

Now Elijah the Tishbite, from Tishbe in Gilead, said to Ahab, "As the LORD, the God of Israel, lives, whom I serve, there will be neither dew nor rain in the next few years except at my word." Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah: "Leave here, turn eastward and hide in the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan. You will drink from the brook, and I have directed the ravens to supply you with food there." So he did what the LORD had told him. He went to the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan, and stayed there. The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning and bread and meat in the evening, and he drank from the brook. (1Ki 17:1-6 NIV)

Earthly possessions: God's providence and gracious care! (1st Commandment)

1. God as *summum bonum* (Highest good) – he is the end and be all – all else is but a means to this end.
Your Grace/Chesed/Love is better than life!
 - 1.1. *He has the whole world in his hands* ... God gives daily bread even without our prayer to everyone even to all evil people, but we pray in this petition, that God would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.¹
 - 1.2. Rain – brook Cherith² - water
 - 1.3. Bread and meat (Ravens: God's miracle!)
 - 1.4. Asylum in the wilderness – reminds us of the sojourn of Israel in the desert fleeing from slavery in Egypt - Psalm 73:25 *Earth has nothing I desire besides you.*
2. Illusions of the little masters of the universe and masters of our own destiny: We can do it!
 - 2.1. God is but a means to an end... inner peace, success, prosperity, health, wealth. I feel good!
 - 2.2. King Ahab/Isebel – Baal's priests: Pursuit of happiness!
 - 2.3. Baal: Fruitfulness, prosperity, flourishing, positivity and life in abundance.³ More is better!
 - 2.4. Markets, materialism, sex and/or celebrities, ancestors, egoism etc.
3. God calls us to faith and trust in him alone and above all things
 - 3.1. Grants us all good and perfect things: Brook of Cherith
 - 3.2. Everything is for our benefit and best: Even the ravens
 - 3.3. Loss, severance, give up and take away, suffering: God deals with us under opposites (ML)
 - 3.4. Practice death and dying for new life and living!⁴
 - 3.5. Jesus feeds 4/5kin the desert. Changes water into wine. Promises to hear our prayer, when we pray: Grant us today our daily bread!

Hymn 714,1-3: *Who trusts in God a strong abode ...*

¹ What is daily bread? Everything that belongs to the support and wants of the body, such as meat, drink, clothing, shoes, house, homestead, field, cattle, money, goods, a pious spouse, pious children, pious servants, pious and faithful magistrates, good government, good weather, peace, health, discipline, honor, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.

² Something like the Sampofu in KZN, nothing spectacular like the Tugela or Orange Rivers.

³ Gnostic rites and sacrifices

⁴ Less is more.