

The Revivalist

A M I N I S T R Y O F T H E R I V E R ' S E D G E C H U R C H



IN THIS ISSUE:

Before the Rain	1
Before the Rain <i>continued</i>	2
Awake Deborah	3
About Us	4

BEFORE THE RAIN

"As the LORD, the God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, surely there shall be neither dew nor rain these years, except by my word."

Elijah the Prophet

The word of the LORD came to him, saying, "Go away from here and turn eastward, and hide yourself by the brook Cherith, which is east of the Jordan. "It shall be that you will drink of the brook, and I have commanded the ravens to provide for you there."

NAU **1 Kings 17:2-4**

It is sitting on the top of the fridge right now, its black eyes seemingly following me everywhere I go, reminding me of Elijah and the provision of God. It, of course, is a raven (not quite real mind you), given to us this month as a pastor's appreciation gift....and yes I know, but you have to understand this group is not quite normal!

With the raven came some teaching that provoked me in many ways, and to be certain, I have had to take another look at the whole experience of Elijah by the Brook Cherith.

There is a lot to digest in this short Old Testament text here, but I want to try to focus on the way of life of this prophet during this particular "raven" episode, if you will.

Elijah shows up on the scene during the reign of King Ahab and his infamous wife Jezebel, and the prophet shows up with a suddenness, and with little in the way of introduction, but with an incredibly severe word for Ahab; "As the LORD, the God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, surely there shall be neither dew nor rain these years, except by my word."

It is one of the most blunt and dramatic appearances of any prophet in the entirety of the scriptures, yet the prophet no sooner appears with this powerful declaration than God tells him to vanish!

Here we have a man, who will be considered by many to be representative of the whole of the Old Testament prophets, having this incredible moment before the leader of the entire nation, putting his whole ministry on the line with a dramatic prophecy, only to be told to get right back out of the limelight, just as fast as he had appeared!

Most of you know the story quite well, but some may suppose that this place that God sent Elijah to was some kind of resort, or paradise in the desert, but the only part of that supposition that would be correct would be the desert part. The precise Brook Cherith location is somewhat debated by scholars, but the commonly accepted location is in a severe ravine known today as the Wadi Kelt. Christian monks have inhabited the area since around 420 A.D., but the entire area is little more than a hostile canyon running through a barren desert wasteland.

For all intents and purposes, God had taken Elijah from what appeared to be a tremendous spiritual triumph, to a hostile place of nothingness in just a few short moments.

It may not mean much to you, but I have reason to believe that there is more than a few people who wonder exactly what God had in mind after they found themselves down in the bottom of that canyon, waiting for the obnoxious ravens to show

BEFORE THE RAIN

up with a not so glorious meal! Elijah is living as a homeless person in a inhospitable desert ravine, dependent upon the brook and the birds.

We can read the story and gloss over much of it because we are quite disconnected from such an existence. Most folks have not even spent a night in a tent in our modern culture, let alone a night out in the wild, without any shelter at all, but some of us have, and I can assure you that I remember every night I have spent in the wild without a tent. This makes it all the more difficult for me to imagine spending months, perhaps even years in this fashion, but Elijah's prophetic word covered a period of 3 years! The scripture says "after awhile, the brook dried up." Elijah makes his next move according to the directive of the Lord and he goes to the widow of Zarephath, which I'm quite sure, was a resort in comparison to his former lodging. We don't know for sure how long he was at either place, but we do know he was in the ravine in the desert long enough for the drought to take its toll and dry up his source of life!

Perhaps I am being long winded, but I believe we have so many saints living in the ravine of Cherith right now, and many are simply ready to give it all up, toss in the towel, and go back to they know not what, but this raven stuff is getting old for a lot of folks!

Not knowing from one day to the next if the torrent will dry up, or if the ravens will return, not to mention the lack of a menu, but all of this must be essential, critical for the development of real faith in our lives, for God doesn't direct any of us in useless endeavors. When He moves us, He intends for it to be fruitful.

Some of you think "I have been in this place of barrenness for so long now that it is hard to imagine any other way of life," and I can relate to that idea very well. I have had the pleasure of ministering before a crowd in the thousands, and I have known that great satisfaction of being used of God to impact lives in a dramatic fashion, and suddenly, like a whirlwind, I have found myself in the canyon, scratching my head and waiting for the scavenger birds to bring me whatever they found on the roadside.

It may seem unbearable beloved, but the time in the desert, in the quite of the soul, is not a punishment. The time of reliance on His simple provision is a time of preparation for the rain, and this confidence kept Elijah, and it should keep us as well. Elijah knew he would speak the word again, and that the rain would come, and this is the faith that we must not cast aside while we spend our time in what appears to be a place of

total famine.

In this place, where there seems to be no fruit in your life, don't forget where He has brought you from, and what He has used you to do in the past. Remember that plants, trees and vines do not always grow and produce according to our desires, and though you may fret, and pull your hair out over the lack of apparent results in your life, obedience is the key. It is obedience that will produce in the long term, and faith in His promises to you.

Keep in mind that all these things happened to Elijah as he waited before the rain. From the Brook Cherith, to the widow and simple ministry to one household; all of this before the greatest moment of his ministry on top of Mount Carmel. All of this before the rain.

We believe beloved that we are called to pray for rain, both the spring and autumn rains, that is the last day rain that will bring revival to the valley of dry bones and scattered fragments, but we know, from the example of the prophet before us, that it is the word of the Lord, spoken through us that matters.

