

1 KINGS 18:41-46 – ELIJAH PRAYS SEVEN TIMES – THE DROUGHT ENDS!

10/27/18 Sat Morn Prayer – P. Twente, 714 425-9221; ptwente@gmail.com

He is Able – Ferguson, Noland; Sung - Maranatha Singers

*He is able more than able to accomplish what concerns me today. He is able more than able
To handle anything that comes my way. He is able more than able to do much more than I could ever dream
He is able more than able to make me what He wants me to be.*

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1 Kings 18– “Elijah’s Message to Ahab and Mount Carmel Victory; The Drought Ends!”

Elijah has seen the Lord do a great thing on Mount Carmel in the face off against the prophets of Baal. After the false prophets were put to death, the prophet told the king to go up and eat, for rain was on the way. Baal was the “rain god,” but he could neither send fire nor bring rain! As the king started on his way, Elijah began to pray for rain, just as three and a half years before he had prayed for drought (*Jas 5:17*). He knew how to watch and pray (*Col 4:2*), and he knew how to persist in prayer until God sent the answer. **God does not send the showers of blessing until sin has been judged.** Before long, the sky was black with clouds, the wind began to blow, and the rains came. God gave Elijah superhuman strength to run ahead of the king as his chariot raced toward Jezreel.

What we do with God in private is far more important than what we do for God in public. Our hidden life prepares us for our public life. Unless we are willing to go through such disciplines as the dry brook, the depleted barrel, and the dead boy, we will never have the victories of Mt. Carmel. **“Those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength”** (*Isa 40:31*).



The Lord Sends Rain (1 Kings 18:41-46)

1Ki 18:41 Then Elijah said to Ahab, **“Go up, eat and drink; for there is the sound of abundance of rain.”**

1Ki 18:42 So Ahab went up to eat and drink. And Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; then he bowed down on the ground, and put his face between his knees,

- Elijah knew that once the official worship of Baal had been defeated, the purpose for the drought was fulfilled. Rain was on the way. Elijah and Ahab would now each do what they wanted to do - Elijah would pray and Ahab would eat.
- He bowed down on the ground and put his face between his knees: This was an unusual posture of prayer for Elijah. He wasn’t kneeling, he wasn’t sitting, he wasn’t standing, and he didn’t lay prostrate before the LORD. This shows **that the power in prayer resides in faith in the living God.**

1Ki 18:43 and said to his servant, **“Go up now, look toward the sea.”** So he went up and looked, and said, **“There is nothing.”** And **seven times he said, “Go again.”**

- Go again **seven times**; **persevere** in prayer! Let us not be dejected for some disappointments, **but continue to wait upon God**, who will answer me, and that speedily.
- God’s promises are given, not to restrain, **but to draw us to pray**. They show the direction in which we may ask, and the extent to which we may expect an answer They are the mold into which we may pour our fervent spirits without fear.

1Ki 18:44 *Then it came to pass the seventh time, that he said, "There is a cloud, as small as a man's hand, rising out of the sea!" So he said, "Go up, say to Ahab, 'Prepare your chariot, and go down before the rain stops you.' "*

- ***It came to pass the seventh time:*** This was stubbornly persistent prayer. It was as if **Elijah would not take “no” for an answer, because he had confidence that God’s will was to send rain.** He stubbornly furthered the will of God by his persistent prayer. **Persistence is so important in prayer! One prayer against the prophets of Baal; now seven times for rain. Why? We need to focus on our being close to Him and not to put God in a box or reduce Him into a formula!**
- There is a cloud, as small as a man’s hand, rising out of the sea! Elijah prayed, asking in faith for God to send the rain. Elijah obviously sensed this was the will of God, yet it was his fervent prayer that brought the rain. The evidence of the rain came slowly and in a small way, but out of this small evidence God brought a mighty work.
- Prepare your chariot and go down before the rain stops you: **This was a word of faith from Elijah to Ahab. Based only on the sighting of a cloud that was as small as a man’s hand, he knew a torrent was on the way.**

1Ki 18:45 *Now it happened in the meantime that the sky became black with clouds and wind, and there was a heavy rain. So Ahab rode away and went to Jezreel.*

1Ki 18:46 *Then the hand of the LORD came upon Elijah; and he girded up his loins and ran ahead of Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel.*

- ***There was a heavy rain:*** God’s word through Elijah was proved true! The long drought was over, and it was demonstrated that the prayers of Elijah both withheld the rain and then subsequently brought the rain!
- Then the hand of the LORD came upon Elijah; and he girded up his loins and ran ahead of Ahab: This was an obviously supernaturally empowered **14-18-mile cross-country run**. We don’t know exactly when it was important to God for Elijah to reach Jezreel first. It would seem at this point, Elijah had no real fear of Queen Jezebel. We will see in the next chapter how this changes.

SUMMARY:

- **God had told Elijah (1 Kings 18:1) to go and present himself to Ahab and God will send rain.**
- **Elijah had a history of obedience to God’s instruction – Brook Cherith; Zarephath.**
- **Elijah had made an amazing stand alone, against the prophets of Baal. And God’s fire fell!**
- **Then the Israelites said, “The LORD, He is God! The LORD, He is God!”**
- **A choice to acknowledge and serve the LORD had been made! It’s time for the drought to end!**
- **But prayer is required for the rain to come. Not praying just once but persevering seven times!**
- **One prayer against the prophets of Baal; now seven times for rain. Why? We need to focus on our being close to Him. God does things His way, not ours. Isa 55:8-9 "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD. [9] "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.**
- **God continues to empower Elijah supernaturally in outrunning Ahab and his chariot to Jezreel.**
- **Our God is faithful!**

"How Great Thou Art" - Shea

*Oh Lord my God when I in awesome wonder Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder Thy power throughout the universe displayed*

*Refrain: Then sings my soul my Savior God to Thee, How great thou art! How great Thou art! Then sings
my soul my Savior God to Thee! How great Thou art! How great Thou art!*

*When Christ shall come With shout of acclamation To take me home What joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow
in humble adoration And there proclaim my God how great Thou art. (Refrain)*

Pray Today For: Our Church, Nationally/locally; Our Nation: Our leaders; Police officers/military. Supreme Court.

Please Note: You may see/download past notes/audio of the Bible Prayer Devotionals by going to: www.ptwente.com