

Sunday 30th June 2013

Elijah Part 12 A promise of God

Elijah has just shown a rebellious Israel how to rebuild the altar of their lives and led them back to God. Prepared their hearts for the miracle about to happen. The fire of God falls consumes everything.

1 Kings 18:38 Then the fire of God fell and consumed the burnt sacrifice and the wood and the stones and the dust and licked up all the water that was in the trench.

Every eye witnessed such an awesome sight and were turned back to God. Elijah had won back the people and then he dealt with the prophets of Baal. No one escaped. They were all destroyed at the brook of Kishon.

The next part of our study on Elijah is about God's promises. How Elijah claims a promise of God for his life and how we too can claim promises for our lives.

Hebrews 10:23 Let us holdfast the profession of our faith without wavering; for He is faithful that promised.

Tonight is going to be about holding fast to our faith and believing that our God who has promised, is faithful.

Promised: to announce, To engage to do something.

There are something like 7500 announcements of God in the bible.

It may surprise you to know that they are not all for you!!, so don't claim them all or you will get disappointed when God has not delivered.

EG: Joshua 6:3-5 Read

This was a specific promise for Joshua. No good any modern day commander claiming this one!!

Mark 16:18 Read

Headlines: Two Holiness preachers die in test of faith

Two preachers who had survived the bites of poisonous snakes tested their faith further with strychnine and died a few hours after. They cited this scripture as the basis for their actions.

Having said that, there are thousands that will apply to us, some specific, some general, some conditional, some unconditional.

There is one I love and I believe we can apply to this stage of our story for the nation of Israel.

Acts 3: 19 Repent therefore and be converted that your sins may be forgiven when times of refreshing will come from the presence of the lord.

Here is conditional promise that is not specific to one person so we can apply it to us. The condition is that we repent and be converted and the promise is twofold. 1. That our sins will be given, 2. Times of refreshing will come from God.

That's where Israel were, this is where many of us are.

We are all in need of Refreshing: recovery of breath, cooling off, Revival.

Heb 10:36 for you have need of patience that after you have done the will of God, you might receive the promise.

This is also conditional. If you have patience and have done the will of God, then the promise (God announces it in your life)

The will of God... Believe, trust and obey.

When do you receive your promises. Do you wait for it to happen before you believe or is it when God says it will happen that you believe?

Elijah's Promise:

1 Kings 18:1 And it came to pass after many days that the word of the Lord came to Elijah in the third year, saying go show yourself to Ahab and I will send rain upon the earth.

1. It's personal, God was speaking directly to Elijah.
2. It's conditional. " Go show yourself to Ahab (the condition) " and I will send rain on the earth. (The promise)

We know that that is what Elijah did. He fulfilled his bit, then he climbed to the top of mount Carmel, had the showdown, turned the nation to God.

Now Elijah claims his promise.

1 Kings 18: 41 And Elijah said to Ahab, get thee up, eat and drink for there is the sound of abundance of rain.

Elijah heard the sound of a storm coming. An abundance of rain.

At this point, there is no evidence to say that there is a storm on it's way. No clouds, no weather forecasts, charts or maps. There is no sign of change.

Maybe that's what you see in your life right now. No sign of change, nothing to indicate that your promise is on it's way.

Sound: A Voice, A Proclamation.

What Elijah heard was the sound of a promise speaking to him loud and clear. Things are going to change, your promise is on it's way.

Can you hear your promise speaking to you telling you it's on it's way?

Here we see Faith is operating at it's very best.

1 Kings 18: 42-44 Read

As one man goes off to feed his belly, Elijah goes off to feed his soul.

Romans 14:17 For the kingdom of God is not in meat and drink, but righteousness, and peace, and joy of the Holy Ghost.

The way to kingdom of God (your promise) is not in satisfying the flesh, but Righteousness, peace and joy of the Holy ghost.

Verse 18 For he that is in these things serves Christ and is acceptable to God and approved of men.

What this shows me is that after all that Elijah had accomplished up to now, he took nothing for granted. Let's look at 5 things he did.

1. **He separated himself** He went back to the top of the mountain. He found himself another secret place away from all distractions.
2. **He humbled himself.** " he cast himself down and put his face between his knees" He kept a humble spirit. How easy it would have been for him to be overconfident after such a great victory. It should become a daily pattern of our life.

1 Peter 5:6 Humble yourself under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time.

Elijah knew that this was his due time.

3. **He was specific.** He told his servant exactly where to go and look. He was specific and so should we. Jobs, Home, Finances. Fears, Abilities. **Make your petitions specific!!**
4. **He was Persistent:** " Go again seven times"

God does not work off your clock. We mentioned patience in Hebrews 10:36 earlier. God is never late. He loves the person who goes back seven times because it shows Him that they mean business.

James 5:17-18 Read

5. **Elijah was expectant.** Do you expect. Do you wake up every morning expecting this to be the day that God fulfils His promise?

Here's a promise for you from the O/T, blessing on the first born.

Gen 27:28 Therefore God give you the dew of heaven and the fatness of the earth and plenty of corn and wine.

Isaac praying over his son Jacob

A promise that comes to us in Christ as the only begotten of God.

Because Elijah expects, he gets!!

1 Kings 18:44 Read

Look around you and you will see little clouds appearing everywhere. Don't overlook or dismiss them. Recognise what God is doing, thank Him, give Him the glory and that cloud will get bigger.

Right now there is a tiny cloud out there for you to receive that is going to unload God's abundance.

Verse 45 God is faithful. He delivers. The rains come.

Verse 46 Read

Don't stand still whilst others rush past and say " I wonder where there off in such a rush!!

He was not running away (Next study) he was running to the blessing. Turn around tonight and stop running from and run to God

He did a half marathon that day (Ran and not be weary) 13 miles to Jezreel. A valley of abundance.

1John 1:9 If we confess our sins He is faithfull and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

That's a conditional promise that you do not need to wait for, do your bit and god will do His.

Romans 10:11 For the scripture says Whoso ever believes on Him shall not be ashamed.

One translation for ashamed is: **Disappointed**.

God will never disappoint you. Never let you down, never leave you, condemn you, abuse you, forget you, never hurt you,

Always love you, forgive you, be there for you, lead you, encourage you, carry you **Find your promise tonight, and receive it in faith.**