acts 9:31-43; 20:10). This is the first restoration to life of a dead person that Scripture records. Elijah prayed shamelessly, one of the fundamental requisites for obtaining one's petitions in difficult cases (v. 21; cf. Matt. 7:7-8; Luke 11:5-13). God restored the lad's life (v. 22). In the process Elijah learned the power of God and the power of prayer. He applied both of these lessons in his contest with the Baal prophets (18:16-46). **His confidence in his own ability as a channel of God's blessing and word received added strength from the widow's confession (v. 24).**

When you are connected to The I AM as a child of God, you are in league to be a channel of God's blessings to others as well. Just as Elijah was through the Lord and Jesus was with the Father.

Remember This!!!!

In the face of this woman's questions and accusations, Elijah did not try to justify himself, debate with her, defend God, or delve into a theological treatise on the reasons for sufferings. That is not Elijah's style or strategy for dealing with those in pain and suffering, nor should it be ours. We do not have to defend God or explain away circumstances. We don't need to have all the answers to questions from those who are suffering.

Elijah simply said, " Give Me Your Son. " When confronted with human suffering, we must do exactly what Elijah did. We must say:

Give me (Jesus) your dead marriage.

Give me (Jesus) your dead ministry.

Give me (Jesus) your impossible situation.

Give me (Jesus) your broken heart.

Give me (Jesus) your bitterness, anger, and unforgiveness.

Then as Elijah, we take the myriad of human suffering and needs into the inner chamber and lay the dead corpse of broken lives, marriages, and hearts before the Lord.

The Miracles of Elijah Through God's Grace.

| Miracles Involving Elijah | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Miracle | Reference | Elements |
| Elijah fed by ravens | 1 Kings 17:6 | Water and food |
| Widow's food multiplied | 1 Kings 17:15 | Flour and oil |
| Widow's dead son raised to life | 1 Kings 17:22 | Life |
| Elijah's altar and sacrifice consumed | 1 Kings 18:38 | Water and fire |
| Ahaziah's 102 soldiers consumed | 2 Kings 1:10-12 | Fire |
| Jordan River parted | 2 Kings 2:8 | Water |
| Elijah's transport to heaven | 2 Kings 2:11 | Fire and wind |

The "I AM's" Resurrection Power, New Testament.

Whether the raising of Lazarus or the Widow's son. God's channeling of His power through the Son of Man made all the difference in the World.

Background information concerning the miracle in our Gospel Reading.

7:11 Jesus may have gone directly from Capernaum (7:1-11) to Nain. Nain was only about 20 miles southwest of that town. It lay on the northern slope of the Hill of Moreh that stood at the eastern end of the Jezreel Valley. It was 6 miles south and a little east of Nazareth and is easily visible across the valley from Nazareth. The Hill of Moreh is a significant site because on its south side stood Shunem where Elisha raised the son of the Shunammite woman (2 Kings 4:18-37). Luke distinguished two groups of people who accompanied Jesus, namely, His disciples and a large multitude of presumably non-disciples.

7:12 Friends were carrying the corpse out of the city gate to bury it outside the town, as was customary. The fact that the widow now had no surviving husband or son meant that she was in desperate circumstances economically as well as emotionally (cf. 1 Kings 17:10). She would probably become destitute without someone to provide for her needs. The large retinue of mourners was common though it suggests that she had friends.

The Very Way Jesus Performed The Miracle.

Luke 7:14 (Net)Then he came up and touched the bier, and those who carried it stood still. He said, "Young man, I say to you, get up!" 7:15 So the dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him back to his mother.

In both Lazarus case or here in Luke's gospel, it is only by His Word being spoken that life comes forth.

God's Word is alive and it is a Covenant sealed by His Blood. Which when lived by and allowed to grow inside of you produces Resurrection Life. The Breath of God anointing, channeling through you.

