

Alignment

Text: 1 kings 17:1-6 (NIV)

17 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.”

² Then the word of the Lord came to Elijah:

³ “Leave here, turn eastward and hide in the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan.

⁴ You will drink from the brook, and I have directed the ravens to supply you with food there.”

⁵ So he did what the Lord had told him. He went to the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan, and stayed there.

⁶ The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning and bread and meat in the evening, and he drank from the brook.

Illustration - Car wheels need alignment. (Picture Of Wheel Alignment)

Imagine driving a car that is out of alignment. The wheels are not properly aligned, causing the vehicle to pull to one side, creating a bumpy ride and uneven tread wear on the tires. It becomes challenging to maintain control and stay on a straight path.

Now, picture getting the car's alignment corrected. The wheels are adjusted to the proper angles, ensuring they are parallel and perpendicular to the road. Suddenly, the ride becomes smooth and stable. You can easily steer the car in the desired direction, and it tracks straight without pulling to the side. The tires wear evenly, maximizing their lifespan.

This illustration shows how alignment is crucial for a smooth and controlled driving experience. It emphasizes the importance of proper alignment to ensure safety, efficiency, and longevity for both the vehicle and its passengers. Just as a car requires alignment to function optimally, alignment in our own lives brings us stability and helps us navigate the journey towards our goals and purposes with ease and effectiveness.

Background of 1 kings 17

Elijah comes into the scene after the Israelites have settled in the Promised Land, after the reigns of King David and King Solomon, and after the kingdom has split in two. At this time, the Northern Kingdom of Israel had turned away from God and began worshipping idols, particularly the Canaanite god Baal.

Through a series of misguided choices, the culture in Israel is no longer in alignment with the one, true God: Yahweh. Idol worship and other religious practices from the surrounding cultures have crept into Israel and amalgamated and even usurped the worship of God.

Ahab and his wife Jezebel worshipped Baal. Baal was a Canaanite god and was considered a fertility god associated with rain, storms, and agriculture. Baal was believed to be responsible for the annual cycle of vegetation, ensuring the fertility of the land and the prosperity of the people.

Baal was often depicted as a powerful and respected deity, seen as a rival to other gods in the region. Ceremonies and rituals were performed to honor Baal, particularly during times of planting and harvest. People believed that their worship of Baal would ensure bountiful crops and abundant rainfall.

God gave Israel a promise and a warning in Deuteronomy 11:10-21 (NLT)

¹⁰ For the land you are about to enter and take over is not like the land of Egypt from which you came, where you planted your seed and made irrigation ditches with your foot as in a vegetable garden. ¹¹ Rather, the land you will soon take over is a land of hills and valleys with plenty of rain—¹² a land that the Lord your God cares for. He watches over it through each season of the year!

¹³ “If you carefully obey the commands I am giving you today, and if you love the Lord your God and serve him with all your heart and soul, ¹⁴ then he will send the rains in their proper seasons—the early and late rains—so you can bring in your harvests of grain, new wine, and olive oil. ¹⁵ He will give you lush pastureland for your livestock, and you yourselves will have all you want to eat.

¹⁶ “But be careful. Don’t let your heart be deceived so that you turn away from the Lord and serve and worship other gods. ¹⁷ If you do, the Lord’s anger will burn against you. He will shut up the sky and hold back the rain, and the ground will fail to produce its harvests. Then you will quickly die in that good land the Lord is giving you.

¹⁸ “So commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these words of mine. Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders. ¹⁹ Teach them to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up. ²⁰ Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates, ²¹ so that as long as the sky remains above the earth, you and your children may flourish in the land the Lord swore to give your ancestors.

Why is alignment necessary?

Alignment is necessary for personal growth, clarity, consistency, healthy relationships, well-being, goal achievement, and spiritual connection. It brings balance and harmony to various aspects of life, leading to a more fulfilling and purpose-driven existence.

5 Principles and Actions for Achieving Alignment

1) Align yourself with God and His Word - 1 Kings 17:1

¹⁷ 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.”

2) Align your words to agree with God’s word. James 3:4-5 (ESV)

- **Words are like a rudder that will steer a ship in a direction. (Picture of a Rudder)**

⁴ Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. ⁵ So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things.

3) Align yourself with God through prayer - James 5:17-18 (NIV)

¹⁷ Elijah was a human being, even as we are. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. ¹⁸ Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.

4) Align your Actions by applying faith and obedience- 1 Kings 17:2-5 (NIV)

²Then the word of the Lord came to Elijah: ³“Leave here, turn eastward and hide in the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan. ⁵So he did what the Lord had told him. He went to the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan, and stayed there.

*God command Elijah to hide himself in Kerith. Kerith is a Hebrew word that means "cutting" or "separation." In the Bible, it is commonly associated with the name of a brook called "Brook Cherith" or "Wadi Cherith.

5) Align your Attitude by being open to new ways - 1 Kings 17:6 (NIV)

Picture of a Raven with food

⁶The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning and bread and meat in the evening, and he drank from the brook.

Alignment and posture are closely related concepts that refer to the correct positioning and balance of the body's various components. In the context of the human body, alignment refers to the optimal arrangement of bones, muscles, joints, and other structures in relation to each other. Posture, on the other hand, refers to the specific positioning and alignment of the body in any given stance or movement.