

Blessed to Be a Blessing – August 7, 2011

Let It Rain!

And Ahab made a wooden image. Ahab did more to provoke the LORD God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel who were before him. In his days Hiel of Bethel built Jericho. He laid its foundation with Abiram his firstborn, and with his youngest son Segub he set up its gates, according to the word of the LORD, which He had spoken through Joshua the son of Nun. And Elijah the Tishbite, of the inhabitants of Gilead, said to Ahab, “As the LORD God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, except at my word.” Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, “Get away from here and turn eastward, and hide by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan. And it will be *that* you shall drink from the brook, and I have commanded the ravens to feed you there.” I Kings 16:33-17:4

We have been asked quite often as of late, “Pastor, when are you gonna let it rain?” The question is always asked with a jovial spirit, but the concern about the absence of rain is serious. Blistering heat combined with lack of moisture for a prolonged period of time is taking its toll. There is no grass for cattle to eat, there is no hay to be baled, tanks and lakes are drying up if not already dry, the water table is diminishing, trees are dying, and people are stressed and discouraged. It is really serious, even for Texas summer...and it seems to some as if God is deaf to our pleas.

At minimum this situation calls to mind the record of a Biblical drought. No rain or dew fell upon the land for three years! There was famine in the land and stress upon its people greater than we have experienced to this point, but it does give us cause to ponder and wonder what might be facing us in the future. Just how long will this drought last?

God has a reason for doing everything He does. The drought recorded in First Kings is an expression of God’s anger against King Ahab and Israel because of their idolatry. God demonstrated that He alone is God and He alone has control over all things. It is a stark reminder that

when one fails to put God first and recognize from Whom all blessings flow, they sin against Almighty God, who for our sins is justly displeased.

I am truly saddened to say that our society and country is a fertile field for idolatry. Countless things are worshipped and adored above and instead of the Holy God. Spurned by great numbers and counted as common things are the Son of God and His sacrifice for the sins of the world on Calvary's cross. It is time to recognize that perhaps, as He has done before, God is showing His great displeasure with such apathy for worship and disregard for His Word. It is high time for us to call for repentance and trust in the mighty hand of God, that perhaps in His mercy He might hear us for the sake of His Son and grant our petition for rain. "Let us not be deceived. God is not mocked. Whatsoever a man sows that shall he also reap." And if we too, shall suffer under the hand of God's discipline, we shall accept it as His loving chastening and flee to His mercy at the cross waiting patiently for His blessing and deliverance. As He cared for Elijah, so He also cares for us. Do not despair or be discouraged. With patience and trust take for yourself instead the confession of Job: "But as for me, I would seek God, and to God I would commit my cause--- Who does great things, and unsearchable, marvelous things without number. He gives rain on the earth and sends water on the fields."

Pastor Jacobs

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