

AN ABUNDANCE OF RAIN.

1 KINGS 18:41-46.

1. Imagine, three and one half years without rain. There would be no crops, no water in the rivers, economic hardship and a severe food shortage.

These were the conditions in Israel at that time.

2. King Ahab and Queen Jezebel had led the nation into the worship of idols. Their idols were Baal and Ashtoreth.

Furthermore, they did all they could to silence the Prophets of God.

3. One of the chief claims of the Baal worshippers was that Baal controlled the weather.

Every rainfall was attributed to their idol god. This will incur the Wrath of God. It will cause the rains to cease.

4. The Lord said in Lev. 26:3-4, "If ye walk in My Statutes, and keep My Commandments, and do them;

"Then I will give you Rain in Due Season, and the Land shall yield her Increase, and the Trees of the field shall yield their Fruit."

5. It was during the reign of King Ahab that Elijah the Prophet appeared on the scene.

(1 Kings 17:1) He appeared before the King and told him that it was not going to rain again until he said it would.

6. He may not have been taken seriously by the King and his court at that time. He may not have even been known by those of the royal court.

However, as the months and years went by

without rain, the King became desperate to find this Prophet who had hidden himself away from the public.

7. Let's look at:

HAVING AN ABUNDANCE OF RAIN.

There Must Be:

- A. Preparation.
- B. Prayer.
- C. Persistence.

A. There Must Be Preparation.

In our Scripture reading, we see that:

1. IT INVOLVED CONFRONTATION.

- A. Elijah Confronted The King.
(1 Kings 18:18)
- B. Elijah Confronted The People.
(1 Kings 18:21)

Elijah forced the people to face their condition. They must recognize their offense against God. The Lord hates idolatry.

It's prohibition is one of the Ten Commandments.

In Exodus 20:3-4 God said, "Thou shalt have no other gods before Me."

"Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth."

C. Elijah Confronted The Religious Establishment. (1 Kings 18:22)

He did what no other man would do. He challenged the status quo. He challenged their idolatry.

D. He Confronted The False Prophets.

(1 Kings 18:23-24) He was not afraid to say to the false prophets, 'Your God doesn't exist and your religion doesn't work.'

Any religion can claim to be a good religion until it is called upon to prove its deity and produce something.

So there was Confrontation.

2. IT INVOLVED CONSTRUCTION.

Twelve stones, representing the twelve Tribes of Israel, were gathered to build an Altar. This was to draw attention to their original Covenant with God.

The Altar we need to reconstruct today must be built on the basics of the original vision, mandate and covenant.

Then there must be a Sacrifice on the Altar.

No Sacrifice, No Fire.

Elijah called for twelve barrels of water to be poured over the sacrifice he had placed on the Altar.

Water was the most precious commodity of that day. (1 Kings 18:38)

So there was Construction.

3. IT INVOLVED CLEANSING.

The Prophets of Baal were slain to put away the evil that was among them.

There could be no peaceful co-existence, no games and no compromise.

The evil influence had to be totally removed.

So there was Cleansing.

Here we see that Having An Abundance Of Rain Requires PREPARATION.

B. There Must Be Prayer.

1. James 5:17-18 says,

"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."

"And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit."

2. Elijah Prayed that there would be no rain and the rain ceased. For over three years, there was no rain.

But then, he Prayed Again and it began to rain. It's one thing to Pray, but its another to Pray Again.

3. Furthermore, it seems that it is easier to pray for the rain to cease than it is to pray for it to begin again. (1 Kings 18:42-43)

Notice, the Contrast.

King Ahab went to Feast and Party while the Prophet Elijah went to Fast and Pray.

4. Notice, the Humility and Faith of Elijah that brought the rain.

His Humility is seen as he "...put his face between his knees." (1 Kings 18:42d)

His Faith is seen by his acting in obedience to the Word of God.

5. It seems that he heard what no one else was hearing.

He told King Ahab in 1 Kings 18:41b that

"...there is a sound of abundance of rain."

It seems that he saw what no one else was seeing.

6. There were no clouds in the sky. However, he sent his servant seven times to look for a cloud

He was praying and expected an answer to his prayer.

On the seventh time, he saw a cloud the size of a

man's hand. (1 Kings 18:44)

It didn't appear to be much, but it was the answer to his prayer.

Here we see that Having An Abundance Of Rain Requires PRAYER.

C. There Must Be Persistence.

1. (1 Kings 18:44) Notice, he didn't just pray one time. Instead, he refused to give up. He was persistent.

He sent his servant seven times to look for a cloud. On the seventh time he saw one, but it was only small.

2. It was the size of a man's hand. It didn't appear to be much, but it contained the rain for which he had been praying.

It didn't mean much to the servant, but it meant everything to the Prophet.

3. Elijah knew one of the Cardinal Principles of God's Word. It is to never underestimate the strength of a little cloud.

We never know what God may use to start a revival in the hearts of his people.

4. It doesn't have to be some well-known, articulate speaker or some elaborate sanctuary.

It may come through some young person or someone who is older.

5. It may appear to be insignificant, but that doesn't mean it's not from God.

A. Remember, Jesus was born in a stable.

B. John the Baptist appeared clothed in camel's hair.

C. David was just a youth when he defeated the giant Goliath.

D. Abraham was 100 years old and Sarah was 90 when she gave birth to the promised son.

E. Saul of Tarsus was the foremost persecutor of the church before he became Paul the Apostle of Jesus Christ.

6. Elijah had a Word from the Lord and he was obedient to it. He prayed for the Rain to Cease and it did.

He prayed that it would Rain Again and it did.

Here we see that Having An Abundance Of Rain Requires PERSISTENCE.

7. HAVING AN ABUNDANCE OF RAIN.

There must be Preparation, Prayer and Persistence. It doesn't just happen.

Like Elijah, we have a part to play and something to do.

8. It may only be a small cloud, but we must see it. This is done by Faith in God.

It can produce a spiritual downpour if we will Believe God.

Remember, with God, all things are possible.

9. Do you want an Outpouring of God's Spirit?

Do you want Revival?

You can have it, but you will need to Prepare For It, Pray For It and Be Persistent if you are going to Have It. Let's do it!

Song: 'Let The Dew Of heaven Fall On My

Thirsty Soul.’
‘Send Down a Holy Ghost Revival.’