

"Natural and Supernatural"

Elijah

Thursday, May 02, 2013

Ever felt like a nobody, unimportant, unknown, little or of no value.

Maybe at one time in your life felt the promise of greatness swell within your heart.

The idea of accomplishing incredible, history making contributions in life.

Your knowing and accomplishing the will of God for your life so perfectly, so accurately that all of heaven would stand up and cheer for you.

Maybe you came from a long line of great and successful men and women of God who have filled many positions of prestige and power.

Kings, queens, noble men, people who all have made their mark in history.

OR... maybe you like our character we will look at today.

He has no lineage, (who are his parents?) at least none worth mentioning.

He has no family name to build upon.

No one to promote him, no one even knows who he is.

You and your miracle working ministry are birthed in obscurity.

You are rugged in appearance and dress, in fact you are the prototype of John the Baptist.

1 Kings 17:1 *1 And Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the inhabitants of Gilead, said unto Ahab (the wicked ruler) As the LORD God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word. (HOLD THIS PLACE)*

St: This drought upon the land was judgment because of the sins of the King. The lack of rain, no dew- no moisture in the land was because of the leadership of the land. Don't ever think that it doesn't matter who is in charge over you. The one who is really making the calls. How many of you know the Lord knows who is truly responsible for the judgment upon the land, He knows whose sin is causing this. The entire land was cursed because of this man's sins. Yet he refused to repent and do what was right in the sight of the Lord.

17:1 *And Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the inhabitants of Gilead, said unto Ahab, As the LORD God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word. KJV*

Ahab:

1 Kings 16:30 *And Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the LORD above all that were before him. KJV*

Ahab's Wife - Jezebel

1 Kings 21:25-26 *25 But there was none like unto Ahab, which did sell himself to work wickedness in the sight of the LORD, whom Jezebel his wife stirred up. 26 And he did very abominably in following idols, according to all things as did the Amorites, whom the LORD cast out before the children of Israel. KJV*

Omri: (Ahab's father)

1 Kings 16:25 *But Omri wrought evil in the eyes of the LORD, and did worse than all that were before him. KJV*

***Generational Curses? - "Generational programming" - monkey see monkey do.

"Nothing, no curse... generational, death, sin, sickness nor disease is greater than our redemption through Christ Jesus! ***"Christ has redeemed us from the curse!" (Gal 3:13)***
Ex 20:5-6 *5 Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; 6 And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments. KJV*

Elijah: Miracles that Elijah worked:

- 1) Causing the rain the cease for 3 1/2 years (**1Ki 17:1**)
- 2) Fed by the ravens (1Ki 17:4)
- 3) The barrel of meal and cruse of oil (1Ki 17:14)
- 4) The resurrection of the widow's son (1Ki 17:22)
- 5) He called fire from heaven on the altar (1Ki 18:38)
- 6) He prayed and causing it to rain (**1Ki 18:45**)
- 7) He prophesied that Ahab's sons would all be destroyed (1 Ki 21:22)
- 8) He prophesied that Jezebel would be eaten by dogs (1 Ki 21:23)
- 9) He prophesied that Ahaziah would die of his illness (2 Ki 1:4)
- 10) He called fire from heaven upon the first 50 soldiers (2 Ki 2:10)
- 11) He called fire from heaven upon the second 50 soldiers (2 Ki 2:12)
- 12) He parted the river Jordan (2 Ki 2:8)
- 13) He prophesied that Elisha should have a double portion of his spirit (2 Ki 2:10)
- 14) He was caught up to heaven in a fiery whirlwind (2 Ki 2:11)

Ever Notice how water is involved in so many miracles in the scriptures?

First Miracle of Elijah was no rain for 3 1/2 years. First Miracle of Jesus.

The Name Elijah/Elijah (El, Almighty). Means *"My God is Jehovah"*

(TEXT) James 5:17-18 *17 Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. 18 And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit.*

New International Version (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.

Amplified Bible (AMP) ¹⁷ *Elijah was a human being with a nature such as we have [with feelings, affections, and a constitution like ours]; and he prayed earnestly for it not to rain, and no rain fell on the earth for three years and six months. ¹⁸ And [then] he prayed again and the heavens supplied rain and the land produced its crops [as usual].*

*17 Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: This scripture says hat Elijah was subject to like passions as we are (**1Kings 17**)*

Let's see some of those:

1 Kings 17:1-7 *1 And Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the inhabitants of Gilead, said unto Ahab, As the LORD God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word. 2 And the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, (Time to increase my faith)*

3 Get thee hence, and turn thee eastward, and hide thyself by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan.

Why did it say to "hide thyself" I think this is an indication that Elijah had a personal identity problem. Remember he has no one in the natural backing him. He is on his own. He didn't come from the school of the prophets at least not that we can tell. He has just pronounced judgment upon an evil and wicked King that he has prayed that there will be no rain nor dew upon the earth basically until he says so. He has just spoken, decreed judgment of this king's sins upon him. You might be a little bit afraid too.

James 5:17 *Elijah was a man subject to like passions as we are*

Elijah had a personality that was given to fear- Any of you ever been afraid?

Afraid of being all on your own, no family, no friends, no army, no food, no job, no help.

