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GOD REWARDS OBEDIENCE

God rewards obedience even when it seems to us to make no logical sense. Even if the person may not be a believer, God still rewards their obedience to His instructions that He gives them. The pagan King, Cyrus, is such an example. Also is the widow woman of 1 Kings 17:8-24 and Luke 4:26.

During three years of extreme drought, God miraculously provided meals brought to Elijah by the ravens. When his water supply dried up, God sent him into enemy territory to be fed. He went to Zarephath (Sarepta) in Zidon (Sidon) which was the home territory of the wicked Queen Jezebel who was seeing to kill Elijah.

God sent Elijah to an unnamed widow woman who lived with her young son. She was gathering sticks to make a fire to cook the last of her food. She had just enough meal and oil to bake one cake for herself and her son. She then anticipated dying of starvation.

Elijah found her and insisted that she make him a cake for him to eat. He promised her that if she did this for him that her meal barrel would not run out and neither would her cruse (bottle) of oil.

She did this for Elijah, but you can be sure when one is radically obedient to God, as she was, Satan often attacks fiercely to derail you. This happened to the widow. Her son died. She accused Elijah. However, her obedience was still rewarded, as God used Elijah to raise her son from death.

This demonstrated to this pagan widow that indeed the word of Jehovah was truth (1 Kings 17:24). God rewarded her for her obedience, and she came to know who the true God was.