Elijah didn't call for rain when the brook dried up! Revival was not dependent upon his whims or emotions. Revival was dependent upon his obedience, his attentive ear to the directive of the Spirit of God.

Don't worry about past failure or waste your time relishing in great successes in times gone by, but know this; the Lord is going to use you in the desert, though it seems unfruitful. He will use you in service to the few, though you wonder why it isn't more, and he will use you to impact many if you move when He says move, and if He will do these things (as He did for Elijah, a man just like us) in our lives before the rain, how much more so during the torrential downpour to come?

Saints, let us pray until it comes!

ALLELUIA!

TONY DINGESS



St. George monastery in the Wadi Kelt..Elijah's Brook?

AWAKE DEBORAH

I know you can feel it too. Each and every time the ladies get together for a celebration, you can almost feel an urgency in The Spirit that cries out "It's TIME". That it's time for the women of God to arise with a fresh song of authority and deliverance: strong in God, not swayed by situations or storms, and looking to the big picture of the fight for God's glory in the earth and in His church. Abba has been awakening and stirring the Deborah's and the time is now. The battle for our generation is raging, and women must arise to meet it!

God knows our plight and the issues we face, but until the people of God cry out., until there is a loud wailing because there is not one house where some one isn't dead, His hands are tied.

How long is it going to take before we get serious? How many more are to be imprisoned by addictions, disease and poverty of the soul? "Awake, awake, Deborah! Awake, awake, sing a song! Arise...and set your captives free....." (Judges 5:12). Now is the time for you to start singing with an anointing that will break yokes and set God's people free!

We have to get ourselves to the place that not only do we desire change, but allow ourselves to be an instrument to the change. Actions speak louder than words, and the world needs to see Jesus in action and guess what folks, that's us.

It seems The Body is talking the talk, but not WALKING the talk. Deborah certainly didn't sit at home and ponder the matter at hand. When it came time for action she went forward, believing firmly that she was armed with strength from God.

She knew the country was on the verge of something great, and she was willing to seek The Lord. She was willing to say "thus saith The Lord". She was willing to stand at the front of the battle, She was willing to use her wisdom and her skills in defeating the enemy. She was willing to believe and to be used.

She arose a mother in Israel, a judge, a prophet and a warrior. And she had a household to run to boot.



Susan Issacs wrote a book, *Brave Dames and Wimpettes*. "A brave dame," according to the author, "is a dignified, three-dimensional hero who may care about men, home and hearth, but also cares—and acts—passionately about something in the world beyond."

I find it ironic we don't read in scripture about Deborah trying to find balance in her life like the story of Mary and Martha.

We don't hear her lament of the meals to be cooked and served. Or, how she's going to find time to get this or that done, and you can never convince me she wasn't under some pressure at times. This was a busy woman, with much to do I am sure, yet The Fathers business was top priority. She acts as a judge and exercises power to lead the people. You see, when Deborah arose, the warriors returned.

Today there is a remnant waiting for the leaders to rise up and show them and take them to the place that Abba has created for them. A Deborah anointing is what we need to become who God is calling us to be for this day and hour, or for such a time as this if you will.

The battle for His church is fierce. There are religious spirits out there that are fighting against Abba's church and what it's destined to be. Can't you feel it? Smell it?

The women of God have got to come forth as Deborah did in her day and time to see the captives released. God's people need to be set free so His glory will resound in His church.

All it takes is one woman to say yes to the full will of God. When Jesus got ready to send a revival in the city of Samaria, he didn't send Peter, James or John..Jesus chose to send a woman who was changed by spending time with Him.

When the disciples were scared, depressed, locked behind closed doors and ready to give up all hope, God sends a woman with the soul reviving message, "I have seen the Lord, and He is risen from the dead." She brought back spiritual renewal and hope to the disciples, simply because she was willing to go and anoint the body of Jesus in a proper fashion, regardless of the cost involved.

I pray for you to experience freedom in your lives from everything that holds you back from being all you were meant to be in Christ. I pray for you to be able to sing songs of true deliverance to the body of Christ and over your children, your husband, friends... to all the people in your life. I pray to see us rise together as a mighty warring force of God's women on the earth, that makes the devil shake in his boots.

Get Ready! Get Prepared! Arise Deborah! Our Lord Comes!

Marti Dolin

WE ARE ON THE WEB AT:
WWW.THE-RIVERSEDGE-CHURCH.COM

THE RIVER'S EDGE CHURCH

REPENTANCE, REFORMATION, REVIVAL, & RESTORATION

Tony & Darlene, Phone: 304-239-0570

Marti & Dave, Phone: 304-752-0583

Awake...and God shall give you light!

The River's Edge Church was born out of the desire for the return of the presence of God to the Church in holiness and awesome majesty. We believe that these last days shall be more astonishing than the days of the Book of Acts, and we believe in praying until we experience it!

We are focused on repentance, reformation, revival & restoration. We are praying for the body of Christ on the earth to arise from the death of comfort, self indulgence and greed and to truly allow the Spirit of Judgment & Burning to purify us from all our corruption!

Pray that we obey, and walk through the doors that open unto us. Alleluia!

T H I R S T Y ?

For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour out my spirit on your offspring, and my blessing upon your descendants" Isaiah 44:3

The River's Edge Church is simply a group of believers with a common purpose; to bring glory to the Father by exalting the Name of Jesus and allowing the Holy Spirit to revive us and others through us. We have no certain location and we simply meet in various homes for prayer, communion, and whatever else the Holy Spirit has in mind from one week to the next.

Please give us a call if you would like to gather with us, or if you would like us to gather with you!

Our Lord is coming!