(REF) 2 Tim 1:7 *For God hath not given us the spirit of *fear;(dread,timidity,timid,fearful, "Faithless")but of **power (dunaimas- miraculous- power) and of ***love,(Agape) and of a * ***sound mind. (discipline, self control, discipline correct, teach to be sober)*

4 And it shall be, that thou shalt drink of the brook; and I have commanded the ravens to feed thee there.

*Now some people would get into trouble with the way the Lord has chosen to provide for them right here.

"First of all "I don't like ravens, their gross"- "why not a dove or an eagle Lord?"

The Lord has chosen "Nature's Trash collectors, scavengers of the air to feed you"

"Come on now Lord can't you do better than that?" "I don't like being fed by birds."

"I don't like the kind of things they are bringing". "It's not steak and lobster, its left overs they dug out of the trash" (Kings trash)

St: "Remember the more you complain the more evident it is that you are not in faith!"

You're NOT TRUSTING GOD!

"THE MORE YOU PUT PRESUURE ON MAN TO PROVIDE FOR YOU THE MORE YOU'RE NOT IN FAITH"

Say this with me - "FAITH PUTS NO PRESSURE ON MAN"

"FAITH PUTS A DEMAND ON MY COVENANT WITH GOD!"

You understand that the Lord can open doors for you that no man can close. The Lord can close doors for you that no man can open.

(Ref) Isa 22:22 *And the key of the house of David will I lay upon his shoulder; so he shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open.* KJV

!WE NEED TO BE THANKFUL FOR THE LORDS PROVISION!

During a time of judgment and drought pronounced upon the land even when its declared by your own mouth.

5 So he went and did according unto the word of the LORD:

for he went and dwelt by the brook ***Cherith, that is before Jordan. (runs into it)

** Def: karath (kaw-rath'); a primitive root; to cut- to covenant (i.e. make an alliance or bargain, originally by cutting flesh and passing between the pieces):

"I will provide for you next the brook called covenant!"

The flow of blessing will come to you through the channel called covenant

?-Where are rivers, or brooks usually located at in a geographical context?

?- Are they on top of mountains or usually in the valleys?

(1 Kings 20:28-23) *"He is God on the mountain and He is God in the Valleys!"*)

6 And the ravens brought him bread and flesh in the morning, and bread and flesh in the evening; and he drank of the brook.

7 And it came to pass after a while, that the brook dried up, (Old covenant- New Supply) because there had been no rain in the land. KJV (**FAITH TIME**)

Now here is another spot many people get into trouble with which is right here.

"Well the Lord told me to come to this brook and drink from it, that He had commanded the ravens to feed me there. - -"The drought is not over -My provision is supposed to continue until the drought is over"

As though the Lord cannot change where your provision is to come from!

Too many people get upset with the Lord when their brook dries up, the birds stop bringing them food and they begin complaining and digging for water, trying to get water from a dried up brook. (They got comfortable- their camp is all set up and nice)

Trying make the last Word from God keep producing when the Lord is ready to move them.

St: If your source has dried up = that's only trying to tell you that you haven't reached your promised land yet. keep moving - The Cloud is on the move!

But too many people refuse to hear from the Lord AGAIN! (To seek the Lord)

St: IT's time to hear from the Lord- Why? I need faith to believe for my next source!

8 And the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, (Time to increase my faith)

9 Arise, get thee to Zarephath, which belongeth to Zidon, and dwell there:

Def: Zarephath- refinement, to refine, to purge away, to try)

behold, I have commanded a widow woman there to sustain thee.

Def: widow- desolate place or desolate house"

"Ok now you're just trying to embarrass me, I tolerated the birds provision but come on.." *You're going to have an women who is without a husband- "without a provider in her life to provide for me?" a desolate house, a desolate house.*

I wonder if Elijah was subject to pride? Do you think he might have thought he was too good to live like this? "Look the brook has dried up - that's a testament to my success- it hasn't rained in the land just I said. Yeah me!"

Elijah had to pass the humility test! You know the Lord knows how to keep us out of trouble - to keep us humble.

*10 So he arose and went to Zarephath.(refinement) And when he came to the gate of the city, **behold**, the widow woman was there gathering of sticks: and he called to her, and said, Fetch me, I pray thee, a little water in a vessel, that I may drink. 11 And as she was going to fetch it, he called to her, and said, Bring me, I pray thee, a morsel of bread in thine hand. 12 And she said, As the LORD thy God liveth, I have not a cake, but an handful of meal in a barrel, and a little oil in a cruse: and, behold, I am gathering two sticks, that I may go in and dress it for me and my son, that we may eat it, and die.*

13 And Elijah said unto her,

"Fear not;"

St: Elijah had learned to overcome fear - now he is teaching others to overcome it!

go and do as thou hast said: but make me thereof a little cake **first**, and bring it unto me, and after make for thee and for thy son. 14 For thus saith the LORD God of Israel, The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that the LORD sendeth rain upon the earth.

15 And she went and did according to the saying of Elijah: and she, and he, and her house, did eat many days. 16 And the barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake by Elijah. KJV

2 Cor 4:17-18 *17 For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. 18 So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. NIV*